

Quality Assurance Committee Meeting
April 10, 2006
Minutes

Present: Chairwoman Thompson and Commissioner Elliott; (Commissioner Henley excused because of illness); Board Staff Linda Dunsmoor; District Staff Marie Cianca, Robin DeHollander, Cheryl Holloway, Susan Kaufmann, Paul Lampe, Tim Mains, and Jennifer Tomm.

Meeting convened at 6:20 p.m. by Commissioner Thompson.

Social Studies Textbook Adoption

Paul Lampe, Acting Director of Social Studies, stated that the last textbook adoption was in 1999. This adoption is being recommended so that schools will be much more current with teacher materials, technology and literacy development. Professional development on the new series will be provided in a comprehensive manner with materials available in every school by the end of July.

Tim Mains, who assisted with the initial adoption committee process, shared information on the textbook adoption committee makeup, selection process and criteria. Four publishers were selected for consideration. Classrooms piloted the materials from the four publishers. Publishers gave comprehensive presentations and were evaluated against the established criteria that had been shared with them in advance.

Scott Foresman was the clear choice of the committee because:

- Spanish materials are available at the current time and are of high quality
- The series is aligned with NYS Standards and has strengths in presenting multicultural information and perspectives
- A Native American supplement is also available
- Student texts are available on CD, online and on audio, all in English and Spanish
- The series includes significant literacy development opportunities
- Technology opportunities include teacher CDs with resources and access to the website on every computer in the District, student response systems (remote control devices) and LCD projectors

Commissioner Elliott asked if a vote was required that evening. Mrs. Holloway said the earlier the recommendation is made, the more likely it is that materials are in schools this summer.

Commissioner Elliott noted how important it is to establish an understanding of the contributions of African Americans. She will review the textbooks with this in mind. She encouraged the District to take a global view so that more children feel connected. As an example, Commissioner Elliott looked through the books and pointed out a page depicting slavery that showed smiling slaves. Mr. Lampe discussed the ways for students and teachers to critique the text and use additional primary sources to point out author's view and discuss bias.

Mr. Lampe said professional development is critical in developing an understanding of using multiple sources in social studies instruction to ensure a multi-cultural perspective. Commissioner Thompson suggested that school board members, working through the Council of Urban Boards of Education, let publishers know of the need to develop textbooks that represent all people in our community.

Mrs. Holloway gave examples of how contributions by all can be brought into the teaching of the curriculum to enhance learning. Ms. Tomm discussed the literacy strategies embedded in the series, including text chapters that reinforce Writers' Workshop.

Commissioner Elliott asked if the students will be able to take the books home. Mr. Lampe said they will and they will have access to the book online and will have a CD. He pointed out the leveled readers that reinforce the concepts in the text that can also be taken home.

Commissioner Elliott asked about how many African Americans were on the committee. Mr. Mains said there were 2 African Americans, 1 Hispanic parent and 7 African American teachers and others. He shared some of the comments that the parents expressed.

Commissioner Thompson asked how the District will communicate to parents about the various features of the program. Mr. Mains explained the variety of ways that schools could communicate with parents. Mrs. Holloway mentioned how the District could also communicate from a more central level.

Commissioner Thompson commended Mr. Lampe on the criteria used in the process and asked if other textbook committees were using it. Staff said yes. She asked about the 2008 copyright. Mr. Lampe said that if they sell the book after March of this year, they can put a 2008 copyright on it.

The total cost of the textbooks is \$598,722.15. Scott Foresman will also provide the district with \$1,170,015 worth of free materials to be used in classrooms.

No motion was made to recommend the series to the full Board. The discussion will continue at the May Quality Assurance meeting.

Action items:

Mr. Lampe will provide the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade curriculum to Commissioner Elliott. (completed)

Materials will be left in the Board Conference room. (completed)

Obtain Perry Ground's opinion of the Native American supplement.

2006 Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making

The Biennial Review is a form that NYSED asks Districts to submit that acknowledges that there is a process for shared decision-making and there are policies in place for schools. The review must be discussed publicly and signed by the President of the Board of Education.

Sue Kaufmann used a PowerPoint presentation to review the process for recertifying shared decision making through School Based Planning Teams. She pointed out that the one area that needs work is ensuring that there is full parent representation on each team.

She distributed a list of current parent representatives and alternates, a paper copy of the PowerPoint, and a manual on Shared Decision Making. Commissioner Thompson pointed out that these materials were not submitted with the information previously provided to committee members for their review.

There was some discussion about what types of materials would be helpful to have in advance and when decisions would be made about the need for a presentation. Commissioner Thompson will confer with the other committee members and Board staff on this topic.

The committee did not recommend that the recertification be endorsed because the parent representative had not signed off on the document. Commissioner Thompson asked that Ms. Kaufmann explore the ramifications of not submitting the form with all signatures in April. She also asked that some information be provided in advance of this process every two years. The recertification will be discussed at the next QA meeting in May.

Action Items:

Ms. Kaufmann to detail the ramifications of not submitting the form in April. (By May QA meeting)

Provide committee with information on parent attendance at SBPT meetings. (By May QA meeting)

JROTC

Ms. Dunsmoor presented information as follow up on JROTC related to how much it costs to provide JROTC in the District. The data show that it costs more per student for JROTC.

Commissioner Thompson asked for a motion to package the information that has been gathered on JROTC so that it could be provided to the full Board of Education April 13 as an information item. It will be a discussion item in May and an action item in June. Commissioner Elliott motioned and it was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Motion approved.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Elliott.