Mercer Island School District
Learning Services

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2023

Instructional Materials Committee

Facilitator: Jamie Prescott, Director of Learning Services • Secretary: Vanessa Adams, Learning Services

Present	Absent
Roxane Chan	Lisa Bienstock
Beth Christofferson	Andrea Chang
Chris Cocklin-Ray	Tyler Duell
John Francke	Alex Perry
Erica Hill	Brittney Starks
Sharon Jarnigan	Jon Wollmuth
Jaymee Lundin	
Joy Rurangwa	
Kristy Siekhaus	
David Vasquez	

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM and held via Zoom Video Conferencing. This is the first meeting of the IMC due to a lack of submissions for the meeting scheduled on October 10, 2023. This meeting was scheduled last-minute due to the fast-paced timeline of the events around the book, as outlined below. Jamie explained the IMC process to new members and then asked participants to introduce themselves.

***We Were the Lucky Ones* – Nonfiction**
Grade 12: English 12: Race, Identity, and Representation in Comparative Literature, and English 12 Honors – **Pilot Instructional Material**
Written by: Georgia Hunter
Published by: Penguin Books, 2017

Proposal submitted by the *We Were the Lucky Ones* Pilot Committee: MIHS English teachers Daniela Melgar, Chris Twombley, Leslie Seelye, Dani King

Daniela and Chris explained that, due to a connection to a parent in the community, their English 12: Race Lit. and English 12 Honors classes have the opportunity to meet with the author, Georgia Hunter. Hunter is available to visit the classrooms in January. She will share her connection to the book, as well as the long process of writing it. Hulu will premier a miniseries based on the book in March. This will enable students to watch the book come to life on the screen. The actors in the miniseries are of Jewish descent, which connects to Race Lit. conversations around identity and representation. Twombley and Melgar offered that the book portrays a different version of the holocaust from those they typically cover, such as in *Night* or *Maus*. It is not centered in a concentration camp. But it is painful and challenging and shows how World War 2 was truly a World War – with survivors spread out everywhere.
Vote: Kristy Siekhaus motioned to approve *We Were the Lucky Ones* – Nonfiction – as pilot instructional material for English 12: Race, Identity, and Representation in Comparative Literature, and English 12 Honors for the 2023-24 school year. Chris-Cocklin-Ray seconded the motion. There were nine approvals, one opposition, and no abstentions. The motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.