



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: April 15th, 2014

Agenda # _____

Staff/Administrator: Dave Valenzuela

Superintendent: Patricia Adams

Type of Item: Informational Action

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

I am recommending that the Board approve the following instructional materials for adoption in accordance with the State Board of Education and Division 22 Standards 581-022-1640. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Journeys* was selected for grades K-5, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Collections* was selected for grades 6-8 and Pearson Education Inc.; *Pearson Common Core Literature, Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing and Writing America: Language and Composition in Context* was selected for grades 9-12. Adoption materials will vary from grade-level to grade-level, but are broken down into kits for students, teacher resources and digital resources. Student kits include a grade-level text(s), reading adventure magazine, leveled readers and more depending on level. Teacher resources include TE text books and magazines, assessment and progress monitoring guides, benchmark and unit test banks and various classroom supplies (posters, instruction cards and grouping materials). This is just one example of one grade-level including the full grade-level adoption proposal. I will provide full cost/material breakdowns as soon as they become available.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

We used the State adoption list to select at least 3 publishers at each level to evaluate. Our ELA teachers at each level (elementary, middle and high) had an opportunity to review and evaluate the instructional materials and used a scoring guide to rate each set. We had the same instructional materials available for public viewing at the District Office and advertised that they were available in the local news paper. The selections were made by majority vote from our teachers and then compared to deleterious public comments or affirmative public comments. There were no positive or negative public comments specific to the actual instructional materials.

List the advantages of your proposal:

Curriculum materials are one of many important components of teaching and learning. The materials on the state adoption list align to state learning standards and support research-based, powerful instructional practices. The most important factor in teaching and learning is the teacher. In the hands of our highly effective teachers, curriculum can be a highly effective instructional tool. This tool can free a teacher up to spend more time on differentiation of instruction, supplemental material generation, intervention and innovation. Our ELA teachers have had to spend a considerable amount of time aligning old curriculum or creating curriculum on their own, taking away from these other valuable instructional practices. Our teachers know quality instruction and have a solid foundation from which to evaluate instructional materials. To adopt curriculum that they have recommended would be a sound and advisable decision.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

Curriculum materials can be expensive. There are also no instructional materials that meet every instructional need for a teacher.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

Not adopting a curriculum, regardless of plans to purchase, is in violation of Division 22 Standards.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No