



Date: April 13, 2022

To: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

From: Theresa O'Brien, Chief Academic Officer

Subject: Recommendation for Middle School ELA Textbook Resource

I, along with Christine Fankell, our ELA and Social Studies Coordinator, would like to request to be placed on the agenda of the Curriculum Committee meeting on April 18, 2022. I would like the opportunity to share the recommendation from our textbook adoption committee, to adopt CommonLit 360 as the resource for middle school ELA.

Attached is the committee's recommendation, including the process they have followed over the last three years and their plan for using CommonLit 360. There is no quote, because CommonLit is an open-ed source which is free to use. The committee plans to use CommonLit 360 as the core instruction as they build units of study around this resource.

The committee of teachers reviewed 12 textbook resources, beginning in the 2019 school year. A committee member recommended CommonLit 360, because she used it while the district was remote. The variety of texts and the ease of use for both teachers and students made teachers want to take a deeper look. Mrs. Fankell contacted EdReports to determine if they were planning to review CommonLit 360 and found that it was on the list to be reviewed. She then conducted her own in-depth review to get a deeper understanding of the alignment with the standards prior to making this recommendation. We look forward to sharing the details of that review at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Additionally, the committee is requesting an additional \$10,000 in classroom books to provide each ELA teacher with \$500 to purchase books for students to use in their classrooms for independent reading. This purchase will be something we will want to continue to budget for as the committee builds their units of study using this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.