



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: May 8, 2020 Superintendent: Dave Valenzuela

Administrator/Staff: Jessica Durrant

Type of Item: Informational Action

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

We recommend that the board approve the following instructional materials for adoption in the subject area of Social Studies: K-5 *Studies Weekly*, 6-8 *National Geographic*, 9-12 *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. Oregon Department of Education adopted new Social Studies standards in May 2018 for all grades K-12. Many grade levels saw significant changes in content with the adoption of the new standards. It has been at least 18 years since Three Rivers School District has officially adopted curriculum to support Social Studies standards, definitely leaving teachers with a struggle to teach the new material. The goal of the adoption committee was to find the best resources to support teaching the standards, making sure the resources had the ability to be used for years to come and provide resources for all students to access the materials. Total cost for materials will be paid for with general fund dollars and amounts are as follows: K-5 \$54,766; 6-8 \$57,948, 9-12 \$55,746. Total cost for the adoption is \$168,460. Current year textbook budget and curriculum department carryover funds will be used to pay for the materials.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

The adoption committee was led by Jessica Durrant and was made up of 11 elementary teachers, 4 middle school teachers, 6 high school teachers. We met three times in person and the final meeting was done virtually after the school closure. The committee used the state adoption list to select at least two publishers to evaluate and pilot with students. Social Studies teachers at each level (elementary, middle, and high) had the opportunity to review and evaluate the instructional materials. In a survey taken by 70 elementary teachers, 100% support the committee's recommendation of *Studies Weekly* as the K-5 curriculum. 100% of middle school Social Studies teachers support the recommendation of *National Geographic* as the 6-8 curriculum. 100% of high school Social Studies teachers support the recommendation of *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* as the adopted curriculum for 9-12. Public viewing of the curriculum did not take place due to school closures and social distancing.

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 an 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 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. TRSD teachers know quality instruction and have a solid foundation from which to evaluate instructional materials. To adopt curriculum they have recommended would show support and belief in their research based recommendation.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

Curriculum materials can be expensive. There are also no instructional materials that meet the needs for all teachers.

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

Not adopting curriculum is a possible alternative. This is not recommended due to the length of time (18+ years) since the last adoption of Social Studies materials.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No