

**Date:** March 9, 2018  
**To:** LPSD School Board Members  
**From:** Bill Cornell  
**Re:** Curriculum and CTE: February-March, 2018

**Curriculum:**

The majority of my Curriculum Report this month is devoted to the Reading Committee's findings. The last two pages of this report include the pros/cons for both National Geographic Cengage: Reach for Reading and Houghton Mifflin Journeys. The Reading Committee's full report has also been added to Board Book. These have been provided to help drive the discussion, and lead to a final decision on which reading curriculum the district go with.

**Culture Committee-** The culture committee has been working on writing standards and rubrics for our different levels, hoping to have some teacher input and feedback before they go before the board in April. Our community feedback has been positive so far and most people are happy to see them reflecting our communities cultures more readily.

**Experiencing Out-** We have documents in place to present "Experiencing Out" to the student body at the A.A. Meet. As we look towards the end of the school year, it will be important for students and parents to understand what is necessary for student to experience out of a level. I think this will be a good opportunity to create awareness, and move towards students being able to get credit for the valuable experiences they are having outside of school. We can also use your help in spreading the word in our communities!

**Distance Classes:**

It is hard to believe, but the last day of distance classes is April 6. We will have one more meeting with distance teachers on March 27 to discuss wrapping up the school year, and preparing for next year. I will also be working this spring on identifying who will teach each level of distance reading and math next year.

**CTE:**

The big news here is that we hired a full time CTE director for next year- Boanna Owens. Boanna has been invited to Session 4, which will be held April 29-May 4. Session 4 classes included Western Rivers- Captains License, NCCER Core, Radiation Safety, Post-Secondary Preparation, and Allied Health.

It is my hope to have CTE classes lined out by the end of this school year for at least Session 1 in September to ensure a smooth transition. Welcome to Boanna!

LPSD READING COMMITTEE – 1/24/18

National Geographic Cengage: Reach for Reading Curriculum Review

Reviewers: Matthew Stark, Asha Brown, Sara Erikson, Kirsten Buckmaster, Charlie Gifford

Pros	Cons/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High Quality – content, materials, supplementals</li><li>• High interest content + +</li><li>• Emphasis on informational text +</li><li>• The consumables (practice book) are good quality – good graphic organizers</li><li>• Assessment piece is high quality</li><li>• The passage lengths and levels are manageable and allow for deeper instruction of strategies, understanding, etc.</li><li>• Quality vocabulary and grammar instruction</li><li>• Aligned to other content areas which is very beneficial in the standards based system and for the shortened school year. + +</li><li>• Will work for distance courses + + most materials are already available electronically</li><li>• The comprehension instruction is good. The questions are in kid speak.</li><li>• Explicitly aligned to the standards.</li><li>• Would work well for multi level instruction</li><li>• Assessments are clearly aligned with the instruction and define standards addressed</li><li>• Very user friendly for PowerSchool and record keeping – standards are clearly identified in multiple places</li><li>• Would work well for new teachers</li><li>• eAssessments piece would allow us to track data across the district</li><li>• All consumable materials are available in electronic form so they will not need to be repurchased.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It won't be as good if we don't have all of the components.</li><li>• Not enough emphasis on explicit phonics instruction in the lower grades.</li><li>• Additional grammar and writing instruction will be needed.</li><li>• Training and buy in are a must.</li><li>• More expensive</li></ul> <p>OVERALL IMPRESSION: The team was impressed with the materials. It's a quality program that could work well for our unique district. All consider it a good option to replace what we currently have. However, it would be very good to get more explicit phonics instruction. Writing and grammar would need to continue to be emphasized outside of reading instruction.</p> <p>NEXT STEPS: Teachers will review the same grade level materials from HM Journeys. A recommendation will be made based on this comparison.</p>

LPSD Reading Curriculum Committee 2/27/18

Houghton Mifflin Journeys Reading Curriculum Review

Reviewers: Matthew Stark, Asha Brown, Sara Erikson, Kirsten Buckmaster, Charlie Gifford

Pros	Cons/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Strong in fiction +</li><li>▪ A blend of fiction and nonfiction</li><li>▪ Offers decodable take home texts</li><li>▪ Format may be familiar</li><li>▪ Aligned to the common core</li><li>▪ The student edition references common core standards</li><li>▪ Has a quick start pacing guide +</li><li>▪ Vocabulary instruction is strong in the upper grades, especially</li><li>▪ Is the less expensive option</li><li>▪ Reading skills are targeted and embedded with each lesson.</li><li>▪ Rigorous and relevant assessments</li><li>▪ Good consumable resources (close reader) +</li><li>▪ Intervention supports are evident</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Not as appealing to students (visually, and in format)</li><li>▪ Explicit Phonics instruction is lacking (teachers felt this way about both programs)</li><li>▪ Standards alignment format is overwhelming</li><li>▪ Not all consumables are available online/electronically. Would be a cost to replace at some point.</li></ul> <p>Overall Impression</p> <p>Journeys is a quality program that will meet the needs of our students. It is standards based and well organized. It would be an improvement over the materials we have now.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Present findings to Bill Cornell, Ty Mase, and the LPSD School Board. Hopefully they will move forward with the purchase of a new reading curriculum program for the benefit of our students.</p>

As always, feel free to contact me at 571-1211, or via email at [bcornell@lpsd.com](mailto:bcornell@lpsd.com), if you have any curriculum or CTE related questions.