

**ESTACADA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

Regular Meeting April 14, 2022

ITEM: 2021/22 Language Arts Instructional Materials Adoption

PREPARED BY: Scott Sullivan

TYPE OF ITEM: Action

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Beginning in October of 2021, Scott Sullivan (Director of Teaching and Learning), Jennifer Behrman (Principal of River Mill Elementary), Leah Riedel (HS Vice Principal/District EL Program Coordinator), and Lindsey Fullenwider (K-5 Instructional Coach) brought together a committee of administrators, K-12 teachers, specialists, and classified staff to begin the work of Instructional Materials Adoption for Language Arts. The adoption committee has worked diligently since then to review current research, elicit staff, parent, and community feedback, review a wide selection of language arts materials, and pilot instructional materials in the classroom.

Before looking at materials, members of the committee began by aligning their work to our district's mission, vision, and values as expressed in our strategic plan. Members also engaged in conversations about rigor, relevance, and engagement to ensure materials met the 21st century and common core state standards in getting our students graduate ready for college and careers. Finally, to prepare to evaluate materials, members discussed an instructional vision for our district, with the background of a Literacy Framework and current literacy instruction research. This work led to the development of a rigorous screening document that was used by members to thoroughly evaluate and score instructional materials.

Before evaluating print and digital materials as a committee, in December and January, the members first reviewed the publisher scorecards from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and EdReports. In addition to the scorecards, members spent additional time at home viewing publisher virtual caravan presentation videos, Q&As by ODE's adoption team, and responses from publishers to the scorecards themselves. Through this review, the teams determined seven published curriculums to review in person and more in-depth.

In February, members of the committee then used the district screening document, which outlined criteria needed in language arts instructional materials for the success of our students, to meticulously review and score each of the seven print and digital samples from publishers. After reviewing all of the materials, a top-two was determined.

Teachers on the committee then piloted samples from these top two selections in their classrooms. Feedback was generated from these teachers and their students, to further elicit conversations among the team and, in March, reach a final consensus and recommendation.

During our extensive examination, we addressed both the need for rigor, relevance and rigor, using complex text, incorporating foundational skills, the need for a substantial writing

component, as well as a program that aligned with essential standards. Teachers wanted well-organized materials, support for differentiation, and engaging text in both fiction and nonfiction.

Finally, we had two family viewing nights that were well advertised to gain the perspective and feedback from our parents and community. The feedback we received from the community was valuable and shared with the committee and used as part of their deliberation.

Both K-5 and 6-8 teams came to a unanimous decision about their selection.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The elementary school Language Arts Instructional Materials Adoption Committee recommends ***Benchmark Advance*** for grades K-5 adoption. 6 year subscription cost: **\$204,930**

The middle school Language Arts Instructional Materials Adoption Committee recommends ***Amplify ELA*** for grades 6-8 adoption. 6 year subscription cost: **\$62,040**

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the committee's recommendation to purchase Language Arts instructional materials.