

AGENDA

ITEM

SUBJECT: Consider approval of a budget amendment to fund the implementation of the Read Well initiative.

RATIONALE:

On February 2, 2016, our Director of Curriculum & Instruction provided the Board with an overview of the Read Well program by Sopris Voyager Learning. This initiative will focus on phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

At the end of the 14-15 school year Graham ISD began its annual Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI) end of year data analysis and noticed trends in the data that showed, while students are making progress in literacy through the intervention process, that progress is difficult to maintain over time. In this analysis we came to the conclusion that this trend is occurring, not as an indication of the lack of effectiveness of the intervention program, but rather a lack of consistent, focused and foundational literacy curriculum in the early grade levels, Kindergarten - 2nd grade (K-2).

In late fall 2015 the Administration identified a literacy program for consideration designed specifically for grades K-2 called Voyager Read Well. In our evaluation of the program it became evident that the Read Well program specifically addresses the needs described above. The intent of this proposal is to show the benefits of the Voyager Read Well program and how it will accomplish the goal of providing a solid literacy foundation for all Graham ISD students.

The Read Well program is a comprehensive K-2 literacy curriculum that helps students build the critical literacy skills required to be successful readers, writers and learners. Read Well is a mastery-based program that supports students in learning and teachers in literacy instruction by offering a structured program that connects all the components of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. The Read Well program also intertwines writing alongside literacy instruction. Read Well accomplishes this through a structure that puts the teacher at the center of literacy instruction. Teachers will receive extensive and ongoing training to ensure consistency and fidelity of implementation. Through the instructional process teachers will identify student needs, place students appropriately within the Read Well program, provide instruction and support for all students while closely monitoring student progress through frequent formative assessments. Teachers also model for students in small groups and observe student growth towards pre-established

Our goals for the initiative include:

- Strengthen the early literacy program by implementing the ***most effective models of literacy instruction at each developmental stage.***

- Build a strong foundation in literacy skills at PK-2 for students to be able to transition to a balanced literacy approach in later grade levels.

Since the February 2nd meeting, the Read Well program has been presented to our ELAR teacher and administrators at Pioneer and Crestview. Additionally, a site visit to Olney ISD has been conducted to see the program in action.

Cost Proposal

The total start-up cost of the Read Well program is \$118,000 for the complete curriculum kindergarten through second grade. This includes all literacy components, the writing component, student and teacher consumable materials, leveled reading materials and ongoing training to support implementation. An annual cost of approximately \$30,000 will be required to refresh student and teacher consumables.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$118,000 to fund the implementation of the read well initiative.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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