



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: Oct. 16, 2019 **Superintendent:** Dave Valenzuela

Administrator/Staff: Kimberly DeForest

Type of Item: ☐ Informational ☒ Action

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

I am applying for the NWCC grant in the amount of \$1200 (\$600 for books, \$100 to buy support materials for 10 books and, if possible, \$500 for teachers curriculum planning time - required by ODE for DEI instruction). Oregon Department of Education is encouraging literature and curriculum based around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: we have many Battle of the Books titles and approved library books that deal with this subject, but we are limited in funds to buy multiple titles of the same book. I would use this money to begin a Literature Circle set of various titles that meet the state's criteria for these issues (including poverty).

These books would be available for 6-8th graders, in all English classes for many consecutive years- we have an average of 400 students a year. We could also share these titles across three middle schools in our district, reaching a possible 1000 students at different times throughout a year.

I would like approval to apply for the Grant: the deadline was October 10th, so I submitted my grant request. I thought this grant was approved by the board already, as it had been sent out on a district email.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

I have participated in Battle of the Books at the middle school level for the last three years, and at the high school while at New Bridge. Many of the texts have important issues covered and have been used by the state for reading selections. While we are limited by budget, working on DEI is going to be a district focus, and these texts will be available to a wider group if money is provided to purchase groups of novels. The librarian at LSMS and I are working on selecting books from the last few years that will provide good support for the issues the ODE is focusing upon.

List the advantages of your proposal:

Providing a variety of texts that can be self-selected by students in the study of DEI topics. Students will be able to access the books across the district if checked out from the LSMS library, and teachers can apply curriculum accross the district. We also know that these books are often award winning examples of literature and have many materials already provided for by OBOB and various websites with study guides and for common assessments.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

The books would possibly need to be used near the same time frame by multiple teachers, but we could make arrangements with so many titles to share.

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

There are no district funds to provide for DEI materials at this time and the funds for librarians are tied to maintaining the selections in the library. We do not have money to buy books for curriculum, and if there is some, it would not provide for the number of texts that would make the literature circles work.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes ☒ No ☐