

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Board Curriculum Committee
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
3:00 PM
Forest Hills Administration Building

Agenda

- I. Public Comments
- II. Updates
 - II.A. Finance and Operations
Presenter: Julie Davis
 - II.B. Technology
Presenter: Susan Bordewyk
 - II.C. Instruction
 - II.C.1. Presentation-AI Guidance
Presenter: Aaron Romoslawski
 - II.C.2. Review Requests for Board Approval of Supplemental Instructional Resources
 - II.C.2.a. *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt and Stephan Dubner; EHS-AP Seminar, Grades 10-12
- III. Action
 - III.A. Minutes for September 11, 2024
 - III.B. Recommendations
 - III.B.1. Approval of *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear; FLEX, Grades 9-12
 - III.B.2. Monthly review of *Think Like a Freak* By Steven Levitt and Stephan Dubner; EHS-AP Seminar, Grades 10-12
- IV. Superintendent's Update



FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Request for Board Approval for Supplemental Instructional Resources

Instructions: Please submit this form to request Board approval for supplemental resources (print and digital media) to support, motivate, enrich, and extend District-provided curriculum in classroom instruction. All materials must be consistent with the District's Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles. Supplementary materials should be age appropriate, comply with copyright and usage laws, and use instructional time in an effective manner. Complete all portions of this form as applicable and forward to the Instruction Office. A minimum 30-day review of the request is required for processing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Submitted by: Doreen Barnes

Reviewed by: _____

School: Forest Hills Eastern High School

Content/Course: AP Seminar Grade(s): 10-12

Title: Think Like a Freak

Author(s): Steven Levitt and Stephan Dubner Publisher/Source: William Morrow Paperbacks

Copyright/
Publication Date: 2015 ISBN: 978-0062218346 Lexile Level: _____

IMPACT ON LEARNING

Academic Rationale for Selection:

In AP Seminar, students develop research, inquiry-based essays and presentations. One of the first standards and units of study asks students to think and discuss topics at a more "open-ended" and scholarly level. The book provides different perspectives on deeper thinking, and guidance on not just asking Google for an answer. In *Think Like A Freak*, the authors provide a blueprint for an entirely new way to solve problems, whether students' interests lie in minor life hacks or major global reforms. The topics range from business to philanthropy to sports to politics, all with the goal of retraining the brain to think deeply on topics.

Literary Merit (*themes, rigor, and style*):

National Best Seller, sequel to *Freakonomics*

"Utterly captivating." — Malcolm Gladwell, New York Times bestselling author of *Blink*, *The Tipping Point*, and *David and Goliath*

Specific Alignment to Michigan Academic Standards:

1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
2. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging
3. Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

Capacity to Meet Educational Needs of Students:

This book is accessible to a variety of reading levels. The use of narratives and argumentative strategies promotes dialogue and conversations between students of all abilities.

The book also includes humor and frequent "quizzes" at the start of each chapter to encourage higher engagement with readers. These puzzles promote thinking and discussions, short vignettes, and attention getting ideas for students to interact and "train their brain" to think more deeply on both simple ideas and complex problems.

FUNDING SOURCE



School Funding



District Funding



Grant/PTO/Booster Group Funding

REQUIRED APPROVALS



Approved



Denied

Doreen Barnes

Signature of Department Chair/SST Representative

Digitally signed by Doreen Barnes

Date: 2024.07.16 19:30:54 -04'00'



Approved



Denied




Signature of School Principal



Approved



Denied



Signature of Director of Instructional Services

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education
Held on September 11, 2024

Present: Maggie Terryn, Malorie Ninemeier, and Kristen Covelle
Staff: Scott Haid, Julie Davis, Kim Van Antwerp

Meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

I. Public Comments

There was one public comment related to transportation.

II. Updates

Finance

Provided by Julie Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

- A. Assistant Superintendent Davis shared that the Board Finance Committee reviewed the August 2024 monthly financial statements. She noted that the legal fees were higher due to usage as related to contract negotiations. A bond construction update was also reviewed.

Instruction

Provided by Scott Haid, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

- A. [Presentation](#)-the Director of Instructional Services, Kim Van Antwerp, presented the 2024-25 district-wide professional development plan. The plan is based on staff feedback, district goals, differentiation, and the limitation of staff being out of the classroom. Director Van Antwerp did remind the committee that this plan was for district-wide professional development. There are many, many other group professional development events happening in the district. Committee Member Covelle asked about training for new teachers. Director Van Antwerp indicated that professional development for new teachers before the school year starts includes things like CQ (Cultural Quotient-Cultural Intelligence), Restorative Practices, and CPR/First Aid. This format captures teachers at the beginning of their career and allows them to not have to leave the classroom for these training sessions. It also allows us to be assured that all teaching staff have training and over time we increase the number of staff trained. There is also work being done on embedding development with the support of the instructional coaches.
- B. Review the Instruction Department's Board Finance Requests
Assistant Superintendent Haid shared the item being requested for purchase:
1. *Advanced Placement Calculus Demana, Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic AP Edition, 6th edition* ©2020, Savvas Learning, Grades 9-12
- C. Review Requests for Board Approval for Supplemental Instructional Resources
Assistant Superintendent Haid shared the item being requested for review:
1. *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear; FLEX, Grades 9-12

III. Action

- A. Approval of the August 14, 2024, meeting minutes.
- B. Recommendations
 - 1. Approval of *Advanced Placement Calculus Demana, Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic AP Edition, 6th edition* ©2020, Savvas Learning, Grades 9-12
 - 2. Monthly review of *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear; FLEX, Grades 9-12

IV. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Kirby shared that the school year was off to a good start. The transportation issues have smoothed out with continued work needed on getting all addresses entered for better use of the app.

Dr. Kirby also shared that two items have impacted schools. Thornapple Elementary evacuated students due to a suspicious odor thought to be gas. It turned out to be a sewer issue in the general area, no problems at the school. All protocols were followed and handled well. Orchard View had a police event in the general area. Again, all protocols were followed and handled well.

Dr. Kirby reminded the committee that Count Day would be October 2, 2024. This pupil count is important as it is 90% of our FTE funding for students.

Meeting ended at 3:26 p.m.