



## ALTOONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aspire. Achieve. Succeed. Dream

February 11, 2019

### Adult Book Club Joins Student Book Club Discussions



The Reader's Workshop model was first piloted at the elementary school level. Teachers quickly embraced the instructional model and saw an increase in student engagement and an increase in reading comprehension. This year, Reader's workshop expanded to secondary with a group of teachers piloting the program at both AAJHS and AAHS.

Wanda Vanish, an English instructor at AAJHS and Newspaper and Yearbook Advisor at AAHS, is part of the pilot team for Reader's Workshop. The Workshop model gives students the tools for selecting and comprehending different types of literature.

The second book club in the unit is based upon historical fiction. To support the student book clubs, Vanish organized an adult book study group to read the historical selections the students would be reading. There were seven titles to choose from all based on a variety of historical time periods.

The adult book club comprised of junior high faculty, high school faculty, friends and family met three times before the students started their book clubs to discuss the books and participate in activities the students would be participating in like word sorts, play your post it, exploring Padlets, etc.

After students completed reading their books, the adult book club joined them for discussion. "Although the support of the adults with discussions was very important, more importantly the students saw all of these adults from different avenues of life holding a book and sharing their love of reading," said Vanish. "I am so thankful to all of them for supporting me and giving of their time so freely."

The adult club will return at least for one more discussion and is currently reading social issue novels to support the students in their final book club of the year.