

7 / 8 Science Textbook Adoption Committee Meeting
December 18, 2018
7:30 a.m. at LCHS

Attendees - Jarrett Gold, John Day, Helga Vanherle, Anais Wenn, Andrew Arthur, Mary Yu, Christine Werner, Simon Constantinides, and Kris Mueller (secretary).

Anais welcomed the teachers and the parents serving on the committee and thanked them for their participation. Everyone received a packet with the agenda, meeting norms, state-approved list of instructional materials, the scoring rubric, etc. Anais explained the K-8 textbook adoption guidelines and procedures. She also explained the pilot process and the timeline for adoption. If the teachers complete the pilot by April and could come up with a recommendation for adoption, materials can be purchased during summer and be available to the students and teachers next school year. If the teachers do not complete the pilot and come up with a decision by April, they could continue to pilot next year and make a decision by winter break.

The teachers shared that they had already reviewed the materials digitally as requested by Dr. Gold and two of them had learned more about the publishers' materials at the CSTA conference. Teachers had narrowed down their options to 4 publishers. Anais mentioned that 7th and 8th grade must adopt the same publisher. Teachers and parents on the committee agreed. Parents on the committee will be reviewing digitally and submitting an input form to Jarrett. There will also be two dates provided to all parents to review the materials in person at the district office. The input from parents is needed and appreciated.

Anais shared that the 6th grade teachers would like to know which publishers the $\frac{7}{8}$ teachers are reviewing because they are interested in adopting the same publisher (if possible), to be consistent. Anais will share with them the information and ideas that this committee comes up with.

The $\frac{7}{8}$ teachers have narrowed down the list to 4 publishers - HMH, Impact Science, Teachers' Curriculum Institute, and Delta Education (FOSS). They will thoroughly review 4 and then select 3 to pilot. One of the parents asked about Amplify Education as she found it interesting. One of the teachers shared that she piloted it two years ago and also found it interesting but it was only a digital program at the time and students got tired of learning science on chromebooks only. It had a large writing component but the rewriting became redundant and boring for the students. The integration of some of the hands-on components wasn't bad. She liked the way the content and phenomena were slated. She also spoke about the online grading and the challenges with that.

Anais mentioned that each of the publishers' programs will have strengths and weaknesses and none of them will be perfect but teachers can decide which one would be the best fit for our

students after completing the rating sheets. Once adopted, they can make the necessary adjustments to the program to make it work for us.

One of the teachers asked if the kits would be replenished by the district if teachers decided to go with a program that was kit based. Anais assured him that they would and the science lab aides will refill the kits. Another teacher asked if the consumables will be purchased each year. They will be purchased as well. One of the teachers asked if the HMH would consider splitting their thick textbook into two to make it easy for students to carry. He was also concerned that students may lose the book. Anais will ask the publisher.

One of the parents asked if all districts were adopting at this time. Anais shared that not all districts are adopting but that some are. The formal state approved adoption list came out in late November from CDE. Some of our elementary teachers have been using supplemental materials to teach NGSS standards because our textbooks are not aligned with NGSS.

Anais asked the $\frac{7}{8}$ teachers to let Kris Mueller, her secretary, know when they have narrowed the list down to 3 publishers. Teachers should let Kris know which unit they will be studying so that she can order materials that align with their instruction.

One of the parents asked the teachers what they look for when deciding which publishers' materials to pilot? One of the teachers mentioned the aspects they look for, such as lesson plans, templates, supplemental resources, assessments, digital component, etc. Anais shared that the teachers will be using the rubric (in the packets) to rate each aspect of the program. One of the parents asked about the digital components of programs and a teacher responded that not all students liked mainly digital programs. She mentioned the importance of a balanced program and the need for both digital and hard copy materials. Blended programs accommodate the learning styles of all students. It's important to get students interacting with knowledge not just digitally but also through hands-on experiments and collaboration with peers.

One of the parents asked how else can they help with the process. Anais mentioned that besides filling out the input form, they can help answer questions from grade level parents they represent. They can share parent questions and concerns with Dr. Gold and get back to parents who feel more comfortable talking to a parent than to contact the administration or teachers. Dr. Gold has already sent a few emails mentioning the science textbook adoption but will soon send another letter regarding the parent review process. The teachers mentioned that they appreciated parent opinions since they review the books from a parent perspective and can give valuable insight to the teachers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

