



## Timberlane Regional School District Minutes

Type of Meeting	Curriculum and Assessment Committee
Date	6/4/24
Facilitator	Kim McCormick
Attendees	Lucy Canotas, Christy Hubley, Kim McCormick, Don Woodworth, Mark Pederson, Jennifer Puchlopek
Agenda	Previously disseminated and posted online.
Notetaker	Christy Hubley

Approval of minutes from 5/7/24
Notes: Meeting called to order at 4:12
Motion to <i>Approve</i> by: Kim McCormick Seconded by: Lucy Canotas
in favor; 6 opposed; 0 abstentions 0

<b>TOPIC:</b> Proposed Title-TRMS Language Arts Long way down by Jason Reynolds	
Discussion:	Jen Puchlopek
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● JP shared information about the book<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Young adult novel all written in verse or poetry format</li><li>○ Controversial text so needs a signed parent permission form in order for students to be able to read the book</li><li>○ Novel Includes limited adult language and violence<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Violence is implied that it is happening in the story but it is not graphic violence</li></ul></li><li>○ The main character wants revenge for his sibling being killed because of gun violence</li><li>○ Author's purpose: Written because he loss a friend to gun violence</li></ul></li><li>● JP then read the background info she provided for the book<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The whole story takes place in the time frame of one minute</li><li>○ Using this novel will help students learn how to craft their writing and expand discussions about important topics</li><li>○ Exposure to reading stories told in verse ,writing their own story in prose or told from one moment in time, and expand discussion and speaking skills</li></ul></li><li>● KM: What backlash do you see?</li></ul>	



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- DW compared this novel's topic to students learning and reading about the holocaust. It is a difficult topic so he stated it may not be the correct book for every student.
- Since it is a middle school age read with a difficult topic DW suggested that we give committee members time to read it first
- MP suggested if we are worried about the novel we should bring it back for the July meeting after giving people a chance to read it.
- JP said the high school sends more controversial forms at the high school than it has at the middle school. This is the first one at the high school.
- KM felt that the perspective of this book is a way to have a safe conversation
  - She seconded revisiting it during the July meeting
- JP said that would be fine to wait until July.
- KM motion: The approval of the Long Way Down will be tabled until the July meeting
  - DW seconded the motion
  - In favor; 6 opposed; 0 abstentions 0

**Conclusions:**

- Long Way Down will be proposed at the July meeting

**Action Items****Person Responsible / Deadline****TOPIC:** Grade 8 Social Studies Revisions**Discussion:**

Jen Puchlopek

- JP explained the teachers felt like they needed to break up their units because the previous units were very large. They needed them to be more manageable to help students acquire the skills.
  - Content is still there but they changed how the skills were matched
  - Changes were made by the new state information
  - The change would be from 5 large units to 7 units
  - All competencies and standards will be covered by the end of the year
- JP next year the teachers will need to make sure they stick to the pacing to accomplish the units
  - There will be more than one competency reported out for some quarters.
- LC discussed westward expansion is also taught in 5th grade. This may need to be addressed when elementary rewrites the social studies unit
- DW questioned if Westward Expansion is new for them this year. This began a discussion about Westward Expansion being taught in Grade 5 too.
  - LC brought up the topic that if 5th grade is going to teach to mastery then do we need to teach it again in 8th
  - JP gave examples of where it is found in the current curriculum
  - KD asked if there are redundancy from 5th grade do we need to address this



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- MP explained that it could be spiraling effect to help students better understand the topic
  - DW suggested there be more of a historical sequence in 5th and in depth discussions of why in 8th
  - MP added elementary is learning snippets of history, middle school builds from that and juniors focus on reconstruction forward for history. After MS there is not a repeat of time periods.
  - LC needs to make sure Westward Expansion is not taught in detail in 5th grade. Teachers do not need to spend as much time because it is being revisited in grade 8.
  - KM suggested that elementary sticks with introduction and Middle school provides more in depth teaching
- LC suggested moving the revisions forward and adapting grade 5 teaching. She mentioned fifth grade decided to remove Canada and Mexico and focus only on the United States.
  - KM supports the idea to introduce in 5th and then expand in 8th
- DW asked about the technical advisories by the state
- MP Reviewed the technical advisories which will be required of students
- LC asked what JP wanted the committee to be looking for in the documents found in the drive for the curriculum
  - Suggestion was made for us to read through it to see if we see anything that did not work
- KM made a motion to accept the first read of the grade 8 Social Studies
  - LC Seconded the motion
  - In favor; 6 opposed; 0 abstentions 0

<b>Conclusions:</b>	The committee will read through the documents and have the second read during July meeting
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible / Deadline</b>

<b>TOPIC:</b> Elementary Science Curriculum changes – 1st read	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Lucy Canotas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LC shared the brand new grade 5 Space Science unit           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grade 5 decided to add this because it was missing for students and many of the assessments include space questions</li> <li>○ Mystery science will address this new unit</li> <li>○ Some grade levels have 3 units and some have 4 topics in science</li> </ul> </li> <li>● LC explained earth systems was what we were teaching in previous grades</li> <li>● MP explained Earth and space science is together but when the curriculum was written it was decided to focus on earth so now we need to add a space section</li> </ul>	



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- KM motioned to accept the Grade 5:Space Science for the first red
  - CH seconded it
  - In favor; 6 opposed; 0 abstentions 0

Conclusions:	Second read will be at the July meeting
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Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

<b>TOPIC:</b> PreK: Language Development: Reading
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Discussion:	Lucy Canotas
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- LC has been working with Kim R to reevaluate our PreK program
  - Focus should be more on exposure and play learning for reading
    - Changes will give more exposure to language and playing with language instead of direct instruction
  - Amended language was shared and the proposed new skills
  - The skills that were listed originally are skills that are in the kindergarten curriculum
- KM motioned for first read
  - DW seconded
  - In favor; 6 opposed; 0 abstentions 0

Conclusions:	Second read will be at the July meeting
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Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

<b>TOPIC:</b> Next meeting July 16th at 10am
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Discussion:	None
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Conclusions:	Members will add it to their calendars
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Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline



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Observers	
Resource Persons	
Special Notes	Meeting adjourned at 5:10