

**STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Lisa Papke, Tony Edwards, Pierre Habel, Keith Beams, Linda Choun, Priscilla Flanders, Mark Flora, Leonard Dinegar (via conference call).

**Absent:** None.

**Observers:** Dave Sodja and Eric Oppelt.

**Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**Agenda:** The policy draft of accommodations/modifications was moved to the next agenda. Agenda was approved as amended.

**Public Commentary:** Lisa made note of a letter submitted to S/C by Dave and Stephanie Sodja expressing concerns over the possible addition of *Lord of the Flies* to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading curriculum.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved (attachments 1 & 2\*).

**Calendar Committee:**

- The calendar committee met with Jerry McWhorter and are working on a draft calendar.
- Changes in Accountability Committee meeting times will need to be reflected in policy.
- Policy will also need to be changed to make S/C election times flexible in the event of an early release day. **Action: Policy subcommittee**

**British Literature Textbook** (attachment 3\*):

- Jennifer Tompkins reported that the subcommittee decided on a newer edition of the text currently being used.
- This newer text aligns with the current curriculum is less expensive than the other options and more philosophically aligned with the Document.
- S/C members will review the recommended text. **ACTION: S/C**

**English Department Proposals** (attachment 4a/b\*):

- Updated curriculum change request for 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade are attached.
  - English Sub-committee requested full curricular review of 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum (this will address *Christmas Carol*).
- English department revised curriculum changes for novel adjustments – see attachment 4a/4b. Refer to 2/24/14 minutes for additional background.
- Discussion of proposed English department changes was limited to the addition of *Lord of the Flies* to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading program, an opening that resulted from moving *The Yearling*. Members of the English department presented and

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contributed to this discussion (Jennifer Tompkins, Kelley Young, Marcella Hanna, and Molly Hughes).

- Kelley Young led the discussion, focusing on reasons why the department believes *Lord of the Flies* would be a good fit as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading novel.
- S/C and members of the English department discussed two main concerns: age-appropriateness and dark content. The concern about age-appropriateness is heightened if it is positioned as a summer read as students would be reading it without teacher guidance over the summer.
- It was noted that there are both public and private schools that teach *LotF* at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level as well as in various high school grades.
- S/C will consider points made and make a decision at a future meeting. **ACTION: S/C**

**Vote to go into Executive Session:** At 5:35 p.m. S/C voted to go into Executive Session under CRS 24-6-402(4)(f) to address personnel matters with community superintendent Dan Cohan.

**Executive Session:** Pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(f), the meeting was adjourned to executive session.

**Open meeting called to order at 6:15.**

### **Principal's Report:**

- **Budget:**
  - S/C discussed if the budget can accommodate all textbook requests. Tony stated that DEF is an option to contribute funds if needed.
  - S/C reviewed probable changes in fees, which still have to be approved by the District.

\*Hard copies of **attachments** are available in the library.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted: Aimee Pless, Note Taker and Priscilla Flanders, Secretary.