## 6-8 English Language Arts Adoption Committee

## September 16, 2023 Minutes

The 6-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Adoption Committee convened on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. During the first meeting, committee members had an opportunity to build community and learn one another's interest in the work. Committee members cited a wide-ranging and diverse list of perspectives, concerns, considerations, and experiences inside and outside of the classroom that inspired them to serve on the selection committee.

Committee members learned general information about the general goals, phases and timeline of the 6-8 ELA adoption. They learned about and discussed the rationale for the move away from a physical instructional materials adoption to a digital adoption and considered what that would mean in terms of instructional materials for teachers and students. And they were apprised of the current state of English Language Arts instruction across Seattle Schools.

Committee members were then introduced to Seattle School Board Policies 0030 and 2015 to deepen their understanding of both the content of the policies and the guidance within. Committee members read the policies, identified expectations and guidance outlined in them and discussed direct application to their roles on the committee. Additionally, they learned about the role of the Instructional Materials Adoption Committee as a body whose work is to ensures the Adoption Committee has followed the policies and procedures and who ultimately approves various aspects of the committees work to go forward in the process.

The committee was also introduced to the process of criteria development in order to understand the full process of selecting categories, writing criteria and weighting of the categories prior to application. After the committee developed a general sense of the process, they developed common background knowledge of the expectations and need for diverse and anti-bias texts in order to write criteria. The committee then drafted, reviewed and revised the diversity and anti-bias selection criteria to be applied to texts. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the committee will develop criteria for the larger body of instructional materials and resources.