

6-8 English Language Arts Adoption Committee

September 23, 2023 Minutes

Attendees: A. Arvidson, J. Beaver, S. Brown, K. Eckert, A. Fanale, M. Fish, A. Gately, A. Havran, K. Kreider, N. Lau, A. Okubo, T. Reeves, E. Shinn, C. Slingsby

The 6-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Adoption Committee convened on September 23rd from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The first portion of this second meeting was focused on ensuring the Seattle Schools' community expectations were captured prior to developing criteria for the instructional materials review. Committee members were invited to share their priorities for this adoption along with rationale. Next, committee members reviewed survey data from parents, community members, teachers and school leaders. Opportunities to take the survey were communicated and publicized through Seattle Schools' websites and social media platforms from May 2023-September 2023. After examining the data and identifying themes and patterns, members also extracted interest of marginalized voices in order to honor our district's efforts to disrupt inequities. Priorities and interests of the broader SPS community were listed and categorized in order to identify 5 focal areas for the review.

Before drafting the criteria aligned with the priorities identified, committee members examined pre-published English Language Arts instructional materials evaluation tools from the following sources: the Council of Great City Schools, EdReports, Oregon Department of Education 6-8 ELA Evaluation tool and the K-5 ELA Instructional Materials Evaluation tool from 2016. Committee members reviewed the tools in search of alignment to the priorities and goals expressed through various data sources including survey data, district priorities and initiatives, technological demand and needs and awareness of the need for standards aligned resources across the district. Using previously formulated criteria as a base, each committee member engaged in all part of the drafting process: drafting criteria, providing feedback to first drafts and revising criteria based on the feedback. Committee members will vote on each criterion submitted this week.

Once a second draft of the criteria was generated, committee members had an opportunity to engage in a process of weighting the criteria, thereby ensuring that some elements of the criteria are more heavily emphasized than others. Committee members engaged in a rich and healthy debate about this aspect of the process and was able to reach consensus.

On Tuesday, September 26th, the Instructional Materials Committee will meet to approve the weighted criteria proposed by the committee.