6-8 English Language Arts Instructional Materials Adoption Committee Meeting Summary

Saturday March 9, 2023

8:30 am-3:30 pm

- I. The 6-8 English Language Arts Instructional Materials Adoption Committee met on March 9, 2024 with the goal of selecting one finalist to advance for adoption. Prior to the meeting, the adoption committee listened to twelve field testers share their experiences, impressions and recommendations with the committee. As a reminder, each field tester piloted one of the three selections for a month. The committee began the morning with an activity designed to process what they heard in relation to their evaluations of the finalists as a committee.
- II. As the committee moved into round two of the evaluation process, they were directed to analyze all of the survey data they received, including field tester testimony and independent survey question data, and survey and evaluations from teachers, parents and community members. To this end, they spent the first part of the morning reading through data from teachers, parents and community members for the three finalists and determining what aspects of the evaluation were informed by the patterns uncovered for each vendor.
- III. Their next task was to conduct a second evaluation, this time with a 4-point rubric rather than a 2-point rubric. Their directive was to incorporate all of the data made available to them, including previous application of the evaluations and findings from round I, and data from field testers and from the students.
- IV. The committee divided into three groups to thoroughly evaluate one vendor. After the evaluation was conducted, the committee was required to validate evaluations of the remaining two. They scrutinized the findings and added contradictory evidence in order to challenge any ratings. In this manner, each adoption committee member signed off on all three evaluations, agreeing to the ratings. The evaluation resulted in a rank order of each finalist, yet the data coming from various stakeholders was not in alignment with the evaluation rank order.
- V. The committee then engaged in small group discussions with the purpose of eliminating one vendor and rank ordering the remaining finalists. In small groups, each group charted the pros and cons of each vendor, then voted on a rank order within their respective groups. This activity resulted in each of the four groups eliminating the same vendors, leaving two finalists. The activity also surfaced an even split between the remaining two.
- VI. As a whole group, the committee brainstormed the risks and mitigations associated with the two finalists. After the activity the committee voted to return Thursday evening to discuss the best finalist for Seattle Schools.