

Math Adoption Committee

March 11 Meeting Notes

The Committee met in the Baker Room at WISC. Audience seating was set up in the Rainier Room with a video feed of the committee meeting.

Sharon Kautz called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm by reminding the committee members that the focus of the meeting is to choose a textbook, which will be a resource to teachers, students and parents, and will be supplemented with additional material irrespective of the text selected. She stated that research has shown that the most important factor in the math achievement of students is the quality of instruction, not pedagogical approach or student-centered vs. teacher-directed instruction. Both the Holt and Discovering texts provide a more balanced approach than the books currently in use. She asked the committee to be mindful of the need to select a text that ESL and Special Ed students would find useful, and that would be helpful to parents and students at home when encountering homework.

A committee member asked about whether we should consider the value of the text to support students outside of class as a priority? There was general agreement, nods, affirmations.

Sharon then explained that the pilots faced a challenge in that our current integrated approach required that short segments of instruction were plopped down into the integrated course so as to not interrupt the year-long math experience for students. Additionally, pilots were not always able to be implemented in both texts in both schools. Mr. Adsit then explained that the data presented in graphical form required some statistical understanding. Note that the middle school data was left out of the statistical analysis and the 8th grade represents fully one third of those impacted by the adoption.

Mr. Peterson drew attention to the 4th page of the data demonstrating total district average. Lori Stutsman drew attention to the exponential models unit in which Chinook was the only mainstream school using Holt and the rest using Discovering – so thinks it should be thrown out. Gillian then reminded us that the middle school needs to be paid attention to, since it represents so many students that will be impacted.

Mailbag from the last two days was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. All other mailbag messages have been posted to the web. Mr. Adsit then explained that some of the mailbag looked like they included verbiage from a template, repeated, much like the messages that we sometimes get asked to send to a legislative representation. Letters that are heartfelt might get a response whereas those that are form letters. Dallas said he paid attention to those with heartfelt stories and also noted that there were form letters.

Sally talked about what an interesting dynamic it is when you ask people to provide input. People get so upset when they write and are not paid attention to – most just want to move on. People of younger students don't know or aren't worried about what will happen when their students who have a good elementary math program get to middle and high school. It is amazing that this many people (over 100)

would write, given all things going on in people's lives. She hopes that everyone on the committee will listen to what the parents/community members have to say.

Committee members were then instructed to share their thoughts about the texts. Each participant was given 90 seconds to speak their mind. No cross-discussion or questioning was allowed during this sharing.

Following the sharing session, Sharon thanked members for their thoughtful dialogue. There was some discussion about class size and inquiry, that inquiry requires close monitoring and may be more difficult to implement with larger class sizes.

At 6:40, Sharon called for the Fist to Five method to indicate if the committee is ready to vote on the texts. All members indicated 3 or better on the Fist to Five, so a vote was taken using the Senteo devices. The vote was 15 (57%) in favor of Holt, 11 (42%) in favor of Discovering. Since this vote did not meet the required 60% super majority required by the decision-making plan, it was not acceptable as a recommendation to move forward to the next level.

Some discussion followed. Jeff McCabe (Interlake) stated that he was willing to change his vote from Discovering to Holt if assured that we would supplement Holt with high quality investigations.

A second vote resulted in 18 (69%) in favor of Holt, 8 (31%) in favor of Discovering. This vote meets the criteria of the decision-making plan. Holt will be recommended to the Curriculum Department at the scheduled meeting on March 19 and then will be presented to the Instructional Materials Committee on March 29. The school Board will act on the recommendation at their meeting on April 13.

The next step will be to write a report of the process, including the outcome and dissenting opinion. Sharon will send an email prompting committee members to provide comments for the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.