

**WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: Curriculum Committee**

MINUTES

February 7, 2024

4:15 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and Lower Level Town Office Building

Zoom Recording

Members Present (in-person): Briana Ross, Arthur Christensen, and Tracey Anderson

Also Present: Superintendent Stevens and Kristen Stevens, literacy coach

1. Call to order

Superintendent Stevens called the meeting to order at 4:17 pm.

2. Review of state-mandated reading program

Kristen Stevens, literacy coach, shared a presentation on the state mandate for Willington to adopt a new literacy program for kindergarten through grade 3 from the list of approved programs provided by the state. She shared the background of the mandate, the research and selection process that had been completed, and a list of the programs reviewed. Kristen recommended the committee select Amplify CKLA as the program the district should adopt to meet the state requirement, noting the reasons for the recommendation. She shared a variety of program resources with the committee including the program structure, scope and sequence, unit snapshots, and materials that would need to be purchased. She noted that a lot of the curriculum was available online for parent access. Prior professional development could be easily applied to the new program and help ease the transition for staff.

Board members asked about the price of the program and Superintendent Stevens stated the grant they received will cover the cost for kindergarten through grade 3, but he would need to identify funds for preschool and grades 4-8. They needed to do some additional research to identify what the annual cost would be for materials at the end of the grant money but believed the price was going to be reasonable. Members discussed the impact on social studies and science curriculums if they recommended the program. They also discussed collecting additional feedback from other districts utilizing the program to learn what they felt were the strengths and areas in need of improvement, and the impact on test scores. The committee discussed whether Amplify CKLA had been considered when writing the curriculum that was approved a year ago. A discussion was held on the program resources for special education, intervention, and English Language learners.

Superintendent Stevens recapped the next steps stating they would gather additional information on pricing and feedback from districts using the program. The committee planned to meet in 3 weeks so they had a chance to review the presentation materials with the potential to make a recommendation to the full Board to approve the program at their regular meeting in March.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

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TOWN CLERK