Alsea School Board Meeting Monday, May 22, 2023 Regular School Board meeting 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting Only



- 1. Call to Order 1801
- 2. Flag Salute
- 3. Board Members present online Risteen Follett, Linda Montanez, Deb Lindberg, Roren Rounds, Ryan VanLeuven
- 4. Board Member absent None
- 5. Patrons -

Online attendees - Sara Cash, Lori Greenfield, Jamie Olsen, Kari VanLeuven, Terry Lunsford

- 6. Approval of the Agenda
- Discussion ELA curriculum adoption for K-12
   Risteen Follett opened the discussion. Lori Greenfield is available to answer questions as best as possible. She requested that Lora Nickle keep track of questions or concerns that need to be addressed by Sean Gallagher to get a response.

Soren Rounds brought up the concern around the extra costs for additional workbooks. Lori Greenfield responded and said that yes it can get quite spendy. Although an alternate way of avoiding this is to make copies of workbooks as needed. At this time she is unsure how much the workbooks will be used although all of the teachers liked them. The teachers have the flexibility to copy pages out of the workbooks if for instance a lesson seems too lengthy or difficult they can break it into smaller lessons or modify the content to make it easier.

Deb Lindberg asked what the feedback from teachers and administrators has been. Lori said that the feedback from teachers has been positive and they all liked it. Did we get any feedback from the community? Lora Nickle let the board know that the only feedback she had seen was an email regarding the inability to see the K-5 curriculum online. Risteen Follett said that we also haven't reached the Patron comment portion of the meeting yet as well to hear from the parents.

Risteen Follett asked if the teachers were ready to start teaching this new curriculum. Lori responded that yes they are ready. There will also be the ability to look over the materials when the curriculum arrives prior to June 30th. There will be ongoing support for teachers throughout the year. There is also an opportunity to have someone from the company come to provide training at an additional cost.

Lori stated that she received an updated quote today. She emailed it to Sean Gallagher and has not gotten a response. She has not contacted Northwest Textbook Depository, who the state is contracted with to see what their price will be. Ryan VanLeuven asked what the new cost could be. She let him know that it was more expensive, approximately \$10k more. This was due to the fact that the first quote did not include workbooks for 'My Perspectives'. Also, the shipping directly from Savvas is more than what Northwest Textbook Depository would charge. But this was a direct quote from Savvas so she needs to find out what Northwest Textbook Depository would be. Ryan also asked about training in the future. Will current teachers be able to train other new teachers? Lori said that it is important that we "grow our own" experts. She said that the incoming Superintendent really cares about curriculum and that is an area of strength. She does not know however if she would be the one to take on the training or if she would have lead teachers do that piece. Lori has also offered to help out if needed. Risteen Follett asked if it would be more advantageous to have professional development to get the teachers trained? Lori said yes, also, she can't emphasize this enough that there is tremendous online support as well.

Soren said that what he noticed is that the little reading books in the Kindergarten packet were like the same thing that is in 2nd grade now. Lori said that each classroom currently has their own set of decodable readers. Lori said that no curriculum is going to be 'all inclusive' because we will always have a wide range of readers, some who will know reading and some who won't. The same with letters. Each teacher will have different levels of reading materials that they will be able to access as necessary. K-2 will have a more systematic approach to learning such as phonics to help them connect sounds with words.

Risteen Follett asked, is there a need to possibly buy additional supplementary materials for teachers to have on hand just in case. Lori asked what she meant by 'additional materials' will there be enough materials to cover situations of students in for example 1st grade and some of the class is at a Kindergarten level, and some of the class is at a 2nd grade level and the rest are at grade level. Will we be able to cover that? Meaning the count of each grade level ordered. Lori said the quote presented to the board was for a certain enough to cover those needs.

8. Patron Comments - Jamie Olsen wanted to ask, she felt confident and pleased with what she saw. She wanted to know if there was a policy or something in place to ensure that teachers are using only the new curriculum and not their own modified curriculum? Risteen asked Lora to follow up with the Superintendent on this question as well as where we stand with the creation of the AR allowing parents to opt out of curriculum areas being taught. Lori Greenfield also mentioned that this curriculum is meant to be modified as needed. For instance if the lesson is too long or too difficult teachers have the ability to modify the lessons in word format and present them that way.

Terry Lunsford asked, she was able to go online and see the 6th through 12th grade curriculum. It was wonderful and had a lot of information! However, the K-5 curriculum said that it was restricted and she could not see anything. Lori Greenfield will talk to her representative regarding this to be updated.

Kari VanLeuven was able to look at the curriculum online. She has never looked at curriculum before so this was new to her. She was most concerned at this time about the 6th through 12th grade curriculum. Her concern right now is regarding some of the books listed for suggested reading. Her only concern is that parents are given the opportunity to give feedback on the books that are selected for the students to read. She felt like some of these books were not even something she would want to read. Risteen asked Lora to follow up with the Superintendent on this question as well as where we stand with the creation of the AR allowing parents to opt out of curriculum areas being taught.

- 9. Action Items Ryan VanLeuven motioned to approve the curriculum presented. Deb Lindberg seconded. Ryan is having a hard time without having the Superintendent available to ask questions as well as to be able to see the new quote to see what kinds of cost we are looking at. Deb Lindberg and Linda Montanez agreed with these concerns. Soren Rounds asked if we were just approving the purchasing of the curriculum at the current price or just the use of the curriculum. Deb Lindberg wanted to know if the SIA Grant was being used to cover this cost? Is there enough in this Grant to cover the cost of the new quote? Risteen agreed with the concerns. Ryan VanLeuven retracted his original motion to approve the curriculum and purchase at this time. Ryan made a new motion to table the ELA adoption until the next scheduled board meeting, June 8th. Soren Rounds seconded. Soren asked if waiting for the June 8th meeting would give enough time to have the materials here for teachers to view over the summer. Lori Greenfield said that the K-5 materials are in stock. However this may be cutting it really close and risk having some materials not available. Ask Sean if he can answer the questions from the board as well as the patrons and the pricing update then we could have another special board meeting to get it approved faster. Deb Lindberg agreed that another Special meeting should be scheduled so that we can move forward with the order to accommodate the teachers' access to materials over the summer. All in favor yea.
- 10. Set another meeting to approve the curriculum. Risteen made a motion to set another special meeting to answer questions presented at this meeting. Deb Lindberg seconded the motion. This is also a good opportunity to give the public more time to look at the curriculum as well as fix the issue of viewing the K-5 curriculum online. Ryan asked Lori Greenfield how much time they would need.

May 30th was suggested as this gives ample time for Lori and Sean to get answers about the new price quote and present it to the board. The next meeting was set for May 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM this will be a virtual only meeting again. Risteen Follett motioned to approve. Ryan VanLeuven seconded the motion. All in favor yea.

11. Adjourn 1851

Risteen Follett, School Board Chair

Sean Gallagher, Superintendent