

December Board Report Director of Curriculum

Submitted by: Larry Cobb

Site-based In-service January 10th and 11th

Second semester kicks off with two days of site-based in-service. For these professional development days, principals take the lead in organizing the sessions with support from district office personnel. Kalskag school staff will meet in Kalskag. Aniak and Upriver schools will have in-service in Aniak.

Alaska Battle of the Books

An active group of coaches and students are participating in the annual Battle of the Books competition sponsored by the Alaska Association of School Librarians. Practice battles will be held via VTC the week of February 6th. The actual Battle of the Books competition is Feb 28th thru Mar 3rd.

Benchmark Assessments

Winter literacy assessments are currently underway in district schools. STAR Early Literacy and STAR Reading assess all students during a two-week window from November 28th thru December 9th. Results provide a scale score related to each student's reading comprehension aptitude. A variety of diagnostic reports help teachers make instructional decisions related to reading instruction in all content areas. The company has been particularly responsive in aligning their assessments and suite of student reports with Common Core State Standards.

ELA Adoption Committee – ELA adoption committee met Nov 30. Minutes are posted below. Due to changes in the administrator roles at the District Office, Textbook Adoptions have been reassigned to Sharon Cobb, Instructional Support Coordinator.

ELA Adoption Committee Minutes

November 30, 2016

1. Review of adoption timeline:

Original plan: Piloting until Christmas with data collection. At January inservice analyze data and make a final decision. Send out samples and proposal to all sites for review and feedback then be ready to present to the School Board by March for approval. Materials purchased in April and delivered to the sites before summer vacation so that teachers can preview over the summer (if they desire).

2. Updated proposal:

Continue piloting through January. In December we'll collect a writing sample from all sites. The end of January we'll collect post-surveys for those who did the attitude and strategies survey as well as a post-writing sample. We will meet in February to review data and try to formulate decision on what materials are to be adopted and presented to teachers. Depending on how well this goes, ideally we'll still be able to send out samples to

sites and have them review and give some feedback in February. Then present to School Board in March, purchase materials in April, and have them to sites in May.

3. Check in with current piloting:

AMNES—Journey’s piloting update by Julia and Okalena

JOGES—some of the materials just now arrived so piloting will begin in a few weeks

ZLES—using the current adopted materials but desiring more structured comprehension strategy instruction.

UPR—CHU tried using Journeys but only had online access so discontinued use, but does like the Writer’s Handbook from Journey’s and continues to use it with the students. SLQ & SRV using current adopted materials. CKD has been in constant transition so they’re still sorting things out and managing.

4. Discussion on data collection:

Aeriale will be presenting to all elementary staff how to properly implement a writing prompt (Dec. 14). We’ll use this writing prompt in our analysis at the February meeting.

We will also ask all elementary teachers who administered the attitude and strategies survey to collect post-surveys the last week of January. Lastly, we will look at STAR testing data as part of data analysis.

5. Items for next meeting:

Data analysis, materials selection, and professional development

6. Next Meeting: Friday, February 3 in Aniak

Questions to ponder for February’s meeting:

What can we use to objectively select materials? Rubric? Data? Teacher evaluations?

The reality is, we will never select something that will make everyone happy, so how do we accommodate most people? Thinking outside the box, can we adopt different materials for different grade levels or different materials for different sites?