

## Developing Historians and Global Thinkers Advisory Group

Wednesday, March 2

4 to 6 PM

Kulshan Library

**In attendance:** Alisa Sachs, Bruce Mansfield, Katie Ruthford, Alex Giebelhaus, Stephanie Strow, Jamine Moss-Owen, Gaye Fullner, Keith Schacht, Joe Wooding, and Minh Nguyen.

4:00 - 4:15      Opening and state of social studies work

- It is apparent that our area of need and attention is social studies and other potential curricular areas at the middle school level. There has been some frustration among staff because there have been no materials refresh for quite some time. Others shared that they have served on various social studies committees over the past sixteen years with little (to no) results. The group shared concerns about the committee accomplishing the goals it was formed to achieve. The group questioned what 'materials support' means. Does this mean more paper books? Electronic resources? Other? What does it look like?
- The goal/hope of this group to continue the work (requiring sub-committee middle school work) to identify our purpose, what we teach, how we can agree to best align our work and to determine what type of curricular support over time we would request from district resources. It is also the intent to have a public facing middle school scope and sequence on our district website.

4:15 - 5:15      Hear from each school regarding state of social studies scope and sequence (fifteen minutes or so per school)

- Fairhaven Middle School  
Alisa Sachs shared grades 6-8 scope and sequence from Fairhaven Middle School. Please see attached.
- Shuksan Middle School  
Stephanie Strow shared the scope and sequence followed at Shuksan Middle School. Accompanying documents will be attached. Information regarding grade 6 will follow.
- Whatcom Middle School  
Whatcom was not represented at this meeting.
- Kulshan Middle School  
Joe Wooding shared foundational research materials that helped to create a thematic approach to grade 8 citizenship social studies education. See attached.

5:15 - 5:45      Do we see common approaches? Do we see common outcomes? Are there areas we need to tighten as a system?

- Following the presentations, it was apparent that each school was following the sequence required by OSPI and that schools were much closer aligned than they were apart.
- It is determined that it is necessary to move to sub-groups to support the committee and bring middle school practitioners into the discussion. District professional development days have been planned so we will need to set aside two work days during the regular school day to make it happen.
- Two days are set aside: April 19 and May 12 for middle school social studies teachers to align their work with students and establish what social studies education looks like in Bellingham Public Schools. Invitations will be sent to each middle school with the intent of sending a team of three (one from each grade level) to participate in this collaboration and to ultimately make recommendations for curricular support.

5:45 - 6:00      Begin to discuss curricular deficits, where we need support? What recommendation should we begin looking into?

- We are not in a position at this time to make a determination of curricular deficits or what is needed for curricular supports. We intend to discover this information as we work with our middle school guidance team.