

# FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Date:** May 3 ,2021

**Time:** 3:00-5:00

**Location:** Zoom

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Korn and Charisse Berner

## **In Attendance**

Stephanie Korn, Director of Teaching and Learning, District Office

Charisse Berner, Director of Teaching and Learning, District Office

Nina Ballew, Assistant Director of Early Childhood, District Office

Sharece Steinkamp, Principal, Geneva

Pam Pottle, Principal, Northern Heights

Melissa Peterson, Literacy Specialist, Roosevelt

Megan Cooley, Kindergarten, Birchwood

Kyla Stefani, Kindergarten Teacher, Northern Heights

Julie Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Parkview

Jennifer Wilkinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Alderwood

Quinn Reno, 2nd grade Teacher, Cordata

Sarah Snyder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Lowell

Jennifer Lawrence, MTSS TOSA, District Office

Stephanie Strachan, Parent/Community Member, Wade King

## Topics

- **Process our deep dive into *From Phonics to Reading* Curricula.**

First, we reviewed feedback from committee members regarding how this committee process is going and how we can improve the flow of the work given some of the challenges this year.

Charisse reviewed the timeline of meetings and the need to adjust the timeline as we continue to work toward a decision. Then the committee reviewed feedback on *From Phonics to Reading* curricula from committee members. Members joined small groups to discuss their opinions and reasons to continue to review or let go of *From Phonics to Reading* curricula. While first and second grade teams really liked this program, Kindergarten teachers were a strong no based on scope and sequence among other factors.

Members voted using a Zoom poll. **Decision:** The committee will discontinue review of *From Phonics to Reading*. We want to be unified in our recommendation.

- **Determine next steps for *Foundations***

Charisse and Stephanie shared additional information they learned recently regarding *Foundations* usage in Anacortes Public Schools. They also shared information about Geodes, Heggerty, and potential training options available if we continue to review *Foundations*.

Nina gave the committee an overview of the information that will be shared with K-2 teachers during the upcoming district K-2 collaboration to build teacher understanding of foundational skills standards/instructional practices so they are better prepared to give feedback on potential programs.

Members joined small groups to discuss their opinions and reasons to share *Foundations* information and materials with K-2 teachers for the upcoming (and/or future) district meeting. **Decision:** Members voted using a poll to place *Foundations* in front of K-2 teacher for feedback.

- **Committee Next Steps**

Committee members discussed next steps for moving forward with *Foundations* and the potential of bringing in a new curriculum to consider. This will affect our timeline to complete the work. We are learning as we go about the differences in curricula and are gaining clearer focus about what is needed in an effective curriculum.

Charisse shared the possibility of bringing back *IRLA* and *Being a Reading* programs and of looking at a new curriculum from *Really Great Reading* Company. She shared the rationale for these considerations (*IRLA* and *Being a Reader* have elements we may have missed in our initial screening). *Really Great Reading* is new to us (thanks Melissa for bringing it to our attention) and seems to have elements we are seeking.

We (the committee members) are committed to reaching our goal of identifying a curriculum and of taking the needed time to do so.

## **Summary**

Committee will discontinue reviewing *From Phonics to Reading*.

Committee will keep reviewing *Foundations* and to learn more about supplementing with Heggerty and decodable texts.

The committee is willing to consider adding a new curriculum to the mix (*Really Great Reading*) to review and to potentially reconsider *IRLA* and *Being a Reader*.

## **Next Meeting**

May 10, 2021 3-5 via Zoom