

**WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, August 3, 2023

7:30 AM

Waunakee Community School District
905 Bethel Circle
Waunakee, WI 53597

Members of the public may attend Board of Education meetings in-person, and will be asked to check in with District personnel when you arrive.

Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes. The Board will allow 30 Minutes for public comments.

Public comments may be sent to Rebecca McDonough at district_administrator@waunakee.k12.wi.us up to one hour before the start of the Board meeting. All comments will be reviewed by the Board members. Emailed comments will be reviewed by the board but not read out loud. Emailed comments sent during any part of the board meeting (Board Development, Closed session, Open session) will be forwarded to the board but may or may not be reviewed by the board until after the board adjourns. Comments must include the commentator's name, address, and must identify their connection to the District (if any) and any group they are representing in order to be considered by the Board.

If you would like to address the Board in-person during the public comments section of the meeting, you will be greeted in the lobby of the building, asked to check in with District personnel when you arrive so that you can be recognized and address the Board when your name is called.

A recording of the meeting will be posted on the District webpage within 24 hours of the meeting time.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVE AGENDA

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. BOOK ADOPTION-WOMEN'S LITERATURE

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Tim Schell

Melissa Hanson is comprehensively revising the Women's Literature course for this fall and is requesting new novels for the course. These texts are described in the accompanying memo and the request is to advance these to the full Board for approval. This is an action item.

VI. MATHEMATICS CONSULTANT

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Tim Schell

We continue to observe a gap between our present performance and our desired pre-pandemic performance benchmarks on state assessments including the Forward Exam and the ACT. Pandemic effects and teacher turnover have contributed to the gap. In order to meet our student achievement goal, we will be working with a mathematics consultant from Solution Tree to provide professional learning and coaching for the middle school and high school to accelerate progress toward meeting our achievement goal. In the past, we have sent mathematics teachers to conferences sponsored by Solution Tree with positive feedback and results. An on-site consultant will reach all teachers more quickly. There is adequate carryover in the Secondary C&I budget to support this expense. This is an information item.

VII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

VIII. ADJOURN

“Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act who requires assistance with access or materials should contact the Waunakee Community School District Office at 849-2000, 905 Bethel Circle Drive Waunakee, WI 53597, at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the meeting so that necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate the request.”

To: Board of Education

From: Tim Schell

Subject: 2023 Textbook Requests-Women's Literature

Date: July 31, 2023

Melissa Hanson is entering the teaching assignment for the Women's Literature English course this year. Melissa is redesigning the course for contemporary texts that explore themes of media literacy and stereotypes, women in positions of power and leadership, and empowerment. Pricing of all four texts at this fall's projected enrollment for the course will be approximately \$2,700 and can be resourced within this year's budget.

The novels she is requesting include:

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (1994) *The Glass Castle* is a memoir by author Jeannette Walls. The story examines her childhood in an impoverished family that was constantly moving from one desperate place to another. Jeannette and her siblings lived with their father, an alcoholic, and their mother, an artistic free spirit who had little interest in raising her children. Through a series of difficult circumstances, the children learn to rely on one another and escape the dysfunctional life of their parents.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett (2011). *The Help* is a 2009 novel by American novelist Kathryn Stockett. Set during the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi, it focuses on the lives of Black maids working in white households during the civil rights movement. It has been praised for its unflinching depiction of the lives of these women combined with a pointed sense of humor.

Finding Me by Viola Davis (2023). In *Finding Me*, Davis writes about her childhood in Rhode Island – a childhood marked by poverty, trauma, and violence, but also by her fiercely loving bond with her siblings and mother. She also shares her struggle, resilience, and camaraderie of Davis's Juilliard years in a yet-to-be-gentrified New York City, as well as the prejudices that held Davis back in her early years continued to dog her, even as she ascended to the pinnacle of success.

Wild by Cheryl Strayed (2013). *Wild* follows Cheryl Strayed as she hikes 1100 miles across the Pacific Crest Trail in the summer and fall of 1995. Along the way, the narrative offers numerous flashbacks and memories explaining what has led Cheryl to take on this incredible feat.

To: Board of Education

From: Tim Schell

Subject: Professional Services: Mathematics Education Consultant

Date: July 25, 2023

I am writing to you regarding professional services from Solution Tree for consultant services in secondary level mathematics education for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

Our district has an urgent student achievement goal: to return to our pre-pandemic levels of student achievement, including in mathematics, by 2025. Our data indicate that despite the best efforts of our dedicated teaching staff, we continue to observe a gap between our present performance and our desired pre-pandemic performance benchmarks on state assessments including the Forward Exam and the ACT.

Moreover, since 2019 we have been experiencing significant teacher turnover, most notably at the middle school level. Prior to the pandemic many of our teachers of mathematics had participated in Solution Tree's Mathematics in a PLC at Work Summit with positive feedback and we saw high levels of student achievement. The turnover has inevitably contributed to some discontinuity in professional learning that we need to address. By bringing a consultant in, we can engage more teachers more quickly compared to sending small teams out year by year.

The professional learning would involve instructional planning and high leverage instructional team actions with a focus on data, instruction, tasks, and assessment of student learning. The consultant services would provide support in several areas:

- Kickoff workshop for teachers in the first quarter of 2023-2024
- Embedded coaching with on-site visits in each of the second, third, and fourth quarters
- Remote support and learning tasks between coaching visits

The Secondary Curriculum and Instruction budget has sufficient carryover to fully fund these services. I am confident this investment will provide effective professional learning for our teachers that will result in higher student achievement and meeting our student achievement goal. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this project.