



26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood, WA 98292-9548
www.stanwood.wednet.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
DATE: May 4, 2021
FROM: Lloy Schaaf, Ed.D.
RE: Novel Approval for Middle Level
TYPE: Action Item

The Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) has reviewed two novels for middle level. The notes from the IMC minutes are included. The novels are *Star Girl* and *Out of My Mind*. The recommendation from the IMC is to approve the following:

1. *Star Girl* published by Scholastic INC., 2002- 8th grade ELA
2. *Out of My Mind*, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010- 7th grade ELA

Recommendation: That the board approves the novels *Star Girl* and *Out of My Mind* for 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts.

Instructional Materials Committee Notes
April 22, 2021

Present: Lloy Schaaf, Jeanne Kelly, Joyce Zeigen, Kionte Brown, Crysty Auckland, Monica McDaniel, Jennifer Satterfield

- The committee had an overview of the agenda.
- Members of the committee read the novels, *Star Girl* and *Out of my Mind*.
- The committee voted to approve both novels for English Language Arts (ELA).
- *Out of my Mind* is approved for 7th grade ELA.
- *Star Girl* is approved for 8th grade ELA.
- The committee went on to discuss the reconsideration form received from Jessica Rubio on March 25, 2021. Her concerns were related to three short stories, *Tell Tale Heart*, *The Black Cat*, and the *Land Lady*. Ms. Rubio felt these stories were especially dark and disturbing and that other short stories might replace them. *Tell Tale Heart* and the *Land Lady* are in the 8th grade Holt text. *The Black Cat* was a choice option for students as selected on a choice board in a classroom. The committee agreed that the stories were dark and may have been especially disturbing during this time of the pandemic. The committee's recommendations follow:
 1. Teachers who are teaching these stories need to identify them as "dark" in the class syllabus and let parents know they are able to opt their students out of reading the stories.
 2. The Holt Text is 15 years old. The committee recommended that the text be reviewed for a possible new adoption as funding is available.