

SUBJECT: To Kill A Mockingbird

FROM: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

TO: hkincaid@sd308.org

CC: fdahlquist@sd308.org, lsimelton@sd308.org, [REDACTED], lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org

DATE: 01/31/2020 07:18

Good morning Heather

My name is Pamela Hampton and I [REDACTED] The assigned book for [REDACTED] class is To Kill A Mockingbird.

As I am sure you know this book is about a Black man that is accused of raping a White woman, Black children are stalked by a lynch mob and the "n" word is used often.

Due to the racial climate in most of the buildings in this district and in the world I'm questioning what thought went into assigning this particular book as required reading. Sitting in a classroom [REDACTED] having to hear such egregious acts and language is very uncomfortable. I know that students both Black and White have complained about the nature of this book yet it is still required reading.

It's my understanding that the purpose for reading this book is to learn about a coming of age story. My question is were there any coming of age stories that are not racially offensive?

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Pamela Hampton
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: To Kill A Mockingbird
FROM: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
TO: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>
CC: Laura Pastirik Bankowski <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, LaTonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/11/2020 16:24

Pamela,

Thank you for your patience. [REDACTED]

I understand your concern regarding the utilization of this text. The students are currently in progress of utilizing the text.

In talking with Faith Dahlquist, we will guarantee putting together a group of teachers to review novel selection and approval of possible changes for next year.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Heather

On Sun, Feb 9, 2020 at 7:53 PM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Heather

I'm checking in to see if you have received the clarity you were looking for and hoping you can enlighten me on the literature choice.

I hope all went well [REDACTED] and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 3, 2020, at 6:55 AM, Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning

Thank you for your time and acknowledgment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 2, 2020, at 8:43 PM, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:

Pamela,

Thank you for reaching out to me. I have reached out to the high school to seek clarity to your question.

I will reach back out as soon as possible. I anticipate I will be able to get back to you by the end of the week, I will be out of the building at the beginning of the week [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Heather Kincaid
Director of High School Education
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

On Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 7:18 AM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Good morning Heather

My name is Pamela Hampton and I am [REDACTED]. The assigned book for [REDACTED] is To Kill A Mockingbird.

As I am sure you know this book is about a Black man that is accused of raping a White woman, Black children are stalked by a lynch mob and the "n" word is used often.

Due to the racial climate in most of the buildings in this district and in the world I'm questioning what thought went into assigning this particular book as required reading. Sitting in a classroom [REDACTED] [REDACTED] having to hear such egregious acts and language is very uncomfortable. I know that students both Black and White have complained about the nature of this book yet it is still required reading.

It's my understanding that the purpose for reading this book is to learn about a coming of age story. My question is were there any coming of age stories that are not racially offensive?

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Pamela Hampton
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: [External] Ending Curriculum Violence
FROM: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
TO: "Payno-Simmons, Ruthie L" <rpaynosi@iu.edu>
DATE: 09/23/2020 14:00

Thanks. We will incorporate it now.

Education through an Equity lens

LaTonya Simelton
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
District Administrative Center
Oswego CUSD 308
630-636-4364 O

On Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 1:10 PM Payno-Simmons, Ruthie L <rpaynosi@iu.edu> wrote:

This seems like a powerful article that coincides with my story in the article shared yesterday. I can see how you would use this article before using the Assessing Curricular Tool.

Ruthie Payno-Simmons, Ph.D.

State Cadre Technical Assistance Specialist, Cadre III

O: 517-256-3990 | E: rpaynosi@iu.edu

Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center

Great Lakes Equity Center

IU School of Education

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

902 West New York Street, ES 3116

Indianapolis, IN 46202-5167

<http://www.greatlakesequity.org/>

[Subscribe](#) to receive our educational equity products.

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." -Benjamin Franklin

On Sep 23, 2020, at 9:38 AM, Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org> wrote:

This message was sent from a non-IU address. Please exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments from external sources.

Hello Ruthie,

Here is the resource mentioned as a possible piece for use in the To Kill a Mockingbird discussion. Your suggestion was that this piece maybe too strong for initial conversations. Thanks.

https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2020/ending-curriculum-violence?fbclid=IwAR0MEx4hOMCKqwFfYij2q1bqISjxWFn_Sl8Mq1TZSNmkLH2kXbH_rnokAoo

Education through an Equity lens

LaTonya Simelton
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
District Administrative Center
Oswego CUSD 308
630-636-4364 O

SUBJECT: To Kill a Mockingbird
FROM: Justin Esau <jesau@sd308.org>
TO: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/21/2020 11:09

Latonya,

Hello again! I hope you are doing well. The English 1 team is currently discussing the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* (the focus of unit 3 in January). I wanted to reach out and see if you had any resources or suggestions that might be helpful in making this text more equitable and inclusive. I'm guessing that my racial blindspots could cause me to overlook potential issues or struggles that some students of color might experience while reading the text and researching the historical context of the novel.

I'd be happy to chat over the phone again if you would prefer. My cell is [REDACTED]. If you are free today, I have student meetings today from 11:30-2:30 and an appointment from 5:00-6:00, but could talk any other time.

Thank you,

Justin Esau
Oswego East High School
English
(630) 636-4538

SUBJECT: Re: Teaching Mockingbird
FROM: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
TO: "Karen O'Connor" <koconnor01@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/25/2020 07:38

Hi Karen,

So you don't need the resource from the MAP center?

Education through an Equity lens

LaTonya Simelton
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
District Administrative Center
Oswego CUSD 308
630-636-4364 O

On Fri, Oct 23, 2020 at 4:11 PM Karen O'Connor <koconnor01@sd308.org> wrote:

Hi Latonya,

Due to time, I found a resource from Facing History and Ourselves, and it looks pretty good. I am planning to use this on 11/11/2020.

I wanted to share and discuss with you sometime soon!

 [Teaching Mockingbird 1.pdf](#)

Karen O'Connor
Assistant Director of High School Education
Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL 60543



SUBJECT: To Kill a Mockingbird discussion
FROM: "Karen O'Connor" <koconnor01@sd308.org>
TO: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 09/14/2020 12:12

Hi Latonya!

Can you join us for our discussion on To Kill a Mockingbird?

We are in Google Hangouts Meet.

Karen

Karen O'Connor

Assistant Director of High School Education
Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL 60543



SUBJECT:
FROM: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>
TO: Rakeda Leaks <rleaks@naperville203.org>
DATE: 09/21/2020 15:43

Hi Rakeda,

In your work with MAP you shared with me one of the areas of focus for your district was to examine curriculum. I'm wondering how the topic of the "classics" was handled? We are seeking to have a discussion with teachers and English Department Chairs on the inequities that result from reading To Kill a Mockingbird and other such books.

Are you aware of resources that would support an hour long activity for this group? The objective is to bring awareness to how the book perpetuates the narrative of racism and inequality among many other harmful narratives raised in the book.

Also, was wondering if you could recommend other books regarding coming of age in a time of change that would meet the standards? Thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide me.

Be safe. Stay well.

Education through an Equity lens

LaTonya Simelton
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
District Administrative Center
Oswego CUSD 308
630-636-4364 O

SUBJECT: Ending Curriculum Violence
FROM: Latonya Simelton <lsimelton@sd308.org>

TO: "Payno-Simmons, Ruthie L" <rpaynosi@iu.edu>

DATE: 09/23/2020 08:38

Hello Ruthie,

Here is the resource mentioned as a possible piece for use in the To Kill a Mockingbird discussion. Your suggestion was that this piece maybe too strong for initial conversations. Thanks.

https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2020/ending-curriculum-violence?fbclid=IwAR0MEx4hOMCKqwFfYij2q1bq1SjxWFn_SI8Mq1TZSNmkLH2kXbH_rnokAoo

Education through an Equity lens

LaTonya Simelton
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
District Administrative Center
Oswego CUSD 308
630-636-4364 O

SUBJECT: To Kill A Mockingbird

FROM: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

TO: "hkincaid@sd308.org" <hkincaid@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, [REDACTED] "lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org" <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, "jwaller@sd308.org" <jwaller@sd308.org>, "cgrays@sd308.org" <cgrays@sd308.org>

DATE: 08/27/2021 08:12

Good Morning Mrs. Kincaid,

Last night I attended a wonderful curriculum night at Oswego East. It was nice to meet the teachers who have been assigned the task of growing young impressionable minds.

Last year you and I had a conversation about the required reading of To Kill A Mockingbird, I have included our conversation below. I learned last night that this book is still required reading.

Social emotional well being of the students in this district has become a very important pillar after going through remote learning, political tension, and highlights of racial injustice. How can this district in good conscious subject students to more stereotypical disparity?

There are some wonderful teachers in this district, but there is a sensitivity of culture that is missing.

This district has made great strides and efforts to ensure that every student is in a safe learning environment. Let's not go backwards and highlight racist words and actions by requiring our students to read this book.

Knowing that racism is a system, have you ever asked yourself why is this book required reading in schools?

<https://www.the-sun.com/news/3226563/to-kill-a-mockingbird-banned-school-race/>

<https://www.history.com/news/why-to-kill-a-mockingbird-keeps-getting-banned>

<https://www.marshall.edu/library/bannedbooks/to-kill-a-mockingbird/>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you this school year.



Have a wonderful Friday,

Pamela Hampton

SUBJECT: Re: To Kill A Mockingbird
FROM: Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>
TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 08/27/2021 08:36

Faith mostly, with help from me.

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 8:35 AM Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org> wrote:

Okay sounds good and thank you!! I was trying to remember from our conversation if Heather was doing HS curriculum or not.

Mrs. Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone – any person or any force – dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant." - John Lewis

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 8:28 AM Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org> wrote:

Thanks. Talk to Heather about TKAM, they had a lot of conversations about this last year. I was part of some of them, but not all. I will share the scope and sequence with you for JH and try to find the HS.

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 8:26 AM Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org> wrote:

I wanted to share this with you.

Also, can I have access to the high school and middle school curriculum? I know it will be a daunting task to go through units etc, but I'd definitely like to be more informed if possible. Thank you so much.

Mrs. Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pamela Hampton** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 8:12 AM
Subject: To Kill A Mockingbird
To: hkincaid@sd308.org <hkincaid@sd308.org>, fdahlquist@sd308.org <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, [REDACTED], lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org, lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org, jwaller@sd308.org <jwaller@sd308.org>, cgrays@sd308.org <cgrays@sd308.org>

Good Morning Mrs. Kincaid,

Last night I attended a wonderful curriculum night at Oswego East. It was nice to meet the teachers who have been assigned the task of growing young impressionable minds.

Last year you and I had a conversation about the required reading of To Kill A Mockingbird, I have included our conversation below.

I learned last night that this book is still required reading.

Social emotional well being of the students in this district has become a very important pillar after going through remote learning, political tension, and highlights of racial injustice. How can this district in good conscious subject students to more stereotypical disparity?

There are some wonderful teachers in this district, but there is a sensitivity of culture that is missing. This district has made great strides and efforts to ensure that every student is in a safe learning environment. Let's not go backwards and highlight racist words and actions by requiring our students to read this book.

Knowing that racism is a system, have you ever asked yourself why is this book required reading in schools?

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<https://www.marshall.edu/library/bannedbooks/to-kill-a-mockingbird/>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you this school year.

Have a wonderful Friday,

Pamela Hampton

-----Original Message-----

From: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>
To: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
Sent: Wed, Feb 12, 2020 8:47 pm
Subject: Re: To Kill A Mockingbird

Heather,

I sincerely appreciate your efforts. I'm certain that this discussion will be beneficial for the teachers as well as the students.

Thank you very much for the update.

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 12, 2020, at 4:21 PM, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:

Pamela,

I met with the principal and department chair today to start the process. We will be meeting shortly after spring break with the committee of teachers in order for implementation in the fall.

I will reach out again in late spring. Thank you for reaching out to express your concern.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Heather

On Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 1:01 PM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I'm glad you are doing better and thank you for your understanding. I look forward to hearing about the decision the teacher group will make.

Have a great rest of day

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 11, 2020, at 4:24 PM, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your patience. [REDACTED]

I understand your concern regarding the utilization of this text. The students are currently in progress of utilizing the text.

In talking with Faith Dahlquist, we will guarantee putting together a group of teachers to review novel selection and approval of possible changes for next year.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Heather

On Sun, Feb 9, 2020 at 7:53 PM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Heather

I'm checking in to see if you have received the clarity you were looking for and hoping you can enlighten me on the literature choice.

[REDACTED] and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 3, 2020, at 6:55 AM, Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning

Thank you for your time and acknowledgment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pamela Hampton

On Feb 2, 2020, at 8:43 PM, Heather Kincaid
<hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:

Pamela,

Thank you for reaching out to me. I have reached out to the high school to seek clarity to your question.

I will reach back out as soon as possible. I anticipate I will be able to get back to you by the end of the week, [REDACTED]

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Heather Kincaid
Director of High School Education
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

On Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 7:18 AM Pamela Hampton

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning Heather

My name is Pamela Hampton and I am [REDACTED]. The assigned book for her English class is To Kill A Mockingbird.

As I am sure you know this book is about a Black man that is accused of raping a White woman, Black children are stalked by a lynch mob and the "n" word is used often.

Due to the racial climate in most of the buildings in this district and in the world I'm questioning what thought went into assigning this particular book as required reading. Sitting in a classroom where you are the minority having to hear such egregious acts and language is very uncomfortable. I know that students both Black and White have complained about the nature of this book yet it is still required reading.

It's my understanding that the purpose for reading this book is to learn about a coming of age story. My question is were there any coming of age stories that are not racially offensive?

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Pamela Hampton
[REDACTED]

--

Shannon Lueders
Director of Junior High Education and 6-12 Curriculum
Community Unit School District 308
slueders@sd308.org
630-636-4677



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--
Shannon Lueders
Director of Junior High Education and 6-12 Curriculum
Community Unit School District 308
slueders@sd308.org
630-636-4677



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SUBJECT: Re: To Kill A Mockingbird
FROM: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
DATE: 09/01/2021 09:36

Good morning,

Please let me know how I can support you with this parent. I do realize you both are more than capable of handling this situation without me, but I personally can understand how she feels as a parent. I am also willing to support with any alternative opportunities for this student and any others who intend to opt-out.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone – any person or any force – dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant." - John Lewis

On Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 9:30 AM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Morning Faith,

Thank you for responding. I would love to sit down and have a conversation with you about this topic that has been on the table for awhile. Please let me know when you are available.

Just as "the group" felt strongly about keeping this racially motivating book in the classroom I feel strongly about keeping [REDACTED] in a social setting where [REDACTED] subject to bullying and harassment because of [REDACTED]

Creating new assessments are much easier than repairing the emotional damage that this book can do to a group of students. Several schools can see that and have made a change, but I see 308 is unwilling. This district claims to put a priority on student voice, students have been asking to remove this book. Seems to me that "the group" voice is much louder than the student voice.

This district claims to value the social emotional well being of all students so much so that the contact information for the crisis hotline is on the back of the students ID cards, yet you are willing to subject an entire group of students to a hostile situation because the book is attached to textbook and assessment.

The priorities in this district are quite confusing at times. As I stated earlier in the email please let me know when you are available to meet. Just so you know I feel strongly about keeping my son safe and he will not be reading To Kill A Mockingbird so I hope "the group" has included an opt-out option.

Have a great day and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pam Hampton

-----Original Message-----

From: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

To: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

Cc: hkincaid@sd308.org <hkincaid@sd308.org> [REDACTED]

lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>; jwaller@sd308.org <jwaller@sd308.org>; cgrays@sd308.org <cgrays@sd308.org>

Sent: Wed, Sep 1, 2021 7:35 am

Subject: Re: To Kill A Mockingbird

Good Morning, Pam,

I have sat down a few times to respond to your email and I continue to struggle to find the right words. It would probably be best if we sit down and talked and I'm happy to do that but I also wanted to put something in writing.

Heather and I remain concerned about the required reading of To Kill A Mockingbird. Heather did hold meetings with the Assistant Principals for Curriculum and the English Department Chairs on this topic. Because of the timing of this work, the meetings were held virtually and it was difficult to have crucial conversations in that forum. There was much discussion and in the end, the group felt strongly that they could not replace the book at this time, as it is part of the textbook and assessments that are used.

Heather and I regret that we couldn't get it changed in those meetings but we have not given up. Over this summer, there was more discussion and the principals are now joining the discussion and the support for removing this book from required reading and we will get this changed, especially since we now can have in-person meetings.

I know it is frustrating that we didn't get this important change made. We need to continue to work with staff so they "get it" and are able to listen to student voice/feedback and then reflect and change their instructional practices and decisions to meet the needs of all learners.

Thanks,
Faith

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Hello Heather

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I hope all went well with your medical procedure and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pamela Hampton

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Director of High School Education

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

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<[REDACTED]> wrote:

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coming of age stories that are not racially offensive?

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Pamela Hampton

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: English Required Reading
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>
CC: "jquery@sd308.org" <jquery@sd308.org>, "lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org" <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, "jwaller@sd308.org" <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/07/2021 14:37

Good Afternoon, Mrs. Hampton,

I was at OE observing classrooms when your email came in. I was able to speak to Mrs. Bankowski at that time and again this morning when we walked classrooms together at OH. I told Mrs. Bankowski that I would respond to your email since you and I have been meeting regularly. I agree with you that we need to review our required reading books in addition to our curriculum in other content areas. As you know, we are in the process of reviewing To Kill A Mockingbird and implementing new social studies standards.

I want to make sure that your student feels supported and included in class. If it would help for me to meet with him/her please let me know.

Thanks,
Faith

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 11:06 AM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Query and Mrs. Bankowski,

Last week I received a list of required reading books that I needed to purchase for my student in your class. Yesterday your class started reading "Of Mice and Men" Can one of you please explain to me what English teachers are trying to accomplish by requiring students to read a book that uses the "n" word? I have attached a copy of the page for your review. I am very concerned for the social and emotional state of the students in the classes that have to be downloaded with such hate speech.

When was the last time the English Department reviewed or read the required reading books? Are you concerned with how this word will make students feel? Are you concerned with students adopting this word in their regular everyday vocabulary? Are there any other books that are required reading that use hate speech toward other races? How can reading this book and books like this advance student's knowledge and prepare them for a successful future?

If you want your students to be better you can start by showing them better.

Mrs. Hampton

SUBJECT: Re: English Required Reading

FROM: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

TO: "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

CC: "jquery@sd308.org" <jquery@sd308.org>, "lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org" <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, "jwaller@sd308.org" <jwaller@sd308.org>

DATE: 10/19/2021 08:07

Good Morning Mrs. Dahlquist,

I truly appreciate the work you are putting into reviewing material before it is put in front of the students to evaluate if it is necessary, relevant and serves a purpose for the advancement of all students.

I spoke with [REDACTED] would like to have a conversation with you. Please feel free to reach out to her to schedule a time that works for you both.

Thank you and have a great day!

Mrs. Hampton

-----Original Message-----

From: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

To: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

Cc: jquery@sd308.org <jquery@sd308.org>; lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>; jwaller@sd308.org <jwaller@sd308.org>

Sent: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 2:37 pm

Subject: Re: English Required Reading

Good Afternoon, Mrs. Hampton,

I was at OE observing classrooms when your email came in. I was able to speak to Mrs. Bankowski at that time and again this morning when we walked classrooms together at OH. I told Mrs. Bankowski that I would respond to your email since you and I have been meeting regularly. I agree with you that we need to review our required reading books in addition to our curriculum in other content areas. As you know, we are in the process of reviewing To Kill A Mockingbird and implementing new social studies standards.

I want to make sure that [REDACTED] feels supported and included in class. If it would help for me [REDACTED] please let me know.

Thanks,

Faith

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 11:06 AM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Query and Mrs. Bankowski,

Last week I received a list of required reading books that I needed to purchase for my student in your class. Yesterday your class started reading "Of Mice and Men" Can one of you please explain to me what English teachers are trying to accomplish by requiring students to read a book that uses the "n" word? I have attached a copy of the page for your review. I am very concerned for the social and emotional state of the students in the classes that have to be downloaded with such hate speech.

When was the last time the English Department reviewed or read the required reading books? Are you concerned with how this word will make students feel? Are you concerned with students adopting this word in their regular everyday vocabulary? Are there any other books that are required reading that use hate speech toward other races? How can reading this book and books like this advance student's knowledge and prepare them for a successful future?

If you want your students to be better you can start by showing them better.

Mrs. Hampton

SUBJECT: Honors/English 1, Unit 3 Alternative Text Committee
FROM: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>
TO: Anne Hirstein <ahirstein@sd308.org>, Beth Jezyk <bjezyk@sd308.org>, Janelle Townley <jtownley@sd308.org>, Shannon Zaininger <szaininger@sd308.org>
CC: Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Tania Sharp <TSharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/29/2021 14:15
ATTACHMENTS (20211029-141525-0000086): "[Honors_English 1 Alternative Text Committee - Nov 2021.pdf](#)"

Hi,

Thank you for volunteering for the English 1, Unit 3 Alternative Text Committee. This committee will select an alternative title for students whose parent/guardian opt them out of reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The committee must select, read, and recommend a title via the [SD#308 New Supplemental Text Resource Proposal](#) no later than **Wednesday, November 23**.

Below is a list of all the committee members and guidelines for proposing a title.

Thanks,
Amy and Colleen

Honors/English 1 Alternative Text Committee Members:

- Anne Hirstein - OE EL
- Beth Jezyk - OE
- Janelle Townley - OE
- Jadon Waller - DAC
- Shannon Zaininger - MUJH

Timeline:

- Committee members determine up to **two days** (could be taken in ½ day increments) to meet in-person or virtually during the academic day; please avoid Monday and Fridays due to sub shortages.
 - To support sub procurement, aligned meeting time should be **requested in AESOP/Frontline**
 - May also be **paid for 6 additional hours of reading time** outside of the in-person or virtual meetings; **track hours** for later submission on a form
 - Attainment of the titles desired for the team's review can be managed through the SD#308 school libraries, the Oswego Public Library, or the team member's local public library.
 - If questions arise during the process, please reach out to DCs Colleen Calvey and Amy Howerton or Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Faith Dahlquist.
- Deadline to **submit recommended title through the [SD#308 New Supplemental Text Resource Proposal](#)**: before Thanksgiving Break (**November 23**)

Criteria for Potential Alternative Text:

- Considerate **Lexile** for an **independent** English 1 reader (~700-1000; may depend on the individual student requesting an alternative text); *To Kill a Mockingbird* is Lexile = 790
- **Comparable length** of text; *To Kill a Mockingbird* is ~340 pages
- Coming of Age **theme**; connects to Unit 3
- Topical **content** centered on Civil Rights; connects to Unit 3
- **Fiction** text (or text which has fiction elements; ex. memoir); align with genre of original text
- Text features **episodic elements** (chapters, scenes) to support Unit 3 EA2 prompt completion

- Text **Guidelines** from Faith:
 - Person of color character shown in positive light
 - Limited-to-no hate speech
 - Elimination of “white savior” narrative
- Link to the [SD#308 New Supplemental Text Resource Proposal](#)

Instructor responses regarding potential alternative texts:

Suggested Text	Lexile & Notes from DAC Representatives
<i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler	Lexile: 580 - lexile is too low
<i>Invisible Man</i> by Ralph Ellison	Lexile: 950; this one is a no
<i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison	Lexile: 870; this one is a no
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred Taylor (noted 2x)	Lexile: 920; a lot of use of racial slurs - strong racial violence - will be triggering and traumatic
<i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas	Lexile: 550; a lot of language, but the lexile is too low
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> by Betty Smith	Lexile: 810; includes alcoholism, sex, and child abuse
<i>The Power of One</i> by Bryce Courtenay	Lexile: 940
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd	Lexile: 840
<i>Just Mercy</i> (YA version) by Bryan Stevenson	Lexile: 1130; this is a no lexile too high There is a young adult version of Just Mercy too (1040 lexile).
<i>Dear Martin</i> by Nic Stone	Lexile: 720; Black student is Ivy League - but profiled by police - this would couple nicely with the use of Ta’Nahisi Coates <i>Between the World and Me</i>
<i>Warriors Don’t Cry</i> by Melba Pattillo Beals	Lexile: 1000; this is a text that requires guidance - students would need to understand the reason for the students fighting to go to the White school. At this time Blacks were asking for equal funding, not to become desegregated - this one is a no
<i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett	Lexile: 730; Black women positioned as maids - not preferred
<i>Lies We Tell Ourselves</i> by Robin Talley	Lexile: 630; frontloading desegregation, challenging stereotypes
<i>The Nickel Boys</i> by Colson Whitehead	Lexile: 940; lead is jailed to “Nickel” school that does not provide an education - pulled over by police because he hitchhiked and the car was stolen
<i>Harlem Shuffle</i> by Colson Whitehead	Lexile: 1000; tribute to Harlem
<i>The Darkest Child</i> by Delores Phillips	Lexile: <i>not found</i>
Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid	Lexile: <i>not found</i>
<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> by Jesmyn Ward	Lexile: 840; there are a lot of nuances in this text, that I am not sure can be grappled on their own
<i>One Crazy Summer</i> by Rita Williams-Garcia	Lexile: 750
Assata: An Autobiography by Assata Shakur	Lexile: <i>not found</i>
Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America (memoir) by Chris Benson and Mamie Till	Lexile: <i>not found</i>
<i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers	Lexile: 670; Black boy accused of robbery-murder - tells story from jail - not preferred
<i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds	Lexile: 740
<i>Sula</i> by Toni Morrison	Lexile: 1050

Colleen Calvey
Oswego East High School
English Department Chair
Wolf's Eye Yearbook Adviser
National Honor Society Sponsor
Senior Class Sponsor
630-636-2254

SUBJECT: Re: Follow-up: Alternate Text Committee
FROM: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Tania Shepherd <TSharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/03/2021 08:22

Hi, Faith.

Amy and I are following up on the next steps for the *To Kill a Mockingbird* alternative text selection. Is the text approved and have copies been ordered?

We wanted to make sure the text is officially approved before we share information with the rest of the E1 teacher team.

Thanks,
Colleen and Amy

Colleen Calvey
Oswego East High School
English Department Chair
Wolf's Eye Yearbook Adviser
National Honor Society Sponsor
Senior Class Sponsor
630-636-2254

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:54 AM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:

Hi Amy,

Thanks so much for sharing this. The group looks like it was very productive. I put some answers (in yellow) below next to your questions.

On Wed, Nov 17, 2021 at 8:17 AM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello,

Colleen and I received an update from the committee working to select an alternative to *To Kill a Mockingbird* for those who may request it. Below, please see that update with committee successes, feedback, and questions in addition to the completed proposal form. Colleen and I will be able to respond to most of the committee's questions, but we will need feedback on the highlighted question (#1) below. Additionally, we have a question about next steps and timeline. Therefore, we have two items that we need feedback on to move forward:

1. Will there be an **opportunity for summer work** to create activities, handouts, etc.? (question from committee) **Yes, I would need to know more about scope before giving numbers. Our process has been to meet with principals and assistant principals to know more about the work that needs to be done and then prioritize the budget. There is a little good news. Heather and I wrote some funding for general curriculum work into the Esser Budget.**
2. What is the **timeline moving forward** in seeking approval for this title? **Colleen and I have signed the form electronically. I am at a meeting with Kurt right now. We both feel that we can sign off because we have already had Jadon, Colleen, and Amy read the book. Tania--How about you? If Tania is ok with the text, she and Kurt should debrief the principals and then if everybody is ok, we are ready to go.**

We will hold on sharing any information with our Honors/English 1 team until we know more about next steps and approvals.

Thank you,

Amy & Colleen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Janelle Townley** <jtownley@sd308.org>

Date: Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:28 PM

Subject: Follow-up: Alternate Text Committee

To: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>, Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>

Good afternoon,

This is a follow-up email regarding the alternate text committee and their meetings.

Positives:

- Our entire group was great! We worked so well together and everyone was vital to the team. Along with this, discussing what book to choose with the alternate text went well. We feel like what we chose as the alternate text pairs well with *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the topics we will talk about in class.
- Pairing activities with *Dear Justyce* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* was fairly easy and a good use of our time. We used activities from the Flexible Novel Unit and paired it with activities in unit 4 of Springboard.

Challenges:

- Filling out the form was very tedious and confusing at times. Some clarity on some parts of it would be nice. For example, what does it mean by "excessive violence" or "profane language"? What words would fall under that umbrella? Could the word "rationale" be used instead of "narrative" for certain parts of it? We wondered if, for the language row for example, there could be a version where we check boxes of what words are used, and then simply list out the page numbers.
- We felt as a group that there could have been better guidance and direction about what we were doing at first and why the committee was needed. In the end, it worked out, but at the beginning, we were given a list of texts and we did not know why some were bolded and some weren't, why some were given reasons why they were good choices and others not, etc. Also, knowing why an alternate text was needed and who was wanting the alternate text could have been useful when choosing the novel, too.

Follow-up Questions:

- **Will there be an opportunity for summer work to create activities, handouts, etc.?** We started with the chart and how it aligns with TKAM, but we're curious where this will go from here.
- Can we advocate for English 1 teachers to have a planning day where they meet with either the entire committee or someone within the committee to talk about the alternate text, activities/plans for it, etc.? We feel teachers will need a day to at least read the text, talk about it, and take in what we have for the novel in order to be prepared in case a student will be reading the novel in their class.
- Following up with the last question, is there an expectation of training teachers about *Dear Justyce* or presenting on it? We do not want someone to feel alone or unprepared, especially with one high school not being represented on the committee.

I've attached the proposal form and the chart where we aligned certain activities between *Dear Justyce* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

 [High School Supplemental Text Proposal Form](#)

 [Dear Justyce and To Kill a Mockingbird Alignmen...](#)

Thank you,

Janelle Townley

Language Arts Teacher
Oswego East High School
630-636-2490

SUBJECT: next steps on To Kill A Mockingbird
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>, Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>, Tania Sharp <tsharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, heather kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, shannon lueders <slueders@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/07/2021 20:32

Good Evening, Jadon, Amy, Colleen, Tania, Kurt, Shannon, and Heater,

This afternoon, we finalized some decisions around offering a choice from To Kill A Mockingbird.

Please review the [draft message and timeline](#) and provide feedback. If possible, please do this by Thursday morning.

Thanks,
Faith

--

Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

“Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it’s understanding the necessity of both; it’s engaging. It’s being all in.” Brene Brown

SUBJECT: Alternate Text Form
FROM: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
TO: PEGS SD308 [REDACTED], Kijuana Boulrece [REDACTED], Pamela Hampton
<[REDACTED]>, Bridgette Rasberry [REDACTED], Elise Diner [REDACTED]
Margarete Novo [REDACTED], Carla Poindexter [REDACTED]
DATE: 12/15/2021 08:11
ATTACHMENTS (20211215-081139-0000081): "[SD308 Citizens Request for Reconsideration of a Work.pdf](#)"

Good morning,

It is important that you share this information with every member of your committee and make sure your students share it with their peers. Many people do not know that an alternative text form exists. For *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a unit that begins in January, we know some students feel uncomfortable, but do not realize they have other options. The students who opt out of TKAM will be reading *Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone. This is an incredible text and will be a wonderful experience.

Please share the DEI portion of the district website, so they can get used to finding valuable information there (the link for the request is under "Department News"). <https://www.sd308.org/Page/19932>

The students can either request the form from their teacher, or print out the form and complete it and submit it to their teacher. Please let me know if this process is not followed by the school so I can communicate with administration to make the process better.

I have also attached the form within the email. Please respond so I know you have received this information and let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful day.

Mrs. Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone – any person or any force – dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant." - John Lewis

SUBJECT: NEW YEAR READING FOR ENGLISH-Important Information attached 8th Grade-9th Grade English --
DEAR Justyce
FROM: PEGS SD308 [REDACTED]
TO: undisclosed-recipients;;
BCC: Jwaller@sd308.org
DATE: 01/06/2022 09:57
ATTACHMENTS (20220106-095732-0000080): "[SD308 Citizens Request for Reconsideration of a Work.pdf](#)"

Happy New Year Parents!

We hope this email finds you and your family well. As we prepare to return to school, we want to share with you the alternative text for 8th grade (Honors English) and 9th grade (English) to *To Kill a Mockingbird* (a unit that will be engaged in January).

The new text to request is *Dear Justyce* by Nick Stone. If you have been a part of the students and parents discussion, or shared your voice in any way--Thank YOU!!

Many of our district parents may not be aware that there is an alternative text. If you were not aware, please let us know how you were informed? You can reply this email (we will share).



[9781984829665_7275.pdf \(randomhouse.com\)](#)

The students can request the form from their teacher. Hopefully, the teacher will announce it. Please note the following weblink for additional information.

<https://www.sd308.org/Page/19932> (the link for the request is under "Department News).

We have also attached the email information for **Dr. Jadon Waller, Director of DEI and Family Engagement** (jwaller@sd308.org). Please feel free to share any thoughts and concerns with Dr. Waller.

Please share with fellow parents.

Additional Reading:

Please also read the below at your convenience regarding *TKAM*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been a source of contention for many of our students and parents for years.

Teaching To Kill a Mockingbird - Facing History and Ourselves



www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/Teaching_To_Kill_a_Mockingbird_Key...

Happy Reading and

Happy New Year!!

In Community,

PEGS

Thought:

How do we face changes in American History?? Truthfully.

SUBJECT: Fwd: [REDACTED]
FROM: Paisley Suarez <PSuarez@sd308.org>
TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 03/22/2022 15:50

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dwayne Williams** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Mar 22, 2022 at 3:25 PM
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: <oeprincipal@sd308.org>, <ccalvey@sd308.org>, <psuarez@sd308.org>, Beth Jezyk <bjczyk@sd308.org>, Toni Williams [REDACTED]

Hello Ms. Bankowski,

My name is Dwayne Williams, and I am [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a meeting with Beth Jezyk today at 2:30, and during the meeting, I shared with her a few comments [REDACTED] shared about how they are reading the book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Over the weekend, during dinner, [REDACTED] and I talked about the book, at which point I asked [REDACTED] "n-word" came up in the book. She shared her thoughts about this, and she stated "When the word comes up, my teacher says 'African American' or 'Black people' in place of the word nigger."

My wife and I have concerns about this practice.

The greatest concern is that Black people and African-Americans are not synonymous with the term "Nigger" or "the n-word." I am wondering what are the implications for this kind of teaching in the classroom and what is the subliminal message that students receive when they hear this.

I shared with Ms. Jezyk that I would like to have a meeting with the individuals who are included in this email. I hoped to include Dr. Jadon Waller in this email, but I could not find her email address.

This is not about Ms. Jezyk, but it is a larger issue. I am wondering if we can schedule a meeting to discuss a few concerns that I have about this book along with the practice of using "Black people," "African Americans," and "Nigger" (as interpreted from the text) synonymously.

Please respond and share if we can schedule a meeting to have this conversation. I can make myself available via Zoom, if this works.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Dwayne

Dwayne D. Williams, MA., EdS

Student Support Interventionist

Hinsdale South High School

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

“Look at a man in the way that he is and he only becomes worse.

Look at him as if he were what he could become, then he becomes what he should be.” ~ Goethe

--

Paisley Suárez, MEd

EL English Teacher

BSA Sponsor

Oswego East High School

630-636-2344

psuarez@sd308.org

Excellence

Academics

Spirit

Tradition

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

“Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it’s understanding the necessity of both; it’s engaging. It’s being all in.” Brene Brown

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SUBJECT: Summer 2022 TKAM Replacement Committee Information
FROM: Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>
TO: Jamie Bechina <jbechina@sd308.org>, Karen Ferguson <kferguson@sd308.org>, Michael Leali <mleali@sd308.org>, Paula Rossi <prossi@sd308.org>, Shannon Zaininger <szaininger@sd308.org>
CC: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>, Tania Shepherd <TSharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 05/17/2022 08:49

Hello, Jamie B., Karen F., Michael L., Paula R., and Shannon Z.,

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the Summer 2022 *To Kill a Mockingbird* Replacement Committee. Below, please find a few key details and a link to a document with many supports and files for your summer work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Jamie Bechina - Oswego High School
2. Karen Ferguson - Oswego High School
3. Michael Leali - Oswego High School
4. Paula Rossi - Oswego East/ Oswego High School
5. Shannon Zaininger - Murphy Junior High School

DETAILS FOR SUMMER WORK:

- Keep a record of summer hours worked.
 - Number of approved hours per person is 10 hours per person for summer work
 - Completed timesheets should be sent to Faith Dahlquist; Amy will share a timesheet with the summer team once received from OH building admin
- Meetings may be held in-person or virtually as determined by the 5 summer committee members.
- Please reach out to Colleen Calvey and Amy Howerton for support as needed.
- Completed files due by August 1st, 2022, or sooner per the team's readiness.

 [SU2022 TKAM Replacement Committee Information &...](#)

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Howerton or Colleen Calvey as a first step in support.

We appreciate your time and talents in this work!
Amy & Colleen

—
[Amy Howerton](#), [she/her](#)
English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
[One Book. One School](#): *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater ('21-22)

SUBJECT: Re: Summer 2022 TKAM Replacement Committee Information
FROM: Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>
TO: Jamie Bechina <jbechina@sd308.org>, Karen Ferguson <kferguson@sd308.org>, Michael Leali <mleali@sd308.org>, Paula Rossi <prossi@sd308.org>, Shannon Zaininger <szaininger@sd308.org>
CC: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>, Tania Shepherd <TSharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 05/23/2022 13:50
ATTACHMENTS (20220523-135041-0000075): ["Title II Summer Work Curriculum OEHS OHS.pdf"](#)

Hello, TKAM Replacement Summer Committee,

We have obtained an approved timesheet for your summer work. Please see that PDF attached for your use. Tania also shared the following guidelines for the time sheets:

- Please have these **turned into Tania to sign (via email attachment)**, and then she will submit them to Faith.
- All items must be filled out in full.
- The timesheets need to remain exactly how they are (one page) and they cannot be edited; please print and handwrite or use a PDF annotation tool to complete them.
- Submit one timesheet per week of dated work.

Thank you,
Amy & Colleen

--
Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)
English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
[One Book, One School](#): *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater ('21-22)

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 1:03 PM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:
Hello, *TKAM* Summer Replacement Committee,

We have been able to gather the clarifications from Faith that your team was seeking and an updated truncation to your summer work. Please see those updates below.

1. The hourly pay for this summer curriculum work is **\$30 an hour** per the OEA contract. The approved hours are 10 hours per teacher participant.
2. Faith agreed to **reimburse each participant for 6 titles**; please keep these receipts and submit them with the summer hours. Please remember that you are not able to be reimbursed for tax. The Tax Exempt form is attached for your use if desired. I do not yet have the timesheet for your 10 summer hours each, but I will send it when it becomes available.
3. Jadon Waller's role on the committee is to be a **resource** for the group. **PD is not part of the 10 hours** of allotted summer work; Faith shared that there will be training for the entire High School English Department next year.
4. To support the team's summer work, **Colleen and I will complete the necessary paperwork for the one selected title**. Please use the Supplementary Text Proposal Form as a guide to vet the three texts and prepare an August Institute Day presentation for the Honors/EL/English 1 team. You will notice that update to the original SU2022 TKAM Replacement Committee document indicating this change.

Thank you for your time and talents on this team,
Amy & Colleen

—
Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)

English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
[One Book, One School](#): *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater ('21-22)

On Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:49 AM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:
Hello, Jamie B., Karen F., Michael L., Paula R., and Shannon Z.,

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the Summer 2022 *To Kill a Mockingbird* Replacement Committee. Below, please find a few key details and a link to a document with many supports and files for your summer work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Jamie Bechina - Oswego High School
2. Karen Ferguson - Oswego High School
3. Michael Leali - Oswego High School
4. Paula Rossi - Oswego East/ Oswego High School
5. Shannon Zaininger - Murphy Junior High School

DETAILS FOR SUMMER WORK:

- Keep a record of summer hours worked.
 - Number of approved hours per person is 10 hours per person for summer work
 - Completed timesheets should be sent to Faith Dahlquist; Amy will share a timesheet with the summer team once received from OH building admin
- Meetings may be held in-person or virtually as determined by the 5 summer committee members.
- Please reach out to Colleen Calvey and Amy Howerton for support as needed.
- Completed files due by August 1st, 2022, or sooner per the team's readiness.

 [SU2022 TKAM Replacement Committee Information &...](#)

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Howerton or Colleen Calvey as a first step in support.

We appreciate your time and talents in this work!
Amy & Colleen

—
Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)

English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
[One Book, One School](#): *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater ('21-22)

SUBJECT: Meeting 7/11/22

FROM: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>

TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, "Donna S. Leak" <Donna.Leak@cuchicago.edu>

DATE: 07/07/2022 13:13

Good afternoon ladies,

Faith, I know you and I are meeting on Monday at 1pm, so I invited Dr. Leak to come during that time so we can discuss the final internship and the focus of this internship. This internship has focused on strategic planning and an area of growth through a project. This summer I have three objectives I am focusing on for the 2022-2023 school year:

1. DEI Facilitator Team - training and planning for next school year
2. Sexual Harassment Support/Structure for both high schools (roles/tasks/objectives)
3. English 1/8th Grade Honors ELA - To Kill a Mockingbird text renewal committee

I am excited about each of these opportunities and I look forward to meeting on Monday if Dr. Leak is available. Thank you both for your flexibility and support!

Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D

(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)

Director of DEI & Family Engagement

Oswego Community School District 308

#UntilWeAllWin

"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone – any person or any force – dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant." - John Lewis

SUBJECT: Fwd: To Kill a Mockingbird: Replacement
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/11/2022 13:22

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel Arntzen** <darntzen@sd308.org>
Date: Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: To Kill a Mockingbird: Replacement
To: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amy Howerton** <ahowerton@sd308.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: Re: To Kill a Mockingbird: Replacement
To: Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>
Cc: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>

Dan,

First, congratulations on your new role as the Executive Director of High School Instruction! I look forward to partnering with you in this new role.

Second, I have a few updates I can share on the *To Kill a Mockingbird* replacement efforts; I will also forward you an email strand that provides you with the names of the summer committee working on this, and other details as you may find pertinent. Should you have any questions, I am happy to help if I can. I am not sitting on this committee, however, and serving in an advisory capacity as the team needs; Michael Leali is serving as a teacher lead on this committee. I imagine the next time they may need assistance is before their August 1st deadline to submit information to Colleen and me regarding their August Institute Day presentation to the secondary ELA staff.

What I do know is that the team has selected 6 novels to read and vet over the summer per the provided criteria (the criteria will be in the forwarded email I share with you). The team will narrow that list to three titles to share with the secondary ELA staff during an August Institute Day meeting. With the largess of the teaching team, I recommend that this meeting be virtual. After the meeting, the teachers have approximately a month to review the three titles as desired and provide their feedback via a form Colleen and I developed in May. Once the replacement title is selected, a new team of volunteers were allocated time to develop curricular materials using this text and the SpringBoard framework currently using *TKAM*.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, there was an alternative text that students could have read in the place of *TKAM* if needed. To our knowledge, no student or parent 8th-9th grade requested an alternative text. Going forward, the replacement title for *TKAM* (whatever is selected this fall) would REPLACE *TKAM* as the core text for Honors English 1, English 1, EL English 1, and Direct English 1 and function just like *TKAM* did in the curriculum. Just like we do in all English courses, the potential need for an alternative title would be handled on a case-by-case basis, initiated through the student or parent with the classroom teacher; DCs would then provide curricular support as needed.

After I forward you the email strand with the summer committee information, please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you, and congratulations, again!

-Amy

--

Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)

English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *How to Make Time Stop* by Matt Haig
[One Book, One School](#): *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ('22-23)

On Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 4:44 PM Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org> wrote:

Colleen and Amy,

I hope this email finds you well. As you may or may not know, I have moved into a new position at the District Office as the Executive Director of High School Instruction. I very much look forward to working with both of you in my new role!

I know that the two of you, along with many of your staff members, are working diligently to find a replacement for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. How is this going? How can I be of assistance? Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support you in this process. I very much appreciate your work on this.

Also, I know there was an alternative text this past year that students could choose to read. I'm sorry but I can't recall this text.... Can you please provide me with the name of that book?

Will this text still be an alternative for students or is this one of the finalists to replace *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

Thank you for your time.

--
Respectfully,

Dan Arntzen
Executive Director of High School Instruction & K-12 Assessment
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Phone: (630) 636-4646
Email: darntzen@sd308.org

--
Respectfully,

Dan Arntzen
Executive Director of High School Instruction & K-12 Assessment
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Phone: (630) 636-4646
Email: darntzen@sd308.org

SUBJECT: Re: TKAM Summer Planning Update*

FROM: Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>

TO: Tania Sharp <tsharp@sd308.org>

CC: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Christopher Grays <cgrays@sd308.org>, Laura Pastirik Bankowski <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>

DATE: 08/12/2022 10:00

Hi,

The high school E1 teams will meet virtually to discuss the proposed titles on Monday, Aug 15 from 12:30-1:00 pm. We will record the meeting for the junior high Honors English 1 teachers so Shannon can share it with them. This timeline allows us to follow the process we communicated to our teams in the spring.

We are asking our teams to submit their feedback on the replacement titles and to indicate their interest in working on the TKAM Replacement Fall Curriculum Committee by replying to [this form](#) by Sept 9 at 3:30 pm. This form will also be shared with the junior high Honors English 1 teachers.

Can we have confirmation on the number of curriculum hours approved for the team to develop the unit once the title is selected? We proposed 30 hours for each committee member with the total number of committee members to be determined. How many committee members will the budget allow? This committee will work throughout the fall to create the unit plan for the novel.

Thanks,
Colleen and Amy

Colleen Calvey
Oswego East High School
English Department Chair
Wolf's Eye Yearbook Adviser
National Honor Society Sponsor
Senior Class Sponsor
630-636-2254

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 3:22 PM Tania Sharp <tsharp@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello,

Unfortunately, OHS is not available during that time. Per a HS admin meeting in May/June, it was communicated that the institute time with staff was to occur on Monday and Tuesday from 8-10:30, with teacher time happening from 10:30-1:00.

With that information, that is how the institute days were planned at OHS.

Might the JH teachers be excused sometime between 10:45-1:00 on Tuesday for this meeting to occur?

On Aug 11, 2022, at 2:45 PM, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org> wrote:

Awesome! I have added Shannon to this email so that she can be in the loop with communication.

The JH teachers will have availability on **Tuesday, August 16th between 8:30am and 10:30am.**

Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

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On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you so much for the update! Colleen and I will coordinate a time for our teachers, yes. **Is there a schedule for the junior high school teachers on those institute days so we may appropriately include the 8th grade Honors English 1 teachers, too?**

The meeting will be virtual to accommodate the various locations for our team.

Thank you,
Amy

--

Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)
English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *How to Make Time Stop* by Matt Haig
[One Book, One School](#): *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ('22-23)

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 11:41 AM Tania Sharp <TSharp@sd308.org> wrote:

The times OHS has available is 10:30 - 1:00 on both days next week.

Ms. Tania Sharp
Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction
AVID Site Team
Advanced Placement Coordinator
Oswego High School

"Acknowledge. Honor. Connect."

"The way you think influences the way you feel; and the way you feel determines how you act." ~Craig Sager



For **emergency** support after hours/weekends, please contact one of the emergency options below, or call 911.
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health: 630-305-5027
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 11:32 AM Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org> wrote:

It makes sense for the DCs to arrange time during an upcoming department meeting for this information to be shared. What do you think, Colleen and Amy?

Kurt

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 11:11 AM Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org> wrote:

Good morning everyone,

The committee will be prepared to discuss the titles they are recommending on the Institute Days. They have also completed a PPT.

Here are the proposed titles:

Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri

We Are Not Free by Traci Chee

Previously Recommended Titles (scrapped)

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford - uses the n-word twice

The Civil War of Amos Abernathy by Michael Leali - conflict of interest since he's a district employee

Will DC's be communicating with the committee on the date/time they will be presenting?

Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308
#UntilWeAllWin

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On Tue, Aug 9, 2022 at 1:03 PM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello,

Colleen and I were wondering if there is an update for next steps in this process. Our English 1 teams will be seeking an update on Monday, August 15th. The original proposal was for the summer committee to present to Honors English 1 (8th grade and 9th grade), English 1, EL English, and Direct English 1 teachers during the August Teacher Institute Days.

Thank you for any information you can provide,
Amy & Colleen

--

[Amy Howerton, she/her](#)

English Department Chair, English educator

Edd & National Board Certified Teacher

Oswego High School

630-636-2088

[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *How to Make Time Stop* by Matt Haig

[One Book, One School](#): *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ('22-23)

On Fri, Jul 22, 2022 at 11:28 AM Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello,

First, Colleen and I want to thank the summer committee for their time and commitment to the team's work in the past few months. We appreciate your volunteerism on this committee and the talents each of you shared to meet the committee's goals; *thank you!*

As Colleen and I collaborated once receiving Jadon's email, we agreed that we do like the idea of sharing the narrowed list of three of the titles prior to our return to school in August. Sharing these three titles now via email provides teachers the option to become familiar with and/or read the titles prior to the virtual August Teacher Institute presentation and could lead to a more informed conversation at that August meeting. However, we prefer the idea of sharing the committee's thoughts/recommendations via the August presentation when we are together virtually as originally proposed. Below are our more details regarding our continued recommendation:

- Sharing the presentation live (as opposed to sharing it recorded and ahead of time) gives the committee time with their colleagues to explain thoughts, process steps, and allows for dialogue. We believe a virtual meeting in August to be the best way to bring the committee's thoughts and recommendations to the teacher stakeholders once they have returned to work.
- We are concerned that sharing a recorded presentation ahead of time might *prevent* necessary dialogue because a recorded presentation does not allow for an immediate time for questions or clarifications and then sharing of next steps.
- We know that not all teacher stakeholders check work email or have access to it (if traveling or away) over the summer months; this creates uneven messaging on a topic important to all English 1, Honors English 1, Direct English 1, and EL English 1 instructors.
- In respect to the committee's time, we are uncertain if there are any additional or enough hours remaining in their allocated summer work to prepare, finalize, record, edit, and send such a presentation. We respect that the hours allocated were necessary for the research of potential titles, reading of selected titles, discussing titles and criteria, and vetting of those titles to arrive at the narrowed list of three.

Colleen and I thank the committee for seeking our feedback. Please let us know what the committee's next steps will be after receiving our feedback, as well as the follow-up that will be necessary in regards to selecting the single core, required title

to replace *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the English 1, Honors English 1, Direct English 1, and EL English 1 curricula. Our original proposals for these next steps (August - November) shared with district leadership on May 9th remain as our proposed next steps.

Thank you,
Amy & Colleen

--

Amy Howerton, [she/her](#)
English Department Chair, English educator
EdD & National Board Certified Teacher
Oswego High School
630-636-2088
[Educator Website](#)

Currently reading: *How to Make Time Stop* by Matt Haig
[One Book, One School](#): *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ('22-23)

On Thu, Jul 21, 2022 at 2:06 PM Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org> wrote:
Good afternoon and Happy Summering!!

I am excited to share that our fabulous committee has selected **three titles** to propose to their colleagues. After our meeting yesterday, the team and I realized it would be more beneficial to push out the proposed titles (with power point presentation) to all of the English 1 and 8th Grade Honors teachers **the week of August 1st** in an effort to give them time before school starts to consider these titles. Our hope is that when school is back in session, teachers can have a more fruitful conversation about their preferred title.

Here are the three proposed titles:

Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

The Civil War of Amos Abernathy by Michael Leali

Thank you for your patience and support as the committee works through developing a presentation for teachers. Please reply all and let us know your feedback/thoughts regarding pushing the presentation out to teachers **the week of August 1st**. If agreed, the TKAM Team will have presentations finalized and sent to this group by **Thursday, July 28th**.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or suggestions! Have a great afternoon.

Jadon A. Waller, Ed.D
(she/her/ella) [Why Pronouns?](#)
Director of DEI & Family Engagement
Oswego Community School District 308

#UntilWeAllWin

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--

Kurt Laakso
Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction
Oswego East High School
630-636-2211

SUBJECT: TKAM Replacement Feedback & Fall Committee Update
FROM: Amy Howerton <ahowerton@sd308.org>
TO: Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Tania Shepherd <TSharp@sd308.org>, Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Colleen Calvey <ccalvey@sd308.org>
DATE: 09/13/2022 12:42

Hello, Faith, Jadon, Tania, and Kurt,

The TKAM replacement feedback from our English 1, Honors English 1, EL English 1, and Direct English 1 teachers was due this past Friday, September 9th. Below is the overall title feedback from teachers. Based on this feedback, we are seeking clarity on next steps:

1. **May we move forward with the *Everything Sad is Untrue* title by Daniel Nayeri as the replacement to *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee?** If so, Colleen and Amy will work on the [official proposal form](#) for this title. If not, what are the recommended next steps?
2. **How many hours are approved for the committee to build the curriculum?** In our [original proposal](#), we requested 30 hours of time for each teacher on the team.

Feedback provided:

image.png



The following teachers volunteered to be part of the TKAM Fall Committee to create replacement curriculum with the new title:

Beth Jezyk Oswego East

Michael Leali, Oswego High School

Anne Hirstein, OEHS

Janelle Townley, Oswego East High School

Katie Belovsky - Oswego East High School

Paula Rossi; Oswego High School

SUBJECT: Fwd: English 1: Important Update

FROM: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

TO: "boulrecek@gmail.com" <boulrecek@gmail.com>, "brian.smith@waasports.org" <brian.smith@waasports.org>, "jwaller@sd308.org" <jwaller@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

DATE: 04/08/2022 16:47

Hi Ladies,

The email was not attached so here you go. Please know I am not saying the teacher has done anything wrong. My concern is are we as a district making changes?

Thank you,
Pam Hampton

-----Original Message-----

From: bjezyk@sd308.org

Sent: Fri, Apr 8, 2022 2:44 pm

Subject: English 1: Important Update

Hello,

English 1 this week has been dedicated to a Literary Analysis Essay on the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The paper is due on Thursday April 14th at 3pm. Students are given class time to complete the paper on April 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and the 14th.

This paper is worth 100 points. If the paper is not submitted the student will not pass English 1 this semester. There is an outline and some examples on Google Classroom. If a student plagiarizes the essay in any way they will receive a zero. Plagiarism includes: copying from others or the internet. Plagiarism also includes not citing.

Students will not be given extensions on this paper due to absences.

Thank you. Please reach out with any questions.

-

Beth Jezyk
English Teacher
Oswego East High School

SUBJECT: Re: English 1: Important Update

FROM: Kijuana Boulrece <[REDACTED]>

TO: Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]>

CC: "brian.smith@waasports.org" <brian.smith@waasports.org>, "jwaller@sd308.org" <jwaller@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

DATE: 04/09/2022 06:40

Pamela,

First, thank you for sharing and the continued partnership with our families, administration, and students as we continue to address this issue.

This question should be addressed by the district specifically. Parents, since our meeting with the district (on behalf of parents), conversations have once again expressed concerns about the level of cultural competency, communication of alternative literature. etc.

Sincerely,

Kijuana Boulrece

On Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 4:47 PM Pamela Hampton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Ladies,

The email was not attached so here you go. Please know I am not saying the teacher has done anything wrong. My concern is are we as a district making changes?

Thank you,
Pam Hampton

-----Original Message-----

From: bjczyk@sd308.org

Sent: Fri, Apr 8, 2022 2:44 pm

Subject: English 1: Important Update

Hello,

English 1 this week has been dedicated to a Literary Analysis Essay on the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The paper is due on Thursday April 14th at 3pm. Students are given class time to complete the paper on April 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and the 14th.

This paper is worth 100 points. If the paper is not submitted the student will not pass English 1 this semester. There is an outline and some examples on Google Classroom. If a student plagiarizes the essay in any way they will receive a zero. Plagiarism includes: copying from others or the internet. Plagiarism also includes not citing.

Students will not be given extensions on this paper due to absences.

Thank you. Please reach out with any questions.

-

Beth Jczyk
English Teacher
Oswego East High School

SUBJECT: idea from yesterday

FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>

DATE: 04/15/2022 07:38

Jadon-

Thank you for such a great facilitation yesterday with Social Studies. I was impressed with you. I also was impressed with some of the conversation from the teachers. THANK you for all you are doing to change hearts and minds.

It had been a long time since I had the opportunity to be in a space to reflect and participate in some PD instead of facilitating it. I had several "big thoughts" or ideas during the morning that I would like to discuss with you. It would probably be better in person but time is rough so here goes.

1. I'm worried that you are feeling alone. Perhaps you and I or perhaps all of ESD need to meet so have more connected focus on how to improve our culture around DEI. I certainly don't think you are alone in your efforts but I don't think I've done a good job at organizing us for it to seem like it is as much of a team as I know we can be.
2. While I was listening and watching your magic yesterday, I wondered if you and I should do a PD session together with key members of the English department and then at the end, I say I need to be a co-conspirator for student voice and announce we need stop using "To Kill a Mockingbird". Along with that, we would have curriculum money for summer work for them to design a new unit. Had you had other ideas? I don't want it to come to an edict but I am not optimistic of them changing their minds on their own....

I sent a calendar invite for Wednesday for us to talk. I'm also available almost all weekend if you would rather talk sooner .

Please know I value you. I appreciate your skills and your passion. You are making a difference and you are not alone in the fight.

Thanks,
Faith

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

“Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it’s understanding the necessity of both; it’s engaging. It’s being all in.” Brene Brown

SUBJECT:
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 04/23/2022 11:25

Jadon-

I hope Prom weekend is going well.

I'd like to set up weekly meetings with you to discuss process for removing To Kill a Mockingbird from English I for next year. I know when we met you explained you wanted to do this on your own as you felt it would go best that way but I also don't want you to feel unsupported. As we had talked, I am more than willing to join you in implementing this new change.

At the minimum, I'd like weekly updates on where we are in the process. Please find a time each week when we can meet either in person or through google to monitor the progress of this. On weeks that we already have our Jadon/Faith meeting, we don't need an extra one.

Thanks,
Faith

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

“Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it’s understanding the necessity of both; it’s engaging. It’s being all in.” Brene Brown

SUBJECT: email instead of meeting
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Tania Sharp <tsharp@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 04/29/2022 15:02

Kurt and Tania,

Jadon and I really wanted to come meet with you in person to discuss To Kill A Mockingbird. However, it appears

your schedules do not align with ours and there is high urgency.

We wanted to let you know that we will be scheduling time with the English Department Chairs next week to make plans to remove *To Kill A Mockingbird* from the mandatory reading list for English 1. We want to give time and/or money for a group of teachers to work on this over the summer. We would prefer that this message be delivered from us but we wanted you to know about it. It is fine for you to share this information with Laura and Chris but again we rather have the department chairs find out from us.

Thanks,
Faith and Jadon

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

“Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it’s understanding the necessity of both; it’s engaging. It’s being all in.” Brene Brown

SUBJECT: Re: email instead of meeting
FROM: Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: Tania Sharp <tsharp@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 04/29/2022 15:21

Thank you for informing me of your plans to meet with Colleen and Amy. I appreciate your doing so directly with them, and I will let Laura know.

I look forward to hearing about the conversation after you have it, and then determining next steps.

Have a great weekend!

Kurt

On Fri, Apr 29, 2022 at 3:02 PM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:

Kurt and Tania,

Jadon and I really wanted to come meet with you in person to discuss *To Kill A Mockingbird*. However, it appears your schedules do not align with ours and there is high urgency.

We wanted to let you know that we will be scheduling time with the English Department Chairs next week to make plans to remove *To Kill A Mockingbird* from the mandatory reading list for English 1. We want to give time and/or money for a group of teachers to work on this over the summer. We would prefer that this message be delivered from us but we wanted you to know about it. It is fine for you to share this information with Laura and Chris but again we rather have the department chairs find out from us.

Thanks,
Faith and Jadon

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

"Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it's understanding the necessity of both; it's engaging. It's being all in." Brene Brown

--
Kurt Laakso
Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction
Oswego East High School
630-636-2211

SUBJECT: Re: email instead of meeting
FROM: Tania Sharp <TSharp@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: Kurt Laakso <klaakso@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>
DATE: 05/01/2022 12:56

Thank you, Faith, for this information.
I have let Chris know.
I look forward to hearing about the next steps.

Tania

Ms. Tania Sharp
Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction
AVID Site Team
Advanced Placement Coordinator
Oswego High School

"Acknowledge. Honor. Connect."

"The way you think influences the way you feel; and the way you feel determines how you act." ~Craig Sager



For **emergency** support after hours/weekends, please contact one of the emergency options below, or call 911.
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health: 630-305-5027
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

On Fri, Apr 29, 2022 at 3:02 PM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:

Kurt and Tania,

Jadon and I really wanted to come meet with you in person to discuss To Kill A Mockingbird. However, it appears your schedules do not align with ours and there is high urgency.

We wanted to let you know that we will be scheduling time with the English Department Chairs next week to make plans to remove To Kill A Mockingbird from the mandatory reading list for English 1. We want to give time and/or money for a group of teachers to work on this over the summer. We would prefer that this message be delivered from us but we wanted you to know about it. It is fine for you to share this information with Laura and Chris but again we rather have the department chairs find out from us.

Thanks,
Faith and Jadon

--

Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

"Vulnerability is not knowing victory or defeat, it's understanding the necessity of both; it's engaging. It's being all in." Brene Brown