



May 21, 2024

TO: Members of the Educational Evaluation  
Committee  
Town Clerk

**Educational Evaluation  
Committee Meeting, Tuesday,  
May 21, 2024, 5:15 p.m.  
Superintendent's Large Conference Room  
MINUTES**

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Present: Robert Mitchell (chair), Timothy Shanahan, Donna Funk, and Erika Striebel. Also present were MHS Principal Rob Alves, Superintendent Laurie Pallin, and Reading Coaches Mary Aledia and Suzanne LoPresto

1. Call to order by Committee Chair Robert Mitchell– 5:15 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**Motion: To amend the agenda by adding an agenda item – Discussion and possible action on the ELA committee's recommendation for a new reading program (Amplify Education Core Knowledge Language Arts) in grades K-5**

**Proposed by:** Tim Shanahan

**Seconded by:** Erika Striebel

**Vote:** Carried 4-0

3. Review of athletic participation for 2023-2024

Principal Rob Alves reviewed the athletic participation data which was posted online. He noted that our athletic participation has increased from 51.37% of students last year to 58.36% this year. He noted that we have almost returned to pre-COVID levels of participation of about 60% of the student body. Over the past 24 years, there were only 3 years which had higher percent participation than the current year. He also noted that based upon the very high participation rate of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, it is expected that participation will continue to increase next year. There are slightly fewer female athletes than male athletes. Many students participate in more than one sport as illustrated by the fact that we have 321 unique athletes, and 545 students participating on our teams. This means that our athletes are building conditioning needed for different activities which is important for overall fitness.



4. Discussion and possible action on the ELA committee's recommendation for a new reading program (Amplify Education Core Knowledge Language Arts) in grades K-5

Laurie Pallin reviewed the slideshow which was posted with the agenda explaining the process for selection of a state-approved program. An ELA committee worked for two years identifying the critical components of a new program. The reading coaches procured samples of all approved programs and reviewed them to select those which met the committee's criteria. Three programs were brought forward for in-depth review. Program kits were reviewed by teams of teachers from every grade level, representing all three schools and special education. Representatives from each program presented their program to the committee and the programs were scored using a detailed rubric. Committee members visited three schools to view each program in action and speak with teachers and administrators about their experiences. Finally, committee members piloted units in their classrooms. Participants completed a survey and shared experiences at meetings this spring. The committee unanimously voted to adopt the Amplify Education Core Knowledge Language Arts program. Reading Coaches Mary Aledia and Suzanne LoPresto answered questions of committee members.

**Motion: To approve the ELA committee's recommendation for a new reading program (Amplify Education Core Knowledge Language Arts) in grades K-5 and send this recommendation to the full Board of Education**

**Proposed by:** Tim Shanahan  
**Seconded by:** Erika Striebel  
**Vote:** **Carried:** (vote 4-0)

4. Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn:** 5:52 pm  
**Proposed by:** Tim Shanahan  
**Seconded by:** Erika Striebel  
**Vote:** **Carried:** (vote 4-0)