

From: Mickelson, Miriam <miriam.mickelson@sno.wednet.edu> DOC ID 1244a
Sent time: 03/15/2021 03:07:32 PM
To: Hutchison, Megan <megan.hutchison@sno.wednet.edu>; Olsen, Lenore <lenore.olsen@sno.wednet.edu>
Cc: Larson, Jeff <jeffrey.larson@sno.wednet.edu>; Appelgate, Holly <holly.appelgate@sno.wednet.edu>
Subject: RE: Phone Call - Follow up

Thanks, Megan.

Yes, we will invite Kelsey and Dane as well.

Thank you.

Miriam

Miriam Miralles Mickelson, Ed.D.
Executive Director - Teaching and Learning Services
Snohomish School District
360-563-7257
She/her/hers

In order to maximize student learning, Teaching and Learning Services encourages, supports, and facilitates professional growth opportunities for district staff.

From: Hutchison, Megan <megan.hutchison@sno.wednet.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Olsen, Lenore <Lenore.Olsen@sno.wednet.edu>
Cc: Larson, Jeff <jeffrey.larson@sno.wednet.edu>; Mickelson, Miriam <Miriam.Mickelson@sno.wednet.edu>; Appelgate, Holly <holly.appelgate@sno.wednet.edu>
Subject: RE: Phone Call - Follow up

Lenore,

I can usually meet between 12:30-2pm. I don't think Wednesday will work. Should we invite Kelsey White, the department chair, or do you want me there because I have been working with this? Or Dane (the student was his)?

Megan Hutchison

From: Olsen, Lenore <Lenore.Olsen@sno.wednet.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Hutchison, Megan <megan.hutchison@sno.wednet.edu>
Subject: RE: Phone Call - Follow up

Hi Megan,

Please let me know what your availability is for next week to join this meeting.

Thank you,

Lenore E. Olsen
Administrative Assistant
Teaching and Learning Services
Snohomish School District
360.563.7257

From: Mickelson, Miriam <Miriam.Mickelson@sno.wednet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:23 PM
To: Hutchison, Megan <megan.hutchison@sno.wednet.edu>; Larson, Jeff <jeffrey.larson@sno.wednet.edu>; Appelgate, Holly <holly.appelgate@sno.wednet.edu>
Cc: Olsen, Lenore <Lenore.Olsen@sno.wednet.edu>
Subject: Fw: Phone Call - Follow up

Hi Megan, Jeff, and Holly,

Can we meet to discuss the below request that Anthem be removed from the list of district approved novels immediately?

I will have Lenore, my admin assistant, set the meeting up for us.

Thank you.

Miriam Miralles Mickelson, Ed.D.
Executive Director - Teaching and Learning Services
Snohomish School District

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Mickelson, Miriam <Miriam.Mickelson@sno.wednet.edu>
Subject: Phone Call - Follow up

[External Email]

It's been a couple weeks since I sent over all the information on Anthem and the ARI. I know there was a lot of info in there, but I was wondering if you'd had a chance to look it over and wanted to know what you thought about that info? We did another records request through SSD and got a little more information on the process of how books are adopted. I specifically asked for any/all paperwork on Anthem and the paper trail or email trail of the process that this specific book and teaching materials went through to get adopted and approved either by the district and/or school board. I didn't get anything back on this specific request, which leads me to believe that this book Anthem and the teaching materials never went through any formal process for approval.

I sent you the study guide and lesson plans for Anthem that are from the Ayn Rand Institute. If you look at the GPHS assignments and questions for Anthem, almost all are directly pulled from the ARI study guide and lesson plan. Many of the questions are verbatim from the ARI lesson plan. ARI has one purpose, which they state very clearly on their website, and that's to promote the philosophy of "objectivism" throughout society using Rand's books as the vehicle. I think we can agree that questions and study materials that are specifically developed for this purpose by ARI will be biased towards this goal. Hence since GPHS is using all ARI's study questions practically (and some literally) verbatim would it not be reasonable to conclude that GPHS is also biased to the goal of promoting objectivism? In our zoom meeting we were told by the Principal several times emphatically that GPHS did not promote Rand, ARI or her philosophy. However, it is not possible to teach AynRand.org learning materials, which were specifically developed and designed to promote her philosophy of "objectivism," and not promote her philosophy.

What I can deduce from our records requests is, it looks like a teacher just got these books from AynRand.org years ago on their own without approval, they put Anthem onto the "approved" reading list, it was never questioned or reviewed and it's been there for years. It needs to be removed immediately from the list of "approved" books since it was never actually approved and is technically not permitted on this list. In our zoom call the Principal stated that only three of the four 9th grade English teachers taught Anthem so it is not actually required reading, as previously stated by my daughter's teacher. It appears that teachers can choose whether or not to teach Anthem. As of now there are several other novels on the approved 9th grade reading list to choose from which allow for choice and diversity. Anthem should not be missed.

Look forward to further communication on this.

Thanks again,
[REDACTED]



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