Curriculum Director's Report

June 15, 2010

I cannot believe the school year is over. Although I know I could not have packed anything more into a year, I would not have changed any of it. Whether it was learning with teachers and administrators at home or across the state or with my over 100 6th and 7th graders, each day was filled with opportunities to remind me of my own personal motivation to go into education. What a rewarding year! I am sincerely sad to see it end. I will miss it.

Yet, as I hugged each student, wished them well and through tear filled eyes waved good-bye, I realized that this is not just an end but also a new beginning. So as I prepare to move into my new position, I will take the memories of the year with some very special middle school students, wonderful teachers and a supportive administrator and cherish them forever. I thank them all for what they have given me. The lessons they have provided will serve me well in both my professional **and** personal life.

So as we move forward, I have continued to work with high school staff in trying to purchase all the materials they have requested while also continuing to work with the middle school and elementary to solve the challenge of supporting students in acquiring the knowledge and skills required in social studies. Although the middle school and elementary teams had almost given up hope of finding anything that would meet our standards, we were finally able to successfully finalize selection for all grades except 6th and 7th. Fortunately with combining grades 7 and 8 for social studies next year as we have done for science and by using available supplemental resources, we are not in immediate need. Taking a few more months will give us a little more time to review updated materials being made available in July.

For the grades recommending materials for adoption, please see attached a letter requesting approval of the materials reviewed by the District Instructional Materials Committee at our June 9 meeting. This includes three sets of additional supplemental materials for the high school, social studies materials for grades K-5, and a one-year social studies rotation for grades 7-8. For one text, the high school Shakespeare Anthology, a specific publisher has not yet been identified. Yet the request was for an unabridged anthology of Shakespeare plays. Therefore the committee felt delaying approval until later this fall after a specific publisher was identified was unnecessary. As a result the committee is recommending approval with the final purchase of the specific text to be approved by the building principal.

I want to sincerely thank our community members, Larayne Anderson and Ray Denny, and our student representative, Aubreyanne Miller, for their work in assisting with the process and selection of materials. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Denny for the extra time and effort he put into the adoption process. His expertise in history and his willingness to complete outside research using external resources helped to identify some inaccuracies in some texts that we may not have caught otherwise. His attention to detail in reporting his findings has been invaluable. Although the texts are not all from the same publisher, the committee feels strongly that they have identified the best materials available to meet the needs of teachers at each grade level. We are especially excited about finding a high quality Washington State History text for 4th grade which has been one of our most challenging areas in the past. All documentation of the review process is available in the curriculum office for review.