Adoption Committee: History Social Science TK-12
Final Report October 2020

Summary of Process

Beginning in August 2020, the History/Social Science committee developed an evaluation tool/rubric to assess the quality of instructional materials. From September through October, the History/Social Science committee met with publishers and conducted pilot lessons or materials reviews for each of the programs. During the first stage of the process in August, the committee conducted a preliminary materials review of multiple publishers, narrowing down to two to conduct a full materials review and pilot. The TK-5 committee elected to do a full pilot with Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) and a collection of curated materials, while the 6-12 Committee elected to do a full pilot with TCI and National Geographic Learning-Cengage (Nat Geo) . The analysis of each committee's process and experience is below.

Adoption Committee Members

Senior Director: Joanne Clark
Coordinators: Rachel Vatannia and Ari Dolid

TK-5 Committee

Name	Grade	School Site	Name	Grade	School Site
Stacy Smitter	TK	Monroe	Nicole Lamm	4	Roosevelt
Katy Felsinger	TK	Wilson	Michelle Henry-Ellis	4	Monroe
Debbie Dodd	1	Roosevelt	Kristen Fortier	4	Roosevelt
Cristen Miller	2	Roosevelt	Jenny Kubicki	4	Madison
Lea Diamante	2	McKinley	Cynthia Epps	5	Madison
Sarah Cruz	2	Washington	Erin Tuomey	5	Garfield
Joan Bonsey	3	Washington	Alice Pegram	5	Madison
Wendy Papciak	3	Roosevelt	Frances Kim	5	Jefferson
Christian Villegas	3	Wilson	Elisa Alvarez	P	Washington

6-12 Committee

Name	Gr./Subj.	School Site	Name	Gr./Subj.	School Site
Shamela McClain	6-8	Muir	Traci Avar	World History	SLHS
Josefina Parra	7	Muir	David Mason	World History	SLHS
Jeff Bruno	8	Muir	Emily Solberg	World History	SLHS
Zack Lewis-Murphy	7-8	Bancroft	Danny Caravalho	US History	SLHS
Mary D'agostino	World His.	Lincoln	Leo Ocon	US History	SLHS

Scott Gordon	Econ/Gov	Lincoln	Ruby Smart	US History	SLHS

Overview of Programs TK-12

TCI is a textbook publisher that provides TK-12 social studies content. TCI focuses on building skills, promoting visual discovery, writing, experiential activities and problem solving through a cycle of previewing content, engaging in activities, formative assessment, lesson games and summative assessments. Each grade level provides 4-9 units tied to the California History Social Studies Content Standards and Framework.

The Curated Curricular Materials represent a selection of Standards and Frameworks, Units, Lessons, Textual Sources and related resources gathered by the TK-5 committee. These curricular materials align with and go beyond the California History Social Studies Content Standards and Framework to meet the specific, localized needs of SLUSD's students, teachers and families.

National Geographic (6-12 only) is a textbook publisher that provides 6-12 social studies content. National Geographic views history as a study of identity, and aims to foster development of empathy for diverse groups, empower students to explore their own interests, encourage active citizenship and raise awareness about the relationship between people and the physical world. National Geographic asks students to examine artifacts, write about history, and explore their own understandings through formative and summative assessment.

Committee Ranking and Recommendation

TK-5 The committee voted 12-2 to move forward with a recommendation for a custom curriculum for SLUSD TK-5 History Social Science. While the TCI program showed that it attends to the CA content standards and framework and has a robust digital platform, its narrow portrayal of history upholds a White Supremacist version and understanding of historical events, reinforces gender binaries and maintains other normative approaches harmful to students (See Analysis & Evidence doc). The committee feels that the content of this program would continue to harm the students and families of SLUSD, and run counter to the equity stance of the district. The recommendation of this committee is for the district to adopt a custom curriculum outlined with a framework, units and lessons aligned to both the Common Core and CA History Social Science Framework. The

recommendation would necessitate that the framework, units and lessons be further developed by a group of teachers during the latter half of the 20-21 school year. The committee believes that a custom curriculum will best represent the needs and vision of the students, families and teachers in SLUSD.

6-12 The committee decided to launch a 6-8 adoption and a 9-12 adoption after the initial pilot launch of TCI and Nat Geo. Though Nat Geo offers a History and Social Studies curriculum for grades 6-12, it operates as two separate and distinct companies. The distinctions are evident within curriculum content as well as in the online digital curriculum platform that Nat Geo offers for grades 6-8 and 9-12. Committee findings and feedback for TCI and Nat Geo are captured in these meeting debrief documents (TCI and Nat Geo).

6-8 The committee members voted unanimously to move forward with a recommendation for TCI curriculum adoption for SLUSD 6-8 History Social Science. Based on the data gathered from our History Social Science Evaluation, TCI scored an 86%, whereas, Nat Geo scored a 59% among our Middle School Adoption Committee. TCI and Nat Geo both demonstrated alignment with the California History and Social Studies Framework and Standards for grades 6-8. However, TCI offered a more robust digital curriculum platform that was easily accessible for both teachers and students. TCI integrated their multilingual support directly into the online platform and even offered direct Spanish translation within the digital platform; whereas, Nat Geo had a separate text for multilingual learners. The Middle School Adoption Committee really highlighted the "turn-key" features and ease of use offered by TCI. This includes teachers and student resources and materials, as well as, the ability for students to complete and turn in assignments directly on the digital platform. In addition, the Middle School Adoption Committee feels that TCI does a better job offering counter-narratives and perspectives to dominant cultural viewpoints. More information can be found here on the unt-unit comparison document covering The Age of Exploration and Manifest Destiny.

9-12 The committee members voted unanimously to move forward with a recommendation for Nat Geo curriculum adoption for SLUSD 9-12 core History Social Science Curriculum. Based on the data gathered from our History Social Science Evaluation, TCI scored a 72%; whereas, Nat Geo scored an 83% among our High School Adoption Committee. Once again, the High School

Committee felt that both TCI and Nat Geo demonstrated alignment with the California History and Social Studies Framework and Standards for grades 9-12. Though the High School History Social Studies Committee agreed that the online digital curriculum platform of Nat Geo is not as robust or developed as TCI, they felt that Nat Geo's print curriculum offered more in regards to content, layout and presentation. Nat Geo tended to have more current and relevant content and information. The Committee highlighted Nat Geo's use of more entry level hooks that were more centered around current events. Nat Geo also does a better job offering more in-depth and inclusive historical events in regards to the representation of historically marginalized groups including the LGBTQ+ Movement in the 60s and the Native American Women's Movement. More information can be found here on the unit-unit comparison document covering Jim Crow.

AP US History: The APUSH Committee considered two curriculum texts during this pilot. The first text was WW Norton, Give Me Liberty, and the second text was Nat Geo, The American Pageant. Give Me Liberty's online textbook was very accessible, and much easier to navigate and use. Their coverage of diversity was more robust than the other textbook. For example, Give Me Liberty included a chapter on the beginning of slavery, whereas, The American Pageant included a couple of paragraphs on the beginning of slavery. The online platform had embedded video by the historian/author about topics in each chapter, as well as their InQuizitive tool used for formal and non-formal assessments. Students could also take notes, and highlight text. Vocabulary words were typed in red, and when you click on them, the definition is given. Students also have the option to use a computer voice to read text. The American Pageant's online platform was difficult to navigate and use, and students are not able to take notes directly on the platform. The AP History Committee would like to move forward with a recommendation for WW Norton curriculum adoption of the text Give Me Liberty and the primary source readers that accompany the text.

Psychology and Sociology: The 9-12 committee reviewed and recommends Nat Geo for the elective courses of Psychology and Sociology

Ethnic Studies & History of Women Elective Courses: Courses will undergo the course of study revision process.

AP World History, AP Psychology, AP Government, AP Microeconomics/Macroeconomics: Current adoptions up to date and will use the course of study revision process as needed.

Community Feedback

Community and student surveys offered support and recommendations for both TCI and Nat Geo. Of the 43 community responses that provided feedback for History Social Science, an overwhelming majority indicated a high level of importance be placed on adopting a hands-on, engaging curriculum, which provides learning experiences that students can apply to real life. The open comments also indicated a strong emphasis on adopting a curriculum that is culturally responsive and representative of the diversity of our student population. The open comment section also stressed the importance of a social justice lens with decolonized perspectives.

There were a total of 25 responses that indicated a first and second choice preference regarding TCI and Nat Geo. Of the 25 responses 12 selected TCI as their first choice and 13 indicated Nat Geo as their first choice. Similarly, student surveys provided by teachers highlighted similar results, but with a slight majority in favor of TCI over Nat Geo. After careful review and consideration the committee elected to recommend TCI for grades 6-8 and Nat Geo for grades 9-12.

Rubrics and Results

History Social Studies Evaluation Tool
History Social Studies Evaluation Results
Final History Social Studies Vote