

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP**

**Regular Meeting of June 8, 2021**

**ITEM: ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE**

**PREPARED BY: MARIE WILLIAMS  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**TYPE OF ITEM: REVIEW AND DISCUSS**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to review and discuss the proposal to adopt instructional materials for Albany High School's psychology course.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Psychology is a social studies elective at Albany High School. Approximately 100 students enroll each year from grades 10, 11, & 12. The course is an introduction to the field of Psychology and covers many topics including: psychological research, careers in psychology, human development, cognitive psychology, perception and sensation, brain and nervous system anatomy and physiology, mental health, social psychology, etc. The textbook currently being used in the course is Psychology: Principles in Practice from Holt, Rinehart and Winston (copyright 2003).

This textbook is out of date for the field of psychology and needs to be updated or replaced.

**DETAILS:**

**Process:** A committee of two social studies teachers, Mariflo Hudson and Miriam Waldern, reviewed three possible textbooks for the course:

- A. Psychology, 13th edition, written by David G. Myers; Nathan C. DeWall published in 2021 by Bedford, Freeman & Worth
- B. Thinking about Psychology 13th Edition, written by Charles Blair-Broecker; Randal Ernst and published in 2019 by Bedford, Freeman & Worth
- C. Psychology 2nd Edition, written by Minter, Elmhurst, Ciccarelli & White and published in 2016 by Prentice Hall a subsidiary of Pearson.

**Based on our review we are recommending Myers' Psychology, 13th edition.**

### **Observations about the texts:**

Psychology, 13th edition: This text is very accessible to students. The content is clear and the authors use humor and storytelling to engage the readers. Every page includes photos, charts, graphs, and illustrations to further students' understanding of the material. This book features diverse images and experiences in every chapter. Students were able to use chapters from an earlier edition this year with ease. The text includes empirical evidence and has a strong emphasis on the science of psychology. In addition, the text informs and encourages students to apply psychological principles to improve their daily lives. The chapters are broken down into sub sections that allow students to explore concepts in more depth and allows for more adaptation of units for the teacher. Each chapter includes retrieval questions for students to practice applying the content material. While the Psychology course offered at Albany High is on-level and not AP, about 10% of students do choose to do additional study and take the AP Psychology exam. This book aligns with the AP exam while the other two do not. This is a soft cover book which should make it more convenient for students.

Thinking about Psychology 13th Edition: This book is also engaging. The font is larger. It is more of a general overview and covers less material in less depth than Psychology, 13e.

Psychology, 2nd Edition (Prentice Hall): This text is also accessible and covers more material than Thinking about Psychology, but less than Psychology, 13e. It is less engaging because it has less stories and less humor. Even though it is the current edition of this text, it is five years old.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:** The approximate cost for purchasing 100 copies is between \$5, 000 and \$7, 000 depending on the exact purchase terms. A final cost estimate will be provided at the June 22, 2021 meeting when the instructional materials are presented for adoption. Restricted lottery funds will be used to purchase these materials.

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED:**



***Objective #1: Assess and Increase Academic Success. Goal: We will provide a comprehensive educational experience with expanded opportunities for engagement, assessment, and academic growth so that all students will achieve their fullest potential.***

**RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND DISCUSS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE**