

**Eastford Elementary School  
Curriculum Committee Minutes  
Thursday, October 12, 2023  
4:00 PM (hybrid)**

**In attendance: A. Minor (Chair), L. Barlow, M. Bilica, D. Leake, C. McCombe, M. Dill.**

**I. Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

**II. Request for approval of new novel for grade five or grade six**

**Swim Team, by Johnnie Christmas**

The committee discussed the recent request to add Swim Team to the approved list of novels for grades 5 and 6. Adam Minor read some of this graphic novel and did not find anything he was opposed to regarding the text or the way in which Mr. Salsich plans to use it with students. Lauren Barlow added that the book features diverse characters and focuses on teamwork to achieve goals. These are all good elements for our students to be exposed to. The committee appreciates that Mr. Salsich is searching for literature and other content that is of interest to and relevant for our students to be reading and discussing with the intent to engage students, to foster a joy for reading, and to discuss topics that may be difficult for the students to learn about in safe, guided discussions.

The committee voted unanimously to approve this novel request.

**III. Update on Strategic School Improvement Plan (Revised for 2023-2026)**

Carole McCombe went through the action steps and outcomes for each of the three focus areas of the Strategic Plan. Many action steps are ongoing and will continue. Those that have been completed were noted and the rationale for new action steps was explained. Dr. Leake brought up how to better note the specific outcomes for each action step so that we have a

record of all that has been completed. Lauren Barlow shared concern that the plan would become overly cumbersome and suggested that the history lies in the collection of the plans, and it may be better to keep each year separate. One could reference older plans to see the progress made in any given year.

**IV. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.