



**AGENDA TITLE:                   APPROVAL of Y5s-5th GRADE ELA MATERIALS and related PD**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years the Y5-5th Grade ELA Maintenance Committee reconvened to review Tier 1 Comprehensive ELA materials.

Throughout the school year, the committee focused on research, program harvest, and professional development. They utilized research from Literacy Essentials.. The committee developed criteria for an evaluation matrix and piloted two programs: Fishtank and Bookworms.

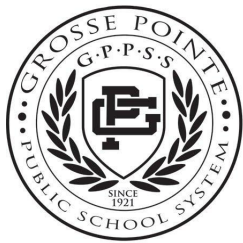
The committee evaluated each program based on decision making protocols and a rubric. They unpacked programs based on teacher usability, student responsiveness, alignment to research and standards. They developed a decision making matrix and protocols were used to determine the best approach to support students moving forward. The evaluation process led to the committee deciding that they were not stratified with either piloted program.

Additional programs were reviewed keeping the decision making protocols and rubric in mind: EL Education (Imagine Learning), Wit & Wisdom w/Geodes (Great Minds) and Arts & Letters w/Geodes (Great Minds). The committee unanimously selected Arts & Letters w/Geodes to be purchased.

*Arts & Letters* offers a comprehensive approach that goes beyond identifying a story's main idea to develop students' comprehension, critical thinking, and imagination. It builds essential skills and deepens understanding, enriching students' grasp of literature and analytical thinking. By exploring topics through multiple modalities, students build knowledge and make connections across content. With solid knowledge, they'll be able to more effectively listen, write, and absorb information, deepening learning and ensuring it has relevance for all students.

With Arts & Letters, students will benefit from the integrated approach to writing, reading, language development, and instructional routines allowing them to focus on building new knowledge. Intuitive, ready-to-use materials allow educators to focus on what truly matters—customizing unique lessons for their students. Each 60-minute lesson includes a *Teach* Book with clear instructions, customizable slide decks, and organized notes for efficient and dynamic teaching. Vibrant *Learn* Books, with engaging visuals, make learning inviting and captivating.

*Geodes* are decodable books that are designed to be highly readable for beginning readers. All students find moments of pride and accomplishment as they progress from Wordless Picture Books and Sound Search Books to Duet Books and, finally, to independent reading of picture books and chapter books. Each text helps teachers put research-based best practices into action. *Geodes* reinforce students' phonetic knowledge



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and help them build strong content knowledge and acquire robust vocabulary skills. Students are given the opportunity to transfer their learning while engaging with authentic texts to develop a mastery of reading.

Great Minds and Really Great Reading have partnered to create a comprehensive literacy solution for schools, combining their strengths in knowledge-building and foundational skills instruction.

By pairing Really Great Reading with the robust collection of Geodes books, students can put their phonemic awareness and decoding skills into practice as they build enduring knowledge of topics encompassing science, history, the arts, and more. As students construct a strong foundation for reading fluency, Arts & Letters provides them with English language arts instruction that ties to the same information-rich content covered in their Geodes books, ensuring that students develop knowledge that will support their reading proficiency and strengthen their comprehension skills.

**[Really Great Reading Alignment](#)**

The Y5-5th Grade ELA Maintenance Committee unanimously recommends the purchase of Arts & Letters (ELA curriculum) and Geodes (decodable books) for Y5-5th grade classrooms. The committee also unanimously recommends investing in the professional development provided by Great Minds connected to the implementation of the curriculum.

**REQUEST:**

Seeking Board of Education approval for a one year purchase. This request aligns with our District Strategic Plan of providing sustained learning in evidence/research based strategies, ensuring students of all abilities are offered consistent and systemic support.

**COST:**

**K-5th Grade - Purchase Price for Arts & Letters, Geodes, and related PD**

2025-26	~\$670,000 (FULLY FUNDED BY 35j Grant)
Annual General Fund Costs for student consumable materials, teacher and student digital licences	~\$80,000-\$100,000

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Slide Presentation: [ELA July 2025 Arts & Letters](#)

[PD Quote](#)

[Arts & Letters Quote](#)

[Geodes Quote](#)

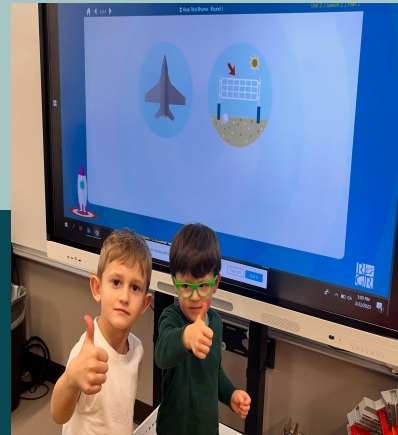
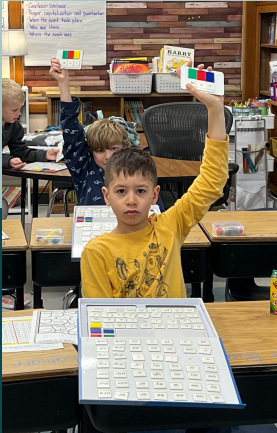
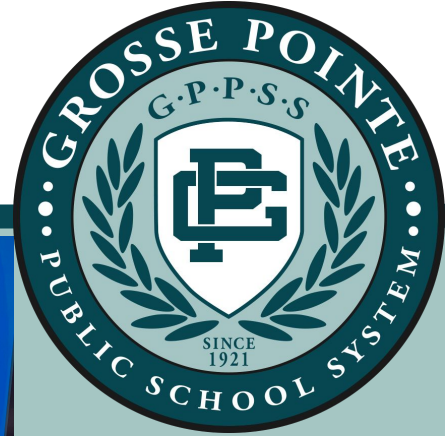
**DATE:**

July 14, 2025 BOE Regular Session

# ELA Curriculum Material Purchase

## *A Presentation to the Board of Education*

July 14, 2025





# Curriculum Review Phases

## GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

### CURRICULUM REVIEW PHASES

**PHASE 4**  
**MAINTENANCE**  
Evaluate and review

**PHASE 3**  
**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Implement resources,  
instruction, and  
professional development



**PHASE 1**  
**STUDY**  
Develop Idea and  
Design

**PHASE 2**  
**CONSTRUCT**  
Align learning objectives,  
goals, and programs



# ELA Committee Members

Y5/K	1-2	3-4	5	Support & Admin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sierra Koleber</li><li>● Courtney VanNatter</li><li>● Shaughan Rumohr</li><li>● Pam Cronovich</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Stephanie Dye</li><li>● Kate Price</li><li>● Mackenzie Meckl</li><li>● Jackie Rabaut</li><li>● Stacey Allemon</li><li>● Caroline Copp</li><li>● Erin Rillema</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Karen Frakes</li><li>● Caelin Micks</li><li>● Kristin Remillet</li><li>● Jane Nugent</li><li>● Laura Tannheimer</li><li>● Shelby Rose</li><li>● Shelly Denison</li><li>● Wynneth Handley</li><li>● Amanda Kotes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Becca Ozar</li><li>● Alison Locke</li><li>● Kari Mannino</li><li>● Melissa Kifer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gigi Murray</li><li>● Stacey Roy</li><li>● Emily Rennpage</li><li>● Lisa Aouad</li><li>● Sara Dirkse</li><li>● Anita Hassan</li><li>● Lisa Rheume</li></ul>



# Committee Work 2022-Today

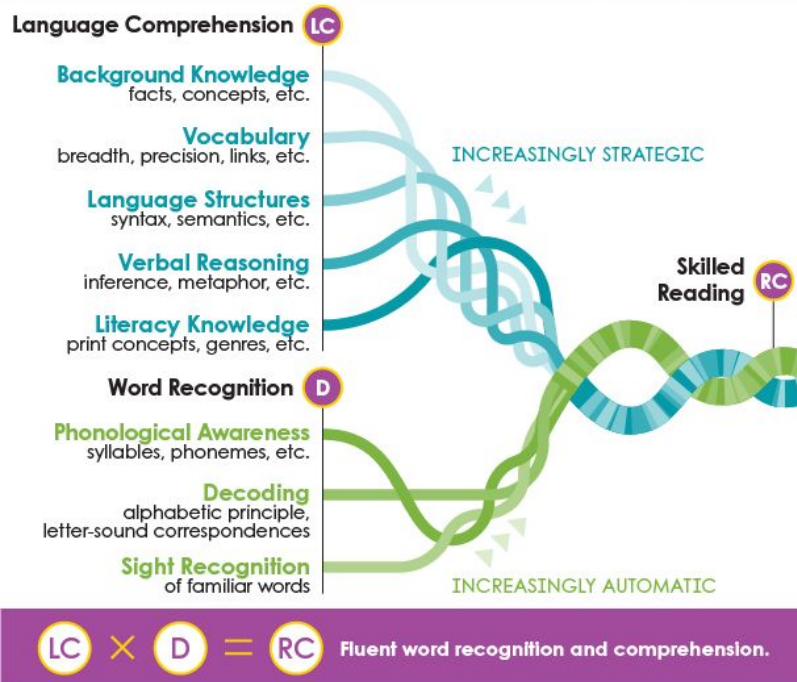
- November 2022:- March 2023 explored phonics/word study and piloted 2 programs
- **May 2023: Really Great Reading and Wordsmith were approved as foundational skills curriculum**
- August 2023: Really Great Reading/Wordsmith roll out and implementation begins
- December 2023: Committee reconvenes to discuss assessment practices
- January 2024: Oakland Schools/MAISA units are officially sunset and removed from the website
- February 2024: Committee meets to discuss assessments, MAISA's sunset, and possibilities for a new ELA comprehensive curriculum
- March-April 2024: A variety of ELA materials were explored
- **May-June 2024: Updated assessment framework approved by EPLC and Board of Education**
- September 2024: February 2025: Committee members piloted Fishtank and Bookworms and were not fully satisfied with either program GPPSS ELA Decision Making Matrix
- October 2024: K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Law incorporated in the School Aid Act (PA 146 & 147 of 2024) that includes requirements for the district to implement by 2027
- March 2025-June 2025: Committee waited for MDE's 35m grant Tier 1 list to be released in order to make a more informed decision
- June 2025: Committee met 3 times to review EL Education (Imagine Learning), Wit & Wisdom w/Geodes (Great Minds) and Arts & Letters w/Geodes (Great Minds) and unanimously selected Arts & Letters w/Geodes to be purchased





# Reading Rope

## Scarborough's Reading Rope



*This Interpretation of the Reading Rope Incorporates Gough & Tunmer's (1986) Simple View of Reading.*



# ELA Elementary Subcommittee Request

## Approval of Arts & Letters K-5

Seeking Board of Education approval to replace the voided MAISA ELA Units for K-5 with Arts & Letters with Geodes from Great Minds for K-5th grade ELA.

Year 1 - fully funded by 35j Grant (~\$670,000)