Newport-Mesa signs off on new math curriculum for sixth through eighth grades

Newport-Mesa Unified School District trustees unanimously signed off Tuesday on a new math curriculum for grades six through eight.

The board voted 6-0 on Tuesday to expand to all district campuses the use of a new math program called Illustrative Mathematics which implements Common Core State Standards that teachers and administrators believe will enable students to answer questions in ways they can understand.

Trustee Karen Yelsey did not participate in the vote because she is on the company's board of directors.

The school board voted in May to approve a new middle school math curriculum and on Thursday approved the wording of open enrollment. Board members voted 6-0 to offer open enrollment to teachers and administrators to implement the new curriculum.

It isn't clear how much the district is spending on the new program.

 Titan, a smartphone app to communicate with school officials and police during emergencies, was a focal point in the board meeting.

Students can specify the type of activity occurring, such as a stranger or weapon on campus or drug use, said Titan founder Vic Merjanian.

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Illustrative Mathematics and Agile Mind's Middle School Mathematics in search of a new curriculum for grades six through eight.

In August, Newport-Mesa began evaluating and piloting Open-Up Resources' Bridges in Mathematics, a curriculum that implements Common Core State Standards that teachers and administrators believe will enable students to answer questions in ways they can understand.

"This curriculum is brilliantly written," Marvicsin told trustees. "After teaching this curriculum for seven months, I have strong evidence that children at different levels of ability are able to understand the concepts."

She joined Times Community News in Orange County in 2013 where she covered education, Newport Beach city hall, crime and courts. She is a native of Orange County and a graduate of UC Berkeley.

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