



Office of the Superintendent

DATE: November 6th, 2025

AGENDA TOPICS: Supplementary Novel for WHS

PRESENTER: Michelle O'Dell

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Supplementary Novel

In accordance with all relevant Education Code and current Board Administrative Regulation 6161.1 and Board Policy 6161.11; following a review and selection process that included approval by the CIA Advisory Committee, and a period of public review; I am pleased to present our recommendation to the Board of the WUSD, the adoption of:

1) Grade Level: Ethnic Literature 12th Grade (Willows High School)

Publisher: Washington Square Press and Simon & Schuster Books; 1994 and 2007

Text/Novel: *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* by Melba Pattillo Beals

"In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

Warriors Don't Cry is, at times, a difficult but necessary reminder of the valuable lessons we can learn from our nation's past. It is a story of courage and the bravery of a handful of young, black students who used their voices to influence change during a turbulent time."¹

Dates of Review

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Advisory (September 9th, 2025)
- Proposed Public Review (September 10th-October 13th, 2025)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of supplemental novels: *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* by Melba Pattillo Beals

Thank you!