

Elementary Science Textbook Adoption Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2019
3:30 p.m. Governing Board Room

Anais Wenn welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their attendance. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to share the pilot experience at the sites by reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the 3 publishers that have been piloted. She reminded the committee that none of the materials are going to be perfect, yet we have to have the key components that are essential for teaching the NGSS in the materials that we are going to recommend for adoption. Anais also reminded the committee that teachers are always encouraged to use supplemental materials that they find useful along with the adopted materials. Following this meeting, teachers on the committee will share this information with colleagues in their grade levels and come up with a recommendation for their grade level. Each principal will collect the votes from teachers who have piloted the materials and submit them to Anais. At the final meeting, Anais will share the results sent from the sites and the committee will vote for the final recommendation.

The committee took the time to go over each of the publishers' materials (Inspire Science, National Geographic, and STEMscopes) and listed the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Anais asked the teachers to share what the students thought of the materials. Teachers shared that:

- Students called Inspire Un-Inspired.
- Some parts of STEMscopes were better than others.
- Inspire was boring and the journals were a fill in the box.
- Students liked the pictures in National Geographic.
- Students liked some parts of STEMscopes and others not as much.
- Students liked the hands-on experiences in National Geographic and STEMscopes.

One of the parents asked if it was an option to have two different publishers for lower and upper grades. Anais responded that it was an option if the committee decided that it was in the best decision for students. She shared the importance of consistency and continuity in materials and that it would be great to have one publisher for all elementary grades.

There was a question regarding training. Anais stated that training will be provided by the publisher once we have decided to adopt their materials.

A parent shared that she thought that the upper grade students needed a textbook to be able to study independently whereas in lower grades it wasn't as critical.

One of the teachers asked if STEMscopes is going to have the Teacher Edition available along with the answer guide for the student workbook. Kris will contact the publisher to find out.

Anais shared that the Science Lab Aides have been well received and utilized at the sites and have been extremely valuable throughout the last 4 years of NGSS implementation. At the end of this year, the district has to decide if this service will continue based on staff needs and budget.

Cory Pak shared that they used STEMscopes in his previous district. STEMscopes started several years ago as an online program. They continually upgrade and improve their materials based on teacher input. The con is the copying teachers had to do since most materials were online. They are not a textbook company and to put together a workbook, they decide which worksheets must be used. In doing that, they may not pick those the teachers may think are more critical for student understanding. However, there are many great resources online that teachers can use.

One of the teachers asked what materials teachers should be using for the remainder of this year. Anais answered that they should continue to use the materials that they have been piloting. Kris will request that the chosen publisher(s) provide(s) materials until the end of the year. Once a recommendation is made in December, she will bring it to the Board in January for first reading and February for second reading and if approved, the materials will be ordered. All materials will be delivered to the sites prior to the end of the school year so that teachers can use them at the start of 2020-2021 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.