

Board Action Required ☒No Action Required ☐

April 17, 2014

K-12 Science Instructional Materials Adoption

The science instructional materials adoption process included three separate committees, each chaired by an assistant principal. The elementary materials adoption committee consisted of the nine science content specialists, representing each campus and each grade level. The elementary committee also included Debra Marshall, an elementary librarian. This committee was chaired by Angie Hux who also serves as an elementary assistant principal and coordinator of our bilingual and dual language programs. The middle school committee included six middle school science teachers evenly distributed across campuses and grade levels. This committee was chaired by Brandon McGill, a middle school assistant principal. The high school committee included two representatives from biology, two from chemistry and two from physics, one representative of biological sciences elective courses, one representative of chemical sciences elective courses, and one representative of earth science electives courses. This committee also included Jennifer Sullivan, a high school librarian. The committee included representation from both high schools and was chaired by Jeremy Varnell, a high school assistant principal. All committees assessed resources using a rubric that aligned with the Coppell ISD Learning Framework.

Elementary Committee Actions:

- A subgroup of the elementary committee attended vendor presentations at the Region 10 Service Center on Nov. 1st and made preliminary selections of vendors to invite to present in our district.
- All committee members met for a full day to hear presentations from six different vendors on December 11th.
- The committee narrowed their selections to the top two, based upon the Dec. 11th presentations. Both selections were digital only resources. The committee also recommended that we re-design our current kit-based program to align with our TEKS.
- Each committee member shared both resources with all science teachers at his/her campus and collected feedback, based upon the shared rubric.
- The committee met for a half day on January 31st to share their final recommendations.
- The committee recommended that we adopt Discovery Education Texas by Discovery Education, Inc. as our digital resource.
- The committee discussed our balanced science program and how the digital resource would fit with our science kits, our assessments within AWARE, our Sally Ride Science training and resources.

Middle School Committee Actions:



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- A subgroup of the middle school committee attended vendor presentations at the Region 10 Service Center on Nov. 1st and made preliminary selections of vendors to invite to present in our district.
 - All committee members met for a full day to hear presentations from six different vendors on December 11th.
 - Middle school science teachers at each campus were asked to preview materials from the six different vendors and provide feedback.
 - The middle school committee met for a full day on January 23rd to share feedback they had received and come to an agreement about a recommended product.
 - Due to concerns about access to technology, the committee put forward a product for which there was a consumable text available in addition to a digital resource. The committee shared that their preference would be to have 1:1 technology available and have a fully digital adoption, but with their current technology availability, they needed to also have access to print resources.
 - The top recommendation made by the committee was the digital and print resources: Texas iScience by McGraw Hill Education. The committee's second choice, provided that students would have 1:1 access to technology within science classes, was Discovery Education Texas by Discovery Education, Inc.

High School Committee Actions:

- A subgroup of the high school materials adoption committee attended vendor presentations at the Region 10 Service Center on Nov. 22nd and made preliminary selections of vendors to invite to present in our district.
- All committee members met for a full day to hear presentations from six different vendors on December 12th.
- Following the vendor presentations, the committee narrowed the selection to their 3 top choices, but asked that we investigate the possibility of piloting all three digital resources with a sample group of students at NTH@C and at CHS during the month of January.
- Linda Cook contacted each of the vendors: Sapling Learning, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and Discovery Education. All were willing to participate in the student pilot.
- All committee members met on January 29th to share the feedback they received from the students as well as the other science teachers at their campuses.
- The top recommendation made by the committee was Sapling Learning, only if we could also adopt the iBook, which raises the cost by \$30.00/student. The committee's close second choice was Discovery Education Texas by Discovery Education, Inc. The feedback from students was positive for both of the top choices.
- The recommendation for biological science electives was as follows
 - The Life on Earth iBook by E. O. Wilson to include within the Anatomy and Physiology iTunes U course



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- The Aquatic Science teacher will write her own eBook
 - The recommendation for chemical science electives was as follows
 - Forensic Science classes will continue to utilize free digital content
 - The recommendation for earth science electives was as follows
 - The Earth Science iBook by Dr. Richard Jones for use within the iTunes U Earth and Space Science course
 - The recommendation for our AP Physics B course, which is changing to AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 next year is the digital Essential Physics by Ergopedia

Elementary Kit- Based Science Resources

- The cost for re-designing the existing FOSS science kits to include new containers and additional resources for the TEKS that were not addressed within our current kits was estimated
- Delta Education submitted a proposal for the materials needed to re-design our current kits and adapting them to the new TEKS-aligned kits

This memo serves as a recommendation that we adopt *Discovery Education Texas* from Discovery Education, Inc. as our primary digital resource for science K-8, biology, chemistry, and physics. We also recommend the adoption of *Essential Physics* for AP physics, *Life on Earth* for anatomy and physiology, *Earth Science* for Earth and Space Science and FOSS for our elementary kit re-design components.

Submitted by Linda A. Cook, K-12 Director of Science, on behalf of the 2013-2014 Science Instructional Materials Adoption Committee.