



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: June 11, 2020

TOPIC: PK-5 Science Curricular Renewal – Mystery Science ©2019

PREPARED BY: David Russo

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

The Board of Education approves all curricular adoptions and contracts.

The Administration recommended and the Board approved adoption of the *Mystery Science ©2019* program published by Mystery Science for Grades PK-5 in March 2019. At the time, the Administration recommended approval of a one subscription for materials and supply kits.

The Science Committee met prior to the COVID-19 closure to discuss program implementation. Representatives responded positively to the program's structures and material. Teachers said that *Mystery Science* is engaging for students, and that they look forward to a science lesson. The amount of material is appropriate to the age level and learning experiences are meaningful to teach the skill or topic being explored. Committee members were unanimous in their support of the adoption.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the value of continued purchase of supply kits developed by the publisher. Based upon consumption of items before in-person learning was stopped, Grades PK-2 can resupply specific items from other vendors. Many items in the kit can be reused annually. In Grades 3-5, lessons called for more consumption of items necessitating purchase of full kits.

District Legal Counsel reviewed Mystery Science's Terms of Service and had recommendations in the following areas:

By submitting a payment or purchase order, you are agreeing to the Mystery Science Terms of Service available at mysteryscience.com/terms, the terms and conditions of which are hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference, except as follows:

1. The aggregate liability of Mystery Science, Inc. arising out of or in connection with these terms will not exceed the greater of: (i) the amount paid for the School District's use of the services in the twelve (12) month period prior to the event giving rise to liability; or (ii) one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00);
2. The School District shall not be responsible for any legal or accounting fees as part of any indemnification;

3. These Terms will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to or application of conflicts of law rules or principles. By using the Services the parties consent to personal jurisdiction and venue in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, for any lawsuit arising from or relating to these Terms or our Services;
4. No modification to the online Terms will modify the specific provisions listed above, and the provisions listed above shall continue in effect for any renewal or subsequent purchase order even if not expressly listed therein.

The underlined language represented the new or modified language recommended by Counsel. Mystery Science agreed to all edits except #2 where it was requested to read “any legal or accounting fees.” Counsel said this was not a reason to hold up the process from moving forward. All changes are represented in the Addendum.

Fiscal Impact:

The publisher’s quote includes an approximate 40% discount on the base subscription for a three-year renewal. The table below also includes costs for purchase of supply kits for Grades 3-5. There are quotes for both the subscriptions and the kits included in the packet.

Mystery Science Renewal

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Product Subtotal
Three-Year Subscription Renewal	2	\$2,597	\$5,194
Grs. 3-5 Supply Kits	18	\$349	\$6,282
Total Cost Subscription/Kits			\$11,476

The District paid \$998/school in 2019-20 with the publisher for the base subscription. The kits were also the same unit cost for 2019-2020.

Recommendation:

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Finance Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to approve renewal of the *Mystery Science* ©2019 program through the 2022-2023 school year for Grades PK-5 and supply kits for Grades 3-5 in the 2020-2021 school year for a total cost of \$11,476.