



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM**  
**AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

---

**DATE OF MEETING:**        **August 11, 2015**

**TITLE:**            **Study and Approval of Elementary Science Curriculum Guides**

---

**BACKGROUND:**

One of the best ways to engage children in their learning and in the world around them is to provide hands-on opportunities to learn and actually “do” science. Science and engineering education is more important than ever. Becoming college and career ready involves teaching children to question, explore, build, collaborate, explain, analyze, think critically and creatively, and communicate. Science provides the opportunity for all children to be engaged in their learning and ultimately acquire these life-long learning skills.

A committee of elementary teachers met over the past six months to discuss science education in our elementary schools, review the Arizona Science Standards, make recommendations regarding the teaching of science, discuss the need for materials, and to develop a science curriculum framework.

The **Amphitheater Elementary Science Curriculum Guides** are presented this evening for Governing Board review and approval. These guides outline the elementary Arizona Science Standards by grade level, list important academic vocabulary in science, give suggestions for materials and resources, and provide other details for teachers as they prepare their science instruction. Engineering standards were added to the curriculum because this type of thinking and “doing” is an important part of STEM education. “Inquiry” and the “Engineering Design Process” are two main threads in the curriculum from kindergarten through fifth grade. The new curriculum guides will be available electronically and/or in print to every elementary teacher upon approval. Each school will schedule a time to review and discuss the guides, allocate time and resources toward science, and inventory science materials. Teachers across the district are excited about this curriculum project.

Several teachers provided assistance in the development of the curriculum guides. Teachers who attended meetings over the past six months to provide this assistance are listed below:

Rose Adamo, Pamela Barrett, Jessica Blaire, Linda Carlaftes, Carole Celaya, Karen Cross, Heather Eldridge, Rachel Froy, Ellen Harris, Susan Herman, Janis Horetski, Andrew Hurst, Rayette Jackson, Jennifer Kernan, Jennifer Krim, Lorelee Lewis, Peggy Marner, Marisa McConnell, Jennifer Powers, Karissa Richardson, Jennifer Royer, Sandra Schiffman, Eric Stewart and Robyn Yewell

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is presented for study and potential action by the Governing Board.

---

**INITIATED BY:**

Roseanne Lopez, Ed.D, Chief Academic Officer Elementary Education K-5

Date: August 10, 2015

Monica Nelson, Associate Superintendent

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent