



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: March 23, 2023

TOPIC: PK-5 Science Curricular Renewal – Mystery Science ©2023

PREPARED BY: Dominick Lupo

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 2020. At the time, the Administration recommended approval of a 3-year subscription for materials and supply kits.

The Science Committee met throughout the 2022-2023 school year to discuss program implementation. Representatives responded positively to Mystery Science's structures and materials. Teachers said that Mystery Science was engaging for students, and that they looked forward to a science lesson. The amount of material was appropriate to the age level and learning experiences were 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 over the past three years, Grades PK-2 decided to 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 offered the following:

The existing contract addendum from 2020 remains in place, SOPPA is not a concern because Mystery Science does not collect any student data, and Mystery Science has been acquired by Discovery Education, which is a major education vendor that the District has also contracted with on recent occasion.

Therefore, Legal Counsel made no further suggestions on the Terms of Service.

Fiscal Impact:

The District previously paid \$11,476 in 2020 for a 3-year subscription and three grade levels worth of supply kits. This year we are seeking a 6-year subscription with Mystery Science and supply kits for grades three through five. The cost breakdown is as follows:

Mystery Science Renewal

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Number of Years	Product Subtotal
Six-Year Subscription Renewal	2	\$2,590	6	\$15,540
Grs. 3-5 Supply Kits	18	\$430	1	\$8,533.35
Total Cost Subscription/Kits				\$24,073.35

I inquired about the price increase from 2020 until now, and it was explained to me that our last contract was the last year of pricing before Discovery Education purchased Mystery Science. The representative explained that the price increase from 2020 to 2021 was the largest single price increase in the history of the company, and that there are minimal price increases every year. She assured the District that our multi-year and early-bird discounts for this contract are their best prices available.

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 ©2023 program through the 2028-2029 school year for Grades PK-5 and supply kits for Grades 3-5 in the 2023-2024 school year for a total cost of \$24,073.35.