



DRAFT
MINUTES OF SECONDARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM ADOPTION
COMMITTEE 2023-2024

SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48
SUSD Oak Campus, 7501 E Oak St, Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 Time: 3:30 - 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:31 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Nagib Balfakih, Michael Bengert, Marissa Blanco-Johnson, Jodi Meyers, Julie Koshy, Rissel Langbacker, Steve Millam, Providence Ryan, Paula Sabato, Kim Salaway, Michelle Watt.

Absent: Micah Sandys, Jaclyn Papa, Jen MacColl

Chairperson(s), Committee Support -

Present: Kim Dodds Keran, Johanna Kaiser, Dede Johnston

Information/Discussion and Possible Action

3. Review and Approval of 02/12/2024 Meeting Agenda - Information/Discussion or Possible Action Item

Johanna Kaiser

- Motion was made by Steve Millam
- Seconded by Nagib Balfakih
- Motion was approved by all

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from 02/06/2024 Meeting

Action Item

Johanna Kaiser

- Motion was made by Michael Bengert
- Seconded by Rissel Langbacker
- Motion was approved by all

5. Review and Approval of Minutes from 02/07/2024 Meeting

Action Item

Johanna Kaiser

The committee proposed the following revision: Item #5, typographical errors; 'plant-by-planet approach' corrected to: 'planet-by-planet approach.'

- Motion was made by Michelle Watt

- Seconded by Steve Millam
- Amended minutes were approved by all.

6. Review and Approval of Minutes from 02/08/2024 Meeting

Action Item

Johanna Kaiser

- Motion was made by Julie Koshy
- Seconded by Providence Ryan
- Motion was approved by all

7. Public Review Feedback

Johanna Kaiser

Public Review remains open through April 9, 2024 (projected date of Governing Board second read/possible action item). The Public Review Feedback Form asks the following questions:

1. What is your role?
2. Select the resource/material for which you are providing feedback:
3. Does this resource align to the Three-Dimensional Arizona Science Standards (and/or College Board course content for AP courses)? (Yes/No)
4. Does this material include real-world observable events (phenomena) that are explored by students and help them make sense of the scientific concepts of the phenomena? (Yes/No)
5. Does this material include high-quality resources for teachers, students and parents? (Yes/No)
6. Does this material support success for all students (appropriate rigor, opportunities for enrichment, support for differentiation, resources for language learners, etc.)? (Yes/No)
7. Comments

As of February 12th, one person has utilized the Public Review process. The reviewer selected Teacher/Employee/Administrator for 'role' and reviewed the following materials: 1. Exploring Environmental Science for AP, Cengage, 2. Environmental Science for the AP Course, BFW, 3. Oceanography, Cengage, 4. Foundations of Astronomy, Cengage, 5. Essentials of Oceanography, Pearson.

The reviewer marked YES for questions 3-6 for all products. The reviewer provided feedback about specific material's organization/sequence, graphics, phenomena, real-world applications, study and review sections, diagrams and tables, and level of textbook.

The committee was provided an opportunity to view the reviewer's specific feedback.

8. Information and Group Discussions of Final Recommendations of Curriculum for Governing Board Approval

The committee revisited the Consensus slide, which was initially presented during the first meeting. Committee members also reviewed the Committee Norms. Groups within the committee convened to deliberate on the materials and collaboratively arrive at a consensus regarding the recommended curriculum for various courses. Each worked to prepare information to present to the committee at large regarding the rationale for their final recommendation.

9. Final Recommendation for Earth and Space Science, Honors Earth and Space Science

Group A members recommended that the committee approve Activate Learning's *EarthComm: Project-Based Earth and Space System Science* as the curriculum recommended for adoption for Earth and Space Science and Honors Earth and Space Science. The curriculum introduces phenomena at the outset, encouraging students to delve deeper and engage in real-world problem-solving. The inclusion of both hands-on labs and online simulations ensures a multifaceted learning experience. Teachers have the flexibility to modify curricular documents, tailoring the content to their classroom needs. By emphasizing the engineering design cycle, the curriculum fosters critical thinking and practical application. Notably, it equips students with transferable skills while maintaining alignment with educational goals. Lastly, the involvement of scientists from the American Geosciences Institute underscores the curriculum's credibility and relevance.

Action Item: Approval of Activate Learning's *EarthComm: Project-Based Earth and Space System Science* as the curriculum recommended for adoption for Earth and Space Science and Honors Earth and Space Science.

- Motion was made by Paula Sabato
- Seconded by Marissa Blanco-Johnson
- Motion was approved by all

10. Final Recommendation for Oceanography/Astronomy

Group A members recommended that the committee approve Pearson's *Essentials of Oceanography* and Cengage's *Foundations of Astronomy* as the curricula recommended for adoption for Oceanography/Astronomy. These curricula stand out due to their visually engaging content, which effectively captures student interest. The comprehensive textbooks and robust online resources cater to the diverse needs of both educators and learners, offering a wealth of supplementary content and relevant materials. The textbooks' logical progression—woven with captivating storylines—facilitates student understanding. Notably, both products feature recent publication dates (Pearson 2020, Cengage 2024), ensuring the inclusion of cutting-edge scientific updates. The committee recognized that utilizing one textbook/publisher during Semester 1 and another during Semester 2 would necessitate two distinct online platforms. However, the advantages of these textbooks outweighed the associated inconvenience.

Action Item: Approval of Pearson's *Essentials of Oceanography* and Cengage's *Foundations of Astronomy* as the curricula recommended for adoption for Oceanography/Astronomy.

- Motion was made by Providence Ryan
- Seconded by Rissel Langbacker
- Motion was approved by all

11. Final Recommendation for Astrophysics

Group C members recommended that the committee approve McGraw Hill's *Explorations: An Introduction to Astronomy, 9th Edition* and OpenStax *Astronomy, 2nd Edition* as the curricula recommended for adoption for Astrophysics. The McGraw Hill product offers opportunities for student reflection and real-world learning, emphasizing a progressive approach that builds upon prior knowledge. Notably, the inclusion of pictures and simulations enhances classroom presentations. Moreover, the curriculum addressed the essential mathematical focus required for Astrophysics. The Smartbook feature provides valuable tools to aid student comprehension and retention. Additionally, seamless integration with Stellarium and Google Classroom streamlines

the learning experience. The selection of OpenStax's *Astronomy, 2nd Edition* (a free Open Education Resource) was driven by its alignment with the Dual Enrollment courses offered in partnership with Scottsdale Community College. This textbook serves as an additional resource for students and teachers at no additional cost.

Action Item: Approval of McGraw Hill *Explorations: An Introduction to Astronomy, 9th Edition* and *OpenStax Astronomy, 2nd Edition* as the curricula recommended for adoption for Astrophysics

- Motion was made by Michael Bengert
- Seconded by Steve Millam
- Motion was approved by all

12. Final Recommendation for Environmental Science

Group C members recommended to approve Cengage National Geographic's *Environmental Science: Sustaining Your World* as the curriculum recommended for adoption for Environmental Science for adoption for Environmental Science. The curriculum includes interactive texts with rich visuals and graphics that enhance student engagement and comprehension. The comprehensive teacher resources, including detailed pacing guidelines, discussion guides, and review sections to support educators with delivering effective instruction. The curriculum's emphasis on hands-on engagement through a high number of labs ensures practical learning experiences. There are an abundance of online resources, including interactives, demonstrations, projects, and math supports, further enrich student learning.

Action Item: To approve Cengage National Geographic's *Environmental Science: Sustaining Your World* as the curriculum recommended for adoption for Environmental Science for adoption for Environmental Science.

- Motion was made by Julie Koshy
- Seconded by Kim Salaway
- Motion was approved by all

13. Final Recommendation for AP Environmental Science

Group C members recommended to approve BFW's *Environmental Science for the AP Course* and its corresponding AP Environmental Science test practice resource *Strive for 5* as the curriculum recommended for adoption for AP Environmental Science for adoption for AP Environmental Science. The curriculum adheres to order/pacing of the College Board's AP Environmental Science CED (Course Exam Description), ensuring alignment with the rigorous standards set forth by the AP program. There is an abundance of teacher support within the book and resources, facilitating effective instruction and differentiation. The inclusion of multiple free response questions (FRQs), additional test banks, and student test support specifically tailored for the AP exam enhances student preparedness. The online platform offers a wealth of engaging resources, including math-supportive videos. The companion resource, *Strive for 5*, serves as a valuable tool for students as they prepare for the AP exam. The committee recognized that while the curriculum provides valuable content and instructional materials, teachers would need to place greater emphasis on the AP Course Guide for designing and implementing course labs.

Action Item: Approve BFW's *Environmental Science for the AP Course* and *Strive for 5* as the curricula recommended for adoption for AP Environmental Science.

- Motion was made by Jodi Meyers

- Seconded by Nagib Balfakih
- Motion was approved by all

13. Timeline

1st Read/Information Session

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

SUSD Governing Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Coronado High School

2nd Read/Possible Action Item

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

SUSD Governing Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Coronado High School

Committee members are invited to attend the Governing Board Meetings to be recognized.

The committee will not be meeting on February 26th.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM

Dated this day, Monday, February 12, 2024.