

K-12 Science Curriculum Resources Committee Meeting #4

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Location: PVUSD District Office, District Training Center South Room, 15002 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Facilitator: Robin Hayward (Secondary STEAM and Science Curriculum Specialist) and Krysta Perez (Elementary STEAM and Science Curriculum Specialist)

Committee Members Present:

- **Administrator Representative** – Jean Koeppen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
- **Community Member Representative** –
- **Teaching Staff Representative** – Alexandria Weiss, 7th/8th grades
Ayesha Pawaskar, 7th/8th grade
Blake Rider, mentor teacher-math, science, CTE
Debbie Arn, 4th grade-gifted
Devin Ellis, high school- physics and integrated science
Donna Kirkpatrick, 3rd grade
Jake Damle, high school - integrated Science, chemistry, IB ESS
Jenae Sidwell, 5th grade
Katie Jenkins, 7th and 8th grade
Kayla Vronoski, LAS 2nd-5th grades
Melissa Sarnowski, kindergarten-ELD
Paulette Wilson, 8th grade
- **Principal Representative** – Ashley Kilcullen, high school principal
- **Parent Representative** – Carol Culberson
Benjamin Grover
Judith Wyatt

Purpose: *To refine the rubric for evaluating potential vendors, continue narrowing the vendor list, review available resources, plan summer homework, and explore the role of phenomena in science instruction.*

Outcomes:

- Examine and discuss the use of phenomena in effective science teaching
- Review and discuss key instructional resources
- Finalize and apply rubric to evaluate potential vendors
- Continue narrowing the vendor list based on rubric application
- Plan and align summer homework with curriculum goals

Minutes

I. Welcome

- A. Introductions
- B. Purpose and Outcomes
- C. Homework Share Out

- It was noted some members looked at the 11th grade AzSci practice questions

II. Phenomena

- A. Definition of Phenomena
- B. Types of Phenomena - Anchoring, Investigative, and Analogous
 - After reviewing types of phenomena, members discussed the fortune teller fish activity from Meeting 2 could fit any of the Phenomena types depending where it fit in the storyline; however, it would most likely be Investigative
 - Looked at “A New Vision for Science” – discussion on the importance of what the reading and research is after investigations
 - Conversation on concern of students learning science wrong, led to discussion of importance of bridging misconceptions with strong reflection after investigations

III. Rubrics

- A. Review RFP Letter
- B. Review Rubric Card Sort Posters
- C. Compare to Draft Rubric
- D. Discuss weighting of rubric categories
 - Reviewed RFP letter that was sent out to vendors
 - Gallery walk of rubrics from the rubric sort last time in comparison to the printed rubric
 - An observation that there wasn’t much in the rubric about usability led to conversation that usability features are also found within other categories; many items could fit in multiple categories

IV. Evaluating Curriculum

- A. Practice Evaluating Curriculum
- B. Compare Practice to an Exemplar
- C. Assign Resources for Summer Rubric Evaluation
 - Members worked with a partner (similar grade band) to evaluate the current science curriculum using the printed rubric; elementary evaluated FOSS, middle school evaluated Lab-Aids or McGraw-Hill, and high school evaluated based on content
 - Members evaluated based on looking at the curriculum and reviewing the vendors’ proposal letter
 - Purpose not to complete a rubric but to practice working through the sections and evaluating a proposal and online access to the curriculum
 - Goal to start the 60 day review process in September
 - Members can share vendors with colleagues to gain their insight

V. Communication

- A. Communication
- B. Meeting Evaluation

- Question of how public will be notified: the notice and agenda are placed in the glass outside the Boardroom as well as posted on District Website; flyers with QR codes are posted in school entrances
- Plus/Delta: Noted it was helpful coming to agreement that each category on the rubric was accounted for; it was interesting collaborating with teachers who have different schedules and diverse needs of students; it was helpful to have time to work together

VI. Call to the Public and Questions

- A. Community Member Comments

VII. Next Steps

- A. Thank you for your service
B. Next Meeting - Thursday, August 14, 2025 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Meeting was adjourned at 05:55 p.m.

[Curriculum Adoption Meeting #4 - 5/15/25](#)

[Curriculum Adoption Meeting #3 - 5/6/25](#)

[Curriculum Adoption Meeting #2 - 4/22/25](#)

[Curriculum Adoption Meeting #1 - 4/15/25](#)