



Paradise Valley Unified School District | Meeting Minutes

K-12 Science Curriculum Resources Committee Meeting #14

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Location: PVUSD District Office, Room 1, 15002 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Facilitators: 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 for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment.
- **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
 - Deborah Adams, gifted content replacement
 - Devin Ellis, high school- physics and integrated science
 - Djin Beauregard, 5th grade
 - Donna Kirkpatrick, 3rd grade
 - Gloria Perez, 1st grade-Spanish immersion
 - 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
 - Lauren McHugh, 5th grade
 - Mackenzie Dye, high school - honors and ap biology
 - Melissa Sarnowski, kindergarten-ELD
 - Misty Hoyt, 5th and 6th grade-CG
 - Nanci Walker, ELD instructional coach
- **Principal Representative** –
 - Ann Furnish, elementary principal
 - Ashley Kilcullen, high school principal
- **Parent Representative** –
 - Carol Culberson
 - Benjamin Grover

Purpose: *To review all data collected during the 60 day review to reduce the list to 2-3 finalists for K-6, 7-8, and each high school course*

Outcomes:

- Revisit curriculum evaluation criteria
- Discuss curriculum reviews from meeting #13
- Reduce the curriculum list to 2 or 3 finalists

Minutes

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

B. Purpose and Outcomes

- Watched video from student interviews of how they best learn science. Reminder of WHO this curriculum is for and why all the effort is being put in this decision
- Reviewed 3-Dimensional Science instruction; it is the teacher's responsibility to teach the standards so the goal is to adopt a curriculum that meets the requirements
- Reviewed data from 2025 AzSci scores in 5th, 8th, and 11th grade—discussed the importance of adopting a curriculum that supports student success

II. Review +/- from Meeting #13

III. Share Curriculum Reviewed from Subgroups

- Elementary Share-Out of Resources Reviewed during Meeting #13
- Middle School Share-Out of Resources Reviewed during Meeting #13
- High School Share-Out of Resources Reviewed during Meeting #13

IV. Curriculum List Reduction

A. Divide into K-6, 7-8 ,and 9-12 for curriculum evaluations

- Reminder of Fist to Five Consensus protocol— “3” and above means everyone is okay with the proposal
- Reminder to make proposals with evidence not feelings
- Elementary: Consensus to remove the following curricula from consideration:
 - a) Open SciEd Carolina
 - (1) Summative assessments seem to lack rigor
 - (2) Overall usability of curriculum is a significant concern—difficult to find assessments and other necessary components
 - (3) The amount of prep for teachers is unsustainable
 - b) Accelerate STEMscopes:
 - (1) Rated lower in public comments and teacher virtual tour feedback
 - (2) Insufficient scaffolding and supports for subgroup populations
 - (3) Inadequate supports for novice teachers
 - c) FOSS Pathways (NGSS for 6th)
 - (1) Pathways only goes to 5th grade; would still need NGSS for 6th grade

- (2) Insufficient accommodations or extensions for students with IEPs or Gifted students
- (3) NGSS for 6th grade is cumbersome and lacks sufficient teacher support

- Middle: Reminder of Consensus Protocol - “3” and above means everyone is okay with the proposal. Reviewed proposals to remove curricula from consideration. Each member provided their Fist to Five in person and digitally for each proposal. Middle School reached consensus to remove the following curricula from consideration:
 - a) TCI
 - b) McGraw-Hill
 - c) Mosa Mack
 - d) Open Sci Ed Carolina
- High: Reminder of Fist to Five Consensus Protocol - “3” and above means everyone is okay with the proposal. Reviewed proposals to remove curricula from consideration. Each member provided their Fist to Five in person and digitally for each proposal. High School reached consensus to remove the following curricula from Tier 1 consideration:
 - a) Integrated Science - Pearson Conceptual Integrated Science
 - b) Regular and Honors Biology - Open Sci Ed Pasco, SAVVAS Miller and Levine Biology, Cengage Biology: Concepts and Applications, and HMH Dimensions Biology
 - c) AP/DE Biology - Cengage- The Unity and Diversity of Life and Pearson - Campbell Biology in Focus
 - d) General Chemistry - Open Sci Ed Pasco
 - e) AP Chemistry - Pearson - Chemistry: The Central Science
 - f) General and Conceptual Physics - Open Sci Ed Pasco, OpenStax Physics for HS, HMH Dimensions Physics, and PEER Physics.
 - g) Earth and Space Science - CK12 Earth Science
 - h) Environmental Science - McGraw-Hill Principles of Environmental Science and CK12 Introduction to Environmental Science.
- High: Reached consensus to remove Pre-AP Biology and Pre-AP Chemistry from the supplement list.

V. Call to the Public and Questions

- A. Community Member Comments

VI. Next Steps

- A. Thank you for your service
- B. Next Meeting - Tuesday January 20, 2026 from 4 to 6pm in the District Training Center North Room

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #13 - 12/4/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #11 - 10/13/25 and 10/16/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #10 - 9/30/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #9 - 9/18/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #8 - 9/8/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #7 - 8/26/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #6 - 8/21/25
- ☐ Curriculum Adoption Meeting #5 - 8/14/25
- ☐ 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