

**Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2017**  
**3:30 p.m. - Governing Board Room**

**Members present:** Amy Nesor, Andrew Arthur, Annette Fuelling, Brent Kuszyk, Carrie Hetzel, Christine Werner, Case Cortese, Debbie Bedell-Au, Edita Khanlarian, Emily Blaney, Grace Lee, James Cartnal, Jan Rappleye, Kate Zhang, Lewis Roberts, Richard Weld, Ryan Hainey, Sara Gardner, Tom Traeger, Tracy Lee, Wendy Sinnette, Anais Wenn and Beth Mumper.

Mrs. Wenn opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their flexibility of the meeting date change. She reviewed the purpose of these meetings and thanked the teacher representatives who collect input from colleagues and share with the committee at these meetings. This allows the committee to evaluate the progress that is being made toward the NGSS implementation and make future decisions accordingly.

Mrs. Wenn announced that the K-5 teachers completed their NGSS trainings for this year with enthusiasm and provided positive feedback regarding the quality of the training sessions and their usefulness to their practice. Mrs. Wenn asked the teacher representatives to share what they heard from colleagues regarding the trainings. Several teachers agreed that the trainings were successful and that many teachers were enthusiastic to use what they learned in their classrooms. One of the teachers mentioned that teachers would have liked more time to look at their own lessons and add the necessary components to make it more NGSS aligned.

Mrs. Wenn announced that Steve Zimmerman, 7-12 Science Coordinator resigned last week. Due to the fact that it would not be easy to find a candidate in the middle of the year, the district asked Amy Nesor, the K-6 science coordinator if she would fill the vacancy for the remainder of this year. Mrs. Wenn thanked Amy Nesor for agreeing to assume the duties of K-12 science coordinator.

Mrs. Wenn mentioned that she plans to have Lindi Dreibelbis present at the next meeting regarding State testing of NGSS. It is important for everyone to know what type of assessments are going to be given in the next few years so that we can adequately prepare our students and staff for those assessments.

Mrs. Wenn invited the elementary teacher representatives to provide input from their sites.

Teacher representatives from LCE shared that they gave a survey to the faculty to understand where they were with the implementation of NGSS and gather input to be shared at this meeting. Their survey showed that the teachers were very pleased with the Science Lab Aide. It showed varied responses on the use of NGSS notebooks and the concept of phenomenon. Some teachers feel overwhelmed. Some teachers are purchasing items to implement the NGSS in their lessons. Most have started using science notebooks. Some reported not implementing

any of the changes yet because they are focusing on the new math curriculum. Teachers found the trainings helpful. Mrs. Wenn announced that teachers are not expected to use their own money to purchase materials. They need to reach out to their principals or Anais to make sure the materials they are purchasing are indeed aligned with NGSS and if so, the District will allocate funds for them.

Teacher representatives and the assistant principal from PCY shared their progress on the implementation of NGSS. They reported that teachers are appreciative of their Science Lab Aide who has done a phenomenal job in supporting hands on learning experiences at PCY. They brought a report from their lab aide with pictures of students doing hands on labs and shared with the committee. Teachers are wondering how Science notebooks are being used in other classrooms, schools and districts. Mrs. Wenn mentioned that she had asked Kathy DiRanna, the presenter at the trainings, to bring some sample notebooks to share with the teachers. Notebooks were discussed at one of the trainings and helpful information was provided to teachers. One of the principals took a screenshot of the information and sent it to her teachers. Mrs. Wenn asked if she would send it to all teachers in LCUSD. They mentioned that the concept of phenomenon was finally understood at the training. One of the teachers asked about the expectations on teachers for this year. Mrs. Wenn mentioned that the expectations were clearly communicated in the plan designed by the teachers on the steering committee. The expectations for this year are to use a science notebook and to introduce the concept of phenomenon in their lessons. Teachers are not expected to change the content yet but to introduce the components of the NGSS within their existing lessons.

Teacher representatives from PCR shared that all teachers are trying to do their best. They are appreciative of their Science Lab Aide but feel that they are not fully utilizing her services. She's eager to support the teachers with hands on labs but not many teachers are ready to implement them yet. Their Lab Aide has organized grade level binders for teachers to use. Most teachers are focused on math and/or are piloting ELA, so it is challenging to add NGSS. Teachers at PCR also found the trainings very useful and informative. One teacher shared that she would have liked to have more time to work on lessons. Mrs. Wenn mentioned that collaboration time can be used for this purpose. Trainings are focused on gaining knowledge on concepts from the experts but other planning times can be used to align lessons to NGSS, discuss notebooks, etc. One of the teachers mentioned that they enjoyed the model from the training. Some teachers are engaged in implementing NGSS but want more resources. Mrs. Wenn mentioned again that resources are available and, if teachers would like them, they should talk to their principals.

Mrs. Wenn informed the committee that all five Science Lab Aides had sent reports to be shared but that teachers already shared most of the things they have been doing at the sites. She commended all of them and gave a list of accomplishments they had made since the start of these new positions. All have completed inventory, created science resource rooms, researched the new standards, and have been in classrooms assisting teachers with labs.

LCHS 7/8 science teachers reported that their Science Lab Aide has been a fantastic resource, especially for the 7th grade team. They have been using argument driven inquiry books. Students like the collaboration part of the activities. Their final day of training is next week. One of the teachers is looking forward to using NGSS aligned materials with her class for the next unit of instruction. The 8th grade teacher shared that they are using the CER model learned through TDG trainings from the past two years. They are using structured student talk which works well for the students. They engage in labs every week, have been using notebooks since he started at LCHS and feel challenged by the Chromebooks. They are not sure when to use Chromebooks and when the paper notebook. He shared that it takes a lot of work to incorporate phenomenon into his lessons. He would like a master list of phenomena to be given to teachers. He was not sure about the role of the Science Lab Aide and how to utilize her services. Mrs. Wenn explained that the role of the Science Lab Aide is to not teach a lab, but to assist the teacher with it. She can research information, prep for the lab and assist students during the lab.

The high school science teachers expressed their gratitude for the two Science Lab Aides they have at LCHS. Their aides have inventoried the labs and are very positive and helpful. Students are engaged in structured talk in biology classes and have received assistance from the Science Lab Aide. They have been integrating Earth science into their lessons and have been successful in finding NGSS aligned resources online. Mrs. Wenn asked if he would share those resources with the 8th grade science teachers. One of the Chemistry teachers shared that they would love some help integrating Earth Science in Chemistry.

When talking about resources, one of the teachers mentioned that several websites are available for NGSS aligned materials, but it takes time to dig deeper and find what is needed. She also added that she has been explaining the concept of phenomenon to colleagues as not only an unanswered questions but one that sparks interest in students and makes them want to explore it to get to the answer. One of the administrators mentioned that the NGSS website has dedicated a full section on phenomena and teachers should use this resource if they are having difficulties coming up with phenomena for their lessons.

Amy Nespor reported on the upcoming science events at all sites, spoke about the survey that was sent out to families to solicit parent involvement in science instruction and afterschool activities and shared her experience from the trainings she attended with the elementary teachers. Amy shared that 8 parents have responded at the elementary level. Mrs. Wenn asked her to coordinate the 7-12 surveys with Mr. Carnal to involve 7-12 parents as well.

One of the administrators announced that NGSS will be talked about tonight at the incoming 9th grade parent night. Mrs. Wenn shared that she will also be putting an article in the Superintendent's newsletter on NGSS coming out soon as well as post it on the district's website.

Mrs. Sinnette thanked the teachers for their hard work and recognized the challenges of all the changes that have been happening during the past four years. She also thanked the committee for their contributions.

Mrs. Wenn asked if parents had any input, questions or comments. One of them shared an observation that at the first meeting she sensed a more overwhelmed atmosphere among the teachers, but today they seemed more optimistic and positive. A teacher shared that she felt hiring the science lab aides was premature and should have been done next year but has now realized that it was the right step to take as their help is much appreciated and gets the teachers excited to take the next steps. One of the parents asked that the NGSS information be communicated to parents in multiple ways. She preferred several emails to be sent about it so that parents can read from home.

Mrs. Wenn announced that the Elementary Science Parent Night is on February 7 at PCR at 6:30 p.m. and 7-12 is on February 28 at the District Office at 6:30 p.m. Principals will be sending out invitations soon.

Mrs. Wenn asked if the committee would be willing to move the last meeting from May 4 to May 3. She mentioned that Mathzilla was rescheduled to May 4 and that some of the participants are on this committee and can't make it to both. The members will check their calendars and let Mrs. Wenn know if they cannot make it on May 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Mumper