

NGSS Steering Committee Meeting
October 20, 2016
Governing Board Room

Members Present: Amy Nespor, Annette Fuelling, Brent Kuszyk, Carrie Hetzel, Cortese Case, Debbie Bedell-Au, Edita Khanlarian, Emily Blaney, Grace Lee, Jan Rappleye, Jarrett Gold, Kate Zhang, Lewis Roberts, Richard Weld, Ryan Hainey, Sara Gardner, Steve Zimmerman, Tom Traeger, Tracy Lee, Beth Mumper, Wendy Sinnette, and Anais Wenn.

Assistant Superintendent Anais Wenn opened the meeting at 3:36 PM. She thanked all the committee members for their participation and contributions to this work. Introductions were made. Meeting norms and expectations were reviewed and were unanimously agreed upon by all committee members.

Ms. Wenn played a video on how Science instruction is changing from the current California Science Standards to NGSS, and explained the importance of this committee's role in the implementation of these new standards and teaching practices.

Ryan Hainey explained the Conceptual Shifts in NGSS, covering topics from performance expectations to the alignment of NGSS to the Common Core State Standards in math and ELA. He also spoke about the Three Dimensional teaching approach and Inquiry-based learning.

One of the elementary school teachers was asked to share her understanding of phenomena with the committee. The teacher reported that students are more engaged with the new approach of introducing a phenomenon and are able to see the connection between science and real life. Teachers are starting to do more labs and are using the old science textbooks for content.

Ms. Wenn reported on the NGSS assessments timeline and spoke about the availability of resources. This year a pilot test will be administered. Next year a field test will be administered and the first operational test will be administered in 2019. NGSS approved textbooks/resources are starting to be designed but will not be fully available until 2018.

Principal Emily Blaney shared the Vision statement, Mission Statements and the Core Values of LCUSD's NGSS Implementation Plan. The goal is that over the next 5 years, all TK-12 grade students in LCUSD will engage in three dimensional learning of NGSS.

Ms. Wenn reviewed the different components of the NGSS implementation plan. She especially emphasized the professional development that is being provided to our teachers in order to support them with the implementation of the NGSS. One of the teachers reported that the recent training provided by WestEd was very productive and useful.

Ms. Wenn shared that as per the implementation plan, 5 new Science lab aides have been hired- 1 for each site. The lab aides have started a few weeks ago and have already started

supporting the teachers with labs. A few teachers reported that the lab aides have been a tremendous help already and expressed their appreciation for this added support.

As per the implementation plan, LCUSD hired 2 Science Coordinators to “tell our story” and solicit support and involvement from our community. Mrs. Wenn introduced Mr. Zimmerman, the 7-12 Science coordinator, who gave a report on the work he has been doing at the 7-12 level. Ms. Wenn also introduced Amy Nespor, the Science coordinator and parent representative from LCE. Amy reported that she has met with all three PTA groups and has shared the goals of the NGSS implementation plan. She is working with parents at the sites who are already engaged in some type of science activity and planning to bring varied science activities to all sites. Mrs. Wenn highlighted the importance of parent and community engagement and expressed her gratitude for all that they do for our schools.

A final discussion was held regarding the funding of the NGSS implementation and the role of LCAP in this process. Superintendent Sinnette reviewed the LCAP goals and mentioned that NGSS implementation was part of Goal 3; therefore, funding has been allocated to support this goal.

Anais Wenn mentioned that the next three meetings will focus mainly on the progress made at each site and encouraged teachers and parents to bring input, questions and concerns to these meetings so that the committee can effectively monitor and guide the implementation process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mumper