

Iowa Core Science Standards Review Team

April 14, 2015 9:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

Science Center of Iowa
401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway
Des Moines, Iowa

Meeting Notes

Notes submitted by Susan Peterson

Attendees:

Science Team Members: John Bedward, Lyn Countryman, Renee Harmon, Kris Kilibarda, Rob Kleinow, Lisa Krapfl, Dean Lange, Jon Markus, James Pifer, Abby Richenberger (Remote), Courtney Van Wyk, Wade Weber

Facilitators: Marian Godwin, Susan Peterson

DE Staff Observers: Brad Niebling, Staci Hupp, Rita Martens

Public Observers: Two guests

Notes:

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item: Introduction and welcome

Brad Niebling welcomed and thanked the group for their work, reviewing their purpose and charge. Brad spoke to the group of making data-based decisions as they continue to work toward a recommendation for Iowa Science Standards. The Science Team was again reminded that if they needed additional resources at any point in time, those resources would be provided.

Marian Godwin reviewed the day's agenda and meeting norms.

Agenda Item: Review of March 24th, 2015 Meeting

The March 24th meeting was reviewed. During that meeting, the team voted to work with the following three understandings: 1) to move forward with the acceptance of the Next Generation Science Standards as their starting point, 2) to consider standards to be the Performance Expectations which are constructed from the three foundation boxes, as they move forward with their work, and 3) middle schools should adopt an integrated sequence with specific Performance Expectations located in grades 6, 7, and 8 as per the conceptual progressions pathway in appendix K of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Agenda Item: Large group review of Issues for Discussion which were generated at the March 5th meeting.

Science Review Team members had previously identified topics which needed more discussion based upon the public feedback data. The Team divided these issues/topics among the Content Area Groups for each group to examine in more depth.

Agenda Item: Content Area Teams continue work on data sheets addressing various topics with regard to their disciplines.

Team members broke into their Content Area Groups to address their given topics in detail in relation to the Next Generation Science Standards. The Content Area Groups used worksheets designed to 1) identify the issue or concern, 2) identify the Next Generation Science Standards that address the issue or concern, 3) reference the public feedback data points which relate to the issue or concern and 4) make a recommendation for any adaptations of the Next Generation Science Standards based upon the public feedback.

The following issues/concerns were examined and documented based on public feedback data:

1. Weather and Climate
2. Human Impacts on Earth Systems
3. Global Climate Change
4. Earth and Human Activity
5. The words “over the past century” in the standard MS-ESS 3-5 “*Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.*”
6. Science teachers are uncomfortable teaching engineering design practices.
7. Where should health/wellness/human body systems/nutrition be addressed?
8. Should biological evolution be the only theory utilized in the NGSS?
9. Whether middle school standards should be assigned to a grade span or a grade level.
10. Whether middle school standards should be integrated or discipline specific.
11. One common criticism of the Next Generation Science Standards is that the organization of the NGSS is not user-friendly.
12. NGSS content is too dense (particularly at the high school level).
13. It is important to ensure that Iowa adopt standards that will prepare graduates to be college and career ready.
14. Executive Order “...WHEREAS, rigorous state standards detailing expected academic achievement are essential to provide a high quality education, which is key to students’ futures and the future of this state;...”

The team members reconvened as a large group and discussed the work of the Content Area Groups. All members had an opportunity to offer input for clarification, additions, and modifications of all work related to investigating the issues/concerns.

The Science Review Team was in agreement that no modifications of the content of the Next Generation Science Standards were warranted.

At this point the Science Review Team began formulating a recommendation to submit to the State Board of Education. The following recommendation was developed and put before the Science Review Team for a yes or no vote. The Voting Sheet is shown below:

Recommendation: We recommend the Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations be adopted as grade specific for grades K-8 and grade span 9-12 as Iowa's State Science Standards. Nine members voted 'yes' for this recommendation, and two members voted 'no.'

<p>WE RECOMMEND THE NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS BE ADOPTED AS GRADE SPECIFIC FOR GRADES K-8 AND GRADE SPAN FOR GRADES 9-12.</p>		<p>Signatures AR via phone JEN VIA PHONE Debra WJ JMK JMK Alex Shapp JMK KC</p>	
<p>YES or NO?</p>			<p><i>Fill your one dot below & sign on the right:</i></p>
<p>YES</p> <p>●●●●●●●●○ ○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>●●○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○</p>		
<p>.....</p>			
<p>Sheet # _____ Date: 14 April 2015 Organization/Event: Science Standards Review Team</p>			

The Science Review team agreed to recommend the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards with the stated adaptations as Iowa's new science standards to the Iowa State Board of Education.

Agenda Item: Standards Review Team plans schedule and next steps.

The recommendation will be formalized in a report to be submitted to the State Board of Education, documenting the work of the Science Review Team. The facilitators will work with several members of the team to construct a rough draft of this report for the team to review prior to their next meeting on May 7. At this meeting, the goal is for this report to be finalized and officially approved by the Science Review Team.

Agenda Item: Meeting Adjourns

The meeting was officially adjourned at 3:55 p.m.