



Pacifica School District

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Preparing Students for an Evolving World

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MEMORANDUM

Office of the Superintendent

Meeting of

April 20, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent
SUBJECT: Science Plan Draft: Highlighting Computer Science

Background

On September 4, 2013, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve as required by Education Code 60605.85. These standards reflect the vision for all students to learn science in a relevant and meaningful way by integrating three dimensions: 1) Science and Engineering Practices, 2) Crosscutting Concepts, 3) Disciplinary Core Ideas; to transform instruction and improve science education to prepare students for college and future careers.

Additionally, the SBE approved on November 2013 the Science Expert Panel's (SEP) recommendation that the Integrated Learning Progression as the preferred model for middle grades 6-8 but also requested that SEP develop an alternative discipline specific model. The outcome has been a State preferred Integrated NGSS Model and an alternate Domain Specific Model for grades 6-8.

Pacifica School District began the conversation regarding NGSS in September 2014 with the convening of a district-wide Science Committee by our Science Specialist, Seva Steel. We have had a few changes over the years due to reassignments with the following current members: Cabrillo- Kiyomi Arai, Toni D'Amore, Alex Uribe; IBL- Cole Westbrook, Jean Lakata; Ortega- Stephanie Trelogan, Melyssa West; Ocean Shore – Virginia Szczepaniak, Sophie Korn; Sunset Ridge- Alyssa Freedman, Bridgette Gallo; Vallemar- Janice Miller, Rebecca Moore; Administrator- Karen Gnusti. As you may recall, at the January 2015 Work Study, Education Support Services (ESS) provided [a presentation regarding NGSS](#).

A current draft of the Pacifica School District Science Plan is attached for review and input. The plan is to guide our work over the next few years as we move through the transition process: Phase 1- Awareness (2015-2017), Phase 2- Transition (2017-19), and Implementation (2019-20). It is our hope the plan reflects the shifts teachers will make when implementing the NGSS, the support that will be provided to teachers through professional development and instructional materials, and a thoughtful timeline to ensure successful implementation with consideration of the current work of the teachers.

In addition to the work of the Science Committee, Seva Steel has also focused her attention on the middle grade science (grades 6-8). Viewed as the formative years for fostering a new generation of scientists and engineers as well as for academically preparing the students with the skills to be successful in high school, college, careers and citizenship a more diverse workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers is the underlying catalyst for our work. A presentation by Seva Steel, Christy Novack, Access Equity and Innovation (AEI) Specialist, and hopefully a science teacher from grades 6-8 will highlight our work in grades 6-8 science with a focus on STEM/Computer Science.