

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology
Darcy Kraus, director, elementary school support
Ellen Willets, assistant director, learning & instructional resources

Re: Elementary Science Resource Adoption

Date: March 8, 2018

Background:

In June 2013, the Kansas State Board of education adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Lawrence Public Schools' Elementary Science Leadership Team immediately initiated sharing the standards with buildings, investigating NGSS-aligned instructional resources and field testing resources.

In 2017-18, this work continued with the Leadership Team – comprised of teacher, ELL, SPED, equity and administrative representation. The Leadership Team met monthly for a semester continuing to explore, vet and discuss the options available which satisfied district criteria. Using a comprehensive curriculum rubric, which examined alignment to standards, cultural relevance, student engagement, differentiated instruction, progress monitoring and overall quality, six resources were narrowed to three. Following resource presentations, the committee selected *Mystery Science* with 95% of the leadership team voting in favor of the recommendation. The team chronicled their selection via a shared document, viewable here: [Science Adoption](#) and a direct link to the *Mystery Science* resource can be found here: [Mystery Science](#).

Rationale:

Board Goal 1: Develop and align district expectations for curriculum, instruction and assessment to raise the achievement of all students.

Board Goal 3: Enhance programming and support to meet the varied academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs of each student.

Elementary students, grades K-5, are in need of a new science resource aligned with both Next Generation Science Standards and Lawrence Public Schools' curriculum expectations. *Mystery Science* supports Lawrence Public Schools' goals of Excellence, Equity and Engagement. This purchase represents a 2 year K-5 membership (2018-2019 and 2019-2020).

Recommendation:

The administration recommends board approval of the adoption and purchase of a 2-year K-5 membership to *Mystery Science* for use in K-5 Elementary curriculum in the amount of \$27,972 to be paid from Teaching and Learning, Instructional Materials (2410009270-56560).

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the adoption and purchase of a 2-year K-5 membership to *Mystery Science* in the amount of \$27,972 for implementation beginning in the 2018-2019 school year."