

To: Board of Education

From: Terry McEwen, director, curriculum, instruction & assessment, ext. 2613

Re: Update on Board Goal 1.10-13: Science

Date: May 5, 2016

Background:

In August 2016, the USD497 Board of Education established Board Goal 1: Develop and align district expectations for curriculum and instruction to raise the achievement of all students: sub-goal 10 - Implement K-5 field test for new science standards; sub-goal 11 - Develop and implement integrated 6th grade science course master; sub-goal 12 - Develop support plan for implementation of integrated 7th grade & 8th grade science course masters; sub-goal 13 - Engage high school science department in the implementation of NGSS. This goal and sub-goals will be the focus of an update report.

Rationale:

Curriculum Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for Science, Lizette Burks, along with several teachers from elementary, middle and high school, will provide an update on the progress in the area of Science.

The report will highlight the method and results of the K-5 field test of Next Generation Science Standards aligned resource materials during the current school year. In addition, we will report on the current status of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade integrated science course master, progress on the development of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade course master, and plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course master.

Additional conversations and decisions remain regarding senior high school science, mainly centered on how all Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) can be covered within the current subject-specific course array. Both successes and remaining challenges will be explored during the report.