INFORMATION SHEET 04/13/2021 TRUSTEES' MEETING

To: Jim Bridges, Superintendent

For: Board of Trustees

From: Sarah Steen

Re: TK – 8 CA Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Curriculum Adoption

The District Science Curriculum Adoption Committee recommends adopting STEMscopes science curriculum from Accelerate Learning for grades TK-8, based on careful review of the state approved programs available for adoption.

If this adoption is approved tonight, we would like to also present the specific details about pricing for the curriculum. We have obtained pricing for an 8-year adoption which includes Online subscriptions, Instructional Materials, Teacher Resources, Assessment Package and Professional Development. STEMscopes Quote: $533,945.32.

Expenses not included are fees for additional equipment we will need for labs, ongoing consumables each year, and the hourly pay for training days before school starts and throughout implementation.

The following steps were completed in the adoption process:

- Established JSD Science Adoption Committee made up of teachers from all grades and school sites as well as district instructional coaches and administrators.
- Attended SJCOE training for evaluating science materials
- Reviewed all SBE Approved Programs
- Created District Lens / Criteria
- Set adoption timeline
- Public viewing was held and community input was collected
- Conducted in-depth evaluations of programs (Including: Evaluation, screening, training, publisher presentations and training, and piloting programs in the classroom)
- Used Toolkit to debrief and discuss the programs and came to consensus
- Submitted a recommendation to School Board for approval

STEMscopes is built on an instructional philosophy that centers on students learning science through hands-on exploration and inquiry. Each lesson includes a series of investigations and activities to bring science to life for our students so that they can "learn by doing" and fully engage in the scientific process.

Lessons are built using the research-based "5E+IA" model, which stands for *Engage*, *Explore*, *Explain*, *Elaborate*, *Evaluate*, *Intervention*, and *Acceleration*. Each one of these components of

the lesson cycle features specific resources to not only support our students' understanding of scientific concepts, but also that of our teachers. STEMscopes features many resources for our educators including embedded professional development, lesson instructions, setup videos, and an assessment bank where custom assessments can be created.

The program is strictly aligned to our CA Next Generation Science Standards and aligned with Common Core ELA & Math. It includes resources that incorporate literacy, math, music and videos, interactive tools, and a variety of assessment methods. Developed in partnership with Rice University, the program has been utilized since 2007 and is used by schools and school districts across the country.

Students will receive login credentials to access the program, which features some always-available resources that can be browsed at home, including a Video Glossary and a reference resource called *STEMscopedia*. Each of these *STEMscopedia* reading passages incorporates hands-on activities and a "Connecting with your Child" piece to encourage scientific dialogue. This piece offers a series of questions that you can ask your student to further reinforce concepts learned in school. Additionally, rather than a traditional textbook, your student may come home with a variety of assignments, like reading passages, vocabulary exercises, and at-home hands-on lessons.

Recommended Action: Approve the district adoption of STEMscopes science curriculum from Accelerate Learning for grades TK-8, as presented.