

## **Executive Summary:      Science Textbooks and Materials**

### **Actions to Date:**

1. The science curriculum for grades K – 12 was completed by the staff. The planned course for grades K-12 were presented to the Board for approval prior to the search for materials.
2. Teachers viewed multiple presentations from textbook companies and producers of science kits including Pearson/Prentice Hall, Glencoe, Holt MacDougal FOSS, Carolina Curriculum, SEP-UP as well as several smaller companies.
3. A rubric was created and all presentations were rated by regular education and special education staff who chose to participate in the process.
4. Several meetings were facilitated to bring the teachers together after school. Teachers spent time in grade level and subject area groupings comparing the texts and talking about the components. Teachers were encouraged by Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Hetrick to look at the texts from the perspective of student need, the ability to provide continuity of curricular delivery and the series that would best allow all students to succeed with the material. Teachers expressed a strong desire to be able to use technology and hands-on components.
5. E-mail discussion was facilitated by Mrs. Peterson for all grade levels and another round of meetings was held when there were difficulties selecting materials.
6. After evaluating the materials offered and the quotes provided, the administration is recommending the textbooks and kits identified on the attached documents. The documents are prepared for your convenience rather than reposting each individual planned instruction with the materials listed. The administration will place the titles into planned instruction before it is posted for teacher and public use.
7. The elementary materials are based upon the principles of inquiry science which offers many hands-on experiments to help students understand the scientific process, the procedures used to conduct experiments and other processes required to

understand science. Sixth grade also chose to instruct using these kits. We have used the kits for the past couple of years at Sugar Grove under the Science Its Elementary grant and have been very pleased with the results.

8. The elementary kits will need to be refurbished every two years at an estimated cost of \$50,000 which can be a planned expenditure of the curriculum budget.
9. The 7-12 materials are from a number of different publishers. The teaching staff did a tremendous amount of work to go through the available materials and ensure that what we are getting really supports the planned instruction that was written to match the Standards Aligned System. We are not as concerned about continuity as we might be with language arts or mathematics since science courses are more isolated in content at the upper levels especially.
10. Mr. Giannini attended all of the presentations to ensure that our technology department could support and deliver the technology pieces that accompany the selected materials.
11. Board members or members of the public who wish to review any of these materials may contact Mrs. Janet Peterson via district email or Mrs. Amanda Hetrick at Central Office or via district e-mail to make arrangements for viewing.

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### **Financial Implications:**

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The elementary materials total \$280,223.95 and the secondary materials total \$339,288.03. The total cost for the materials is \$619,511.98. The past practice has been to purchase materials in the spring so that the teachers have time to participate in professional development and work with the materials prior to the start of the school year. The money to be used for these purchases is in the textbook account which currently holds approximately \$650,000.

### **Recommended Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of the materials listed to fully implement the adopted science curriculum for Warren County School District.