

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON ACTION REPORT FROM THE GENERAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE PROGRAM STUDY GROUP

April 24, 2023

Background Information:

The current HCPS Science curriculum was updated, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and approved in September 2015. Since 2019, the Office of Science in conjunction with the Office of Early Childhood Education, has been in the process of reviewing and identifying instructional gaps in the kindergarten science curriculum. A number of gaps exist within the curriculum, which now warrant revision. Over the past two years, early childhood science programs have been published by vendors with promising instructional materials that align with the NGSS. The kindergarten science curriculum team previewed and piloted McGraw Hill and Smithsonian Science for more in-depth understanding and implementation of each program. After the two-year field test the team determined that rewriting the current kindergarten Thematic Unit Block (TUB) units to be more aligned with the NGSS and the 5E (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) instructional model was the best choice for rigor and developmentally appropriate instruction.

Discussion:

At their April 18, 2023 meeting, the General Curriculum Committee approved the request from the Offices of Science and Early Childhood to approve the formation of a team of Kindergarten teachers who have had professional development in the NGSS and 5E instructional model to revise and update the current Kindergarten Science Program over the summer of 2023 and through school year 2024-2025.

Requested Action:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the formation of the above-mentioned team of Kindergarten teachers to revise and update the current Kindergarten Science Program.