



# STEM MATERIALS CENTER

Winter 2017 Newsletter



## SMC Elementary Work group update - Physical Science

### RECOMMENDATION FOR 1ST GRADE:

New FOSS readers are in place and materials have been upgraded and revised to support the "Waves: Light and Sound" OER teacher guide that was approved in October. Complete revisions should be ready for the April rotation.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR 2ND GRADE:

New FOSS student books for Solids & Liquids will be purchased with already approved funds in time for spring rotation.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR 3RD GRADE:

The group worked on identifying an anchoring phenomenon and coherent storyline for a unit on Forces and Interactions. They did this using materials and investigations from FOSS 2nd Generation Models and Designs and magnetism from FOSS 2nd Generation Magnetism and Electricity, and adding pendulums from FOSS Variables kit.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR 4TH GRADE:

Using the Equip Rubric, the group found that the FOSS Next Gen Edition does not adequately address Waves or Energy Transfer. They feel Parts of the 2nd Edition Magnetism and Electricity kit are worth keeping and they would be able to use them as well as OER to build a unit with a coherent storyline.

Teachers are encouraged to provide feedback to Stacy as they teach the new units.

The Advisory would like Stacy and Vickei to convene a review panel to compare more of the commercially available science kits against the OER and bring the data back to the advisory at the next meeting.

## Middle School Proposed Model

Advisory members were asked to consider the following questions on revising the middle school structure to include core kits, OER units and equipment-only kits:

- Can districts opt in to portions of the structure (only request materials/equipment vs receive core curriculum kits)?
- Is purchasing new middle school core kits a viable option?

Vickei will be sending out a survey to the curriculum directors and Science Fellows of each of the districts that participate in the SMC Cooperative asking for feedback to gather their opinion on the discussion questions so the advisory has a better idea of the needs of the districts.

## Budget Update

We started the 2016-17 year with \$308,031 in the reserve. By 2017-18, we will have \$556,801 of which \$402,453 has been committed to spend leaving \$167,200 available to spend for the 2017-18 school year.

## Minutes

After obtaining approval from the advisory, the approved minutes will now be posted on the [STEM Materials Center Website](#). Current budget reports will also be shared to the SMC website after Advisory approval.

## Next Advisory Council Committee Meeting:

March 29, 2017  
9:30 a.m.

## Contacts

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