



PFT Health and Welfare Fund  
Department of Educational Issues  
Science Committee Meeting  
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel  
Saturday, January 7, 2017

Committee members in attendance:

Tasnim Aziz  
Paula Conzelman  
LeAnne Fox-Jones  
Theresa Maas-Anger  
Eual Phillips

**Current Issues:**

- **Communication**--Teachers are unaware of professional development opportunities available throughout the district, specifically through the Educational Issues Department
  - Teachers lack time to wade through multiple, often disorganized emails for PD, grants, and other useful opportunities.
- Limited time, development, and supplies allotted for elementary school science
- **Curriculum Change**--Teachers would appreciate better communication regarding modifications to the science curriculum.
  - Posted changes provided by the District are incomplete
  - Site sometimes unavailable, hard copies do not exist
- Learning to embed technology in lesson plans
- Eual Phillips --IB course assistance, providing for fieldwork and practical experiences required

**Resources:**

- Create list of inventory available for teachers to utilize
  - Educational Issues inventory
  - Are individual teachers willing to share?

- TeacherTube station populated with Philadelphia classroom experiments and adventures
- Discussion forums/opportunities to connect with colleagues
- Request for science team to deliver resources to schools
- Subscription to Scribble Pro--supports annotation skills--\$1k/school
- Virtual Reality Goggles and plans
  - Surgery, dissections, atoms
- Ozobots and ARCbots
- "Ideas for June"--Productive and engaging plans for teachers to implement at the end of the academic year
- Water and soil test kits

#### **Professional Development:**

- **3D Printing**
- Coding: Python and Scratch--supports student employability
- Ozobot and ARCbots/programming
- Drones
- Vernier Probes
- Environmental Science
  - Water and soil testing
- Literacy skills in science

Eual suggested that Hill Freedman would benefit from a tailored PD that helps teachers realize cross-curricular planning potential.

- Connections with other groups: Penn, Need in Deed, etc. to maximize opportunity

#### **Proposed Next Steps:**

- Maintain a shared Google Calendar that contains information regarding PD district-wide
- Publicize PD and inventory list
- Create curriculum-aligned, ready-to-implement, science lessons and material kits for elementary school teachers
- Participants request quarterly meetings

#### **Decided Next Steps--January 12, 2017 Science Team Meeting**

- Ensure that our Educational Issues website is up-to-date and advertised
  - Involve Union Representatives to share this resource
  - Reach out to web-design team
- Design and implement an augmented reality professional development workshop
- Purchase Ozobots as resource for teachers
- Sustain science committee members' momentum by requesting contribution to a resource pool
- Invite more elementary teachers to serve as committee members