

Science Study Group Meeting Notes -- March 2, 2009

Present: Tim, Dave, Kris, Graham, Aiddy, Karla, Laura, Ruth

1. Opening Remarks—Tim:

- We need to come up with a focus with pros/cons.
- Focus on technology in the Science labs
- A format for our report

2. Copies of checklists from a book recommended by Scott were handed out along with a safety checklist from Dave. Tim would like to see the Junior Highs go through these checklists.

3. Report from Graham Jones

- Teachers are more worried about space for Kindergarten and Special Ed.
- A science lab is on the wish list but not a priority.

4. Email Report from Scott Moore

- Teachers would like to keep their own labs rather than having central labs—difficulty in scheduling because of the block schedule on Tues/Weds
- Square footage of labs/classrooms not a problem
- Updates needed for rooms had been outlined by Dave

5. Report from Ruth Henderson

- See attached document
- Both Indian Hills and Stilwell have some safety issues that need to be addressed.
- Indian Hills seems to have more maintenance and room layout issues

6. Dave helped to outline focus and report format

- If a lab were to be added at each elementary—there would be a need to in-service teacher to more fully utilize the lab.
- Research says there is a benefit to students collecting and organizing their own data—leads to more independent, flexible thinkers.

Report Format

K-6

- Enhance current classrooms to be more science-friendly in grades 4-6
- If bldg is expanded—add a science lab
- List pros/cons only fro K-6

7-8

- Items that address safety/code should have top priority
- List issues
- See audit from NSTA

VSV

- Dave will check—no information at this time

VHS

- Items that address safety/code should have top priority
- List issues
- See audit from NSTA

Dave and Tim will put this document together electronically.
We will add to this by e-mail—reply all to develop a discussion strand.

Safety
Code
Quality experiences for kids
Implement the curriculum we have

Next Meeting: March 26 at 5 p.m.
VHS—Scott's Room—302
This will enable us to tour the VHS science rooms
Enter –North—Main Entrance on Woodland
Linda will bring a camera to take pictures