

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow (McClusky), Vice Chairman Kerby, Representative(s) Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, DeMordaunt  
**GUESTS:**

**Vice Chairman Kerby** called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Vice Chairman Kerby** opened the science standards discussion explained how last year the committee had a presentation on standards then formed subcommittees and wrote letters to the State Board of Education with recommendations for adjustments to the standards. Now, a year later, it is time to reevaluate and create a new letter.

**Reps. Wisniewski and Toone** expressed the need for supporting content. Last year the supporting content was taken out of the standards and they believe that material cannot be divorced from the standards. Furthermore, they stated supporting content is vital to new teachers who may have a hard time implementing such broad standards without the added information.

**Rep. Moon** discussed her worry about the age appropriateness of the standards. There are concepts to be learned at each age and students should not be confused by introducing too large of concepts too early. She also expressed the need for balance. Students shouldn't be learning only two key themes one year, and ten the next.

**Rep. Ehardt** stated the committee should not over-dictate. Of the eighteen states that use Next Generation Standards, only one state adopted all of the supporting content as well.

**Rep. Marshall** explained one of the reasons the supporting content was thrown out was because of some political language. However, he does not believe this is a good reason to dismiss all supporting content. Furthermore, he expressed worry about the 'do' statements in the standards as those can be difficult to assess.

In further discussion of political language in the supporting content and overall standards, members of the subcommittee on science standards explained they feel it has been cleaned up pretty well especially in physical science and chemistry. They worked hard to find the balance and ensure there was no politics, just science. Other members of the committee expressed their feelings that the upper grades still focused too much on climate change and those standards still needed a bit of cleaning up.

In further debate about supporting content it was brought up how math standards clearly lay out content. It was also stated that the supporting content can still be found by people who want it, it does not need to be published directly in the standards in order for teachers to have the opportunity to read it.

**Sharon Cates**, Science Coordinator for the State Department of Education, answered committee questions explaining the state department has a website. It would be possible to publish additional documents there as some elementary teachers expressed difficulty understanding the standards as they are written. She also stated of the supporting content, from the Next Generation Standards only a portion of the standards were adopted while a majority of the standards are supporting content. Furthermore, information from the supporting content can end up in assessment of the standards.

The committee discussed the disconnect between the information provided in the standards and how the students are assessed. However, no conclusion was reached as assessment is not handled by the committee but by The State Board of Education.

**Vice Chairman Kerby** thanked the committee for the discussion and asked committee members to begin working on the draft of the science standards letter.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

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Representative Kerby  
Chair

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Kennedy Jones  
Secretary