

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 2019

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019
Time: 8:15 a.m.
Location: West Campus, Seminar A
Committee Members Present: Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands, Alice LeVert, Julie Eglite
Administration Present: Mike Simeck, Rebecca Jenkins, Susan Milsk, Kate Cavanaugh
Staff Present:
Approval of Minutes: Motion by Suzanne Sands, Seconded by Alice LeVert
Public Comment: None

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on Friday, March 15 at West Campus. We were joined by Susan Milsk, Rebecca Jenkins, Jordan Salus, and Renee Fitzsimmons.

Digital Portfolio Update – Renee Fitzsimmons

Renee Fitzsimmons provided an update on the implementation of digital portfolios K-8. Documentation and reflecting are a key element of inquiry-based learning, and digital portfolios are an important tool to help students in documenting and reflecting upon their work. Digital Portfolios help make the learning “sticky.” 90% of District 67 teachers find value in digital portfolios.

The District is currently on-track to achieve its goal of every student having a digital portfolio by 2020. K-4 students utilize SeeSaw for their Digital Portfolios, whereas 5-8 students use Google Sites.

iPad Update and Recommendation – Renee Fitzsimmons, Jordan Salus

1-to-1 iPads are being utilized in grades K-1, whereas grades 2-8 use 1-to-1 Chromebooks. Renee and Jordan are examining which technology/platform makes sense to utilize going forward. Currently, iPads are being used for much more beside consuming media. The K-1 classes are using them for research, creativity (taking videos/pictures to reinforce lessons), interactive whiteboards, as well as for games, searches, and video.

Renee and Jordan recommended implementing a trial program after Spring Break of this year that would place 1-to-1 iPads in the hands of all 2nd graders and 5th grade teachers. The idea is to let these two groups use the platform for the remainder of the year to inform technology decisions for the 2019-20 school year. The 5th grade teachers would also receive professional development over the summer. The costs for these devices are already in the 2018-19 budget and, due to the similarity in pricing between iPads and Chromebooks, any future changeover in technology shouldn't have a tremendously negative impact on anticipated costs in the 5-year Capital Plan. Renee and Jordan anticipate presenting this recommendation to the Board in April.

AATH Textbook Recommendation – Susan Milsk

The District needs to purchase 75 new AATH textbooks for the 2019-20 school year. The current textbooks were purchased in 2006 and are in pretty bad shape. District 67 worked closely with District 115 and District 65 to come up with a recommendation that will align all three Districts instructionally. This recommendation will be brought before the Board at the April meeting.

Advanced Learning Update – Susan Milsk

The District has announced plans to move to heterogeneous ELA learning environments/classrooms in 5th grade starting with the 2019-20 school year. This is based on recommendations from the Center for Talent

Development. FAQs and details regarding this move are available on the District's website (<https://www.lakeforestschools.org/district-departments/curriculum/district-67-curriculum/gifted-and-advanced-learners>).

The District will also be exploring the possibility of creating an "Advanced Learning Specialist" role in grades 5/6 to help insure rigor and growth for advanced learners.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 am. in West Campus, Seminar Room A.