

To: Board of Education

From: Philip Bender, Superintendent
Bernadette Tramm, Strategic Plan Internal Facilitator

Date: August 22, 2011

Subject: Update on Strategic Plan

District 64 is entering its second year of implementation activities on Strategic Plan "*Journey of Excellence*" with growing momentum generated by a successful first year and the keen interest in moving forward on action plans, including pilots in two strategy areas. District 64 expects to again involve almost 400 teachers and administrators in implementation activities this year.

A leadership group reporting to the Superintendent will manage the workflow for 2011-12. This includes: Director of Technology Terri Bresnahan/Strategy I; Lincoln Assistant Principal Tim Gleason/Strategy II; Roosevelt Principal Kevin Dwyer/Strategy III; Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning Diane Betts/Strategy IV; Washington Principal Kim Nasshan/Strategy V; and Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm/Internal Facilitator.

Structure for Year 2

In 2011-12, all certified staff will again be involved in one of three strategy committees requiring significant teacher support. Most teacher committee assignments have been carried over into 2011-12, but some adjustments will be made. Within Strategy IV Student Learning, members of the science subgroup will be shifted to math because the common core standards are not yet available in science. In addition, grades K-5 classroom teachers will be solicited to move from Strategy I Technology to math, as extra support is needed in this subject group representing these grades. New teachers received an overview from Assistant Superintendent Diane Betts as part of their District 64 Orientation on August 15-16. New teachers will be incorporated onto the three committees to fill vacancies and according to their background experiences.

Strategic Plan activities also are a priority for all District 64 administrators and each plays a leadership role in one or more of the action plans. New administrators received an initial orientation in June and received assignments.

Year 2 Kickoff and Schedule

In keeping with the District's change protocol to support and prepare staff for changes as the "*Journey of Excellence*" moves forward, motivational speaker Mark Scharenbroich presented the keynote address at the teacher Institute Day on Friday, August 19. He engaged teachers and administrators to think about ways they can develop stronger connections; acknowledge and honor the contributions each brings to the journey; and, view the change process itself through the lens of the District's ongoing civil behavior initiative.

Also that day, all staff members received a “*Journey of Excellence*” lanyard and a two-sided overview of the activities planned for 2011-12. (Attachment 1) In addition, framed posters of the District’s mission have been installed at all District 64 buildings. (Attachment 2) We hope these items will be a reminder of our shared mission. The District’s mission also will be particularly spotlighted in a variety of other ways this year.

As in 2010-11, the work plan for the year ahead includes both Wednesday building meetings and two Institute Days. Based on the experience of the first year and the recommendation of the District’s Staff Development Committee, how the time will be used is being adjusted:

- Wednesday building meetings – approximately half the meeting time on these dates will be focused on Strategic Plan; teachers will remain at their buildings and will have an opportunity to develop understanding and engage in activities related to each strategy with their own school colleagues
 - September 14 – Strategy II Student Goals
 - December 7 – Strategy III Community Partnership
 - February 29 – Strategy I Technology
 - April 25 – Strategy IV Student Learning
- Institute Days – full-day work sessions at assigned locations; teachers will meet with their strategy committee to focus on year 2 activities
 - Tuesday, November 8
 - Friday, February 10

In coming weeks, administrators for each strategy group will meet to prepare work plans for their assigned building sessions and for Institute Day tasks.

Reports to the Board of Education will again be delivered through the year, including both updates and formal progress check-ins. In addition, opportunities also will be planned for the Board to learn more about the instructional coaching pilot in technology being undertaken at Lincoln, Franklin and Roosevelt schools this year, as well as other key activities in each strategy. Outreach and communication to parents and community members will again be an important component of 2011-12 Strategic Plan activities.

With these plans in place, we look forward to a second year of solid progress on our “*Journey of Excellence*” in 2011-12.

2011-12

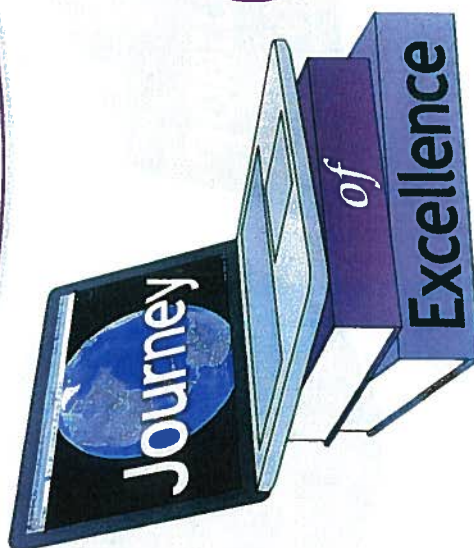
Key Dates

Year 2 Implementation

Wednesday Building Meetings

- **September 14** – Strategy II Student Goals
- **December 7** – Strategy III Community Partnership
- **February 29** – Strategy I Technology
- **April 25** – Strategy IV Student Learning

An opportunity for colleagues at each building to develop understanding and engage in activities related to each strategy



Mission

The mission of District 64, a vital partnership of staff, families and community, is to inspire all students to embrace learning, discover their strengths, and achieve personal excellence in order to thrive and contribute to a rapidly changing world by providing a rich, rigorous and innovative curriculum integrating civil behavior and fostering resilience.

An opportunity for each strategy committee to come together for full day work sessions to focus on Year 2 activities

Institute Days

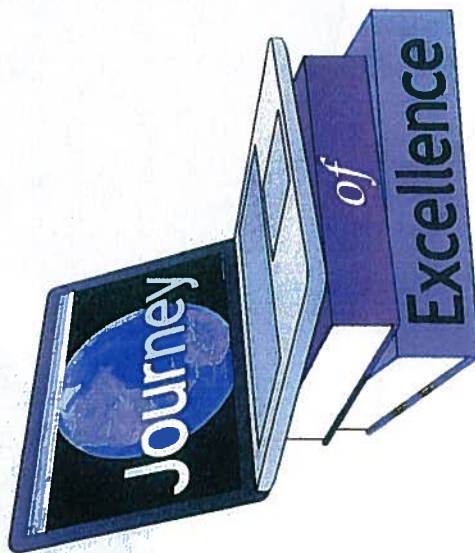
- **Tuesday, November 8**
- **Friday, February 10**

Strategy III – Partnership

- Outreach to community and staff about service learning
- Plan for pilot with volunteers in 2012-13
- Expand language translation services based on family survey

Strategy V – Change Protocol

- Use checklist to plan for changes initiated in all strategies



Year 2 Implementation Activities 2011-12

Strategy I – Technology

- Committee members begin to implement tech-rich activities for students and develop assessments based on scope & sequence and NETS
- Use staff survey data to guide professional growth opportunities
- Establish minimum tech usage guidelines based on NETS for teachers
- Implement and assess the tech coaching pilot at three schools: Lincoln, Franklin & Roosevelt
- TIC: reviews policies related to tech usage in the District for staff & students; recommends hardware/ software purchases for 2012-13
- Plan for infrastructure and tech support based on audit

Strategy II – Student Goals

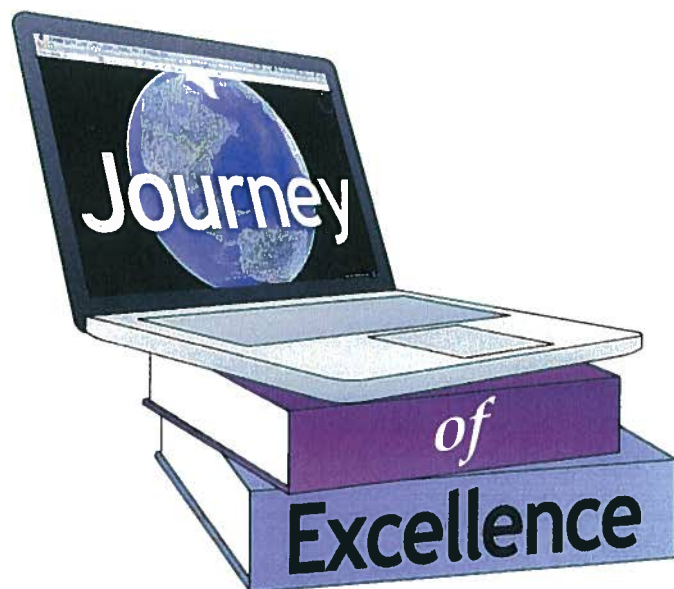
For grade levels bands:

- Committee members pilot goal-setting with students in the areas of academics, civil behavior, talents & interests
- Develop age-appropriate student goal-setting formats
- Investigate tools to monitor goals
- Determine how parent-teacher conferences incorporate student goal-setting

Strategy IV – Student Learning

- “Unwrap” identified priority standards & develop common assessments for all core & encore areas in all grade levels
- Develop a timeline for implementation of priority standards & plan for staff development needs
- Survey staff on differentiation & determine staff development needs

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**Park Ridge - Niles
School District 64**

Strategic Plan

Adopted by the Board of Education May 10, 2010

