

Memorandum of Information 2010-11 #024

To: Board of Education

From: Philip Bender
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Date: February 28, 2011

Subject: Strategic Plan Update

The 2010-11 school year is the first year of implementation activities for the District's new Strategic Plan "*Journey of Excellence*." The entire plan is expected to take a minimum of five years to implement, and includes 26 individual action plans. A complete report on activities undertaken since the start of school was presented to the Board of Education at the December 13, 2010 meeting. This memo is intended to update the Board on activities since that time.

Background

The Board-approved implementation plan calls for at least some initial activity on 20 of the 26 action plans over the course of the 2010-11 school year. This fall, work on nine action plans was initiated according to that schedule:

- Strategy I – Accelerating the Advanced Use of Technology: Plans 1 and 6
- Strategy II – Building a Model for Personal Student Goals: Plans 1-3
- Strategy IV – Expectations for Student Learning and Instructional Practices: Plans 1, 6, 9 and 11

All certified teachers, curriculum specialists and all administrators – about 400 employees in total – are actively involved in activities related to implementing these nine action plans. A combination of staff development Wednesdays, building meetings and the morning portion of the November 2 Institute Day were used in fall 2010; the committees were then on hiatus until this month.

2011 Activities

At the District level, the ESC administrative team met for an extended working session on January 4 to continue guiding these efforts overall. The team thoroughly reviewed the work accomplished thus far; began reviewing the schedule for spring and future years; considered how work will be structured going forward on each action plan; and began developing budget options for 2011-12. The Team will meet again in March/ April to further review progress and develop specific recommendations for 2011-12 to be presented to the Board later this spring for approval.

At the specific strategy level, Director of Technology Terri Bresnahan/Strategy I, Lincoln Assistant Principal Tim Gleason/Strategy II and Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning Diane Betts/Strategy IV also have been working independently with the leaders of their various grade level or subject area committees within their plans to assess progress and plan workflow.

As a result of these efforts, all strategic plan groups were reconvened for the fourth and fifth all-District work sessions, which were held utilizing the staff development time on Wednesday, February 16 and the morning portion of the February 22 Institute Day.

The leaders of the groups are now reconvening to review the activities accomplished. Based on this analysis, it is likely that some subsets of the strategic plan committees will be assembled using release time to continue work this spring. The sixth and final all-District strategic plan work session will be held utilizing staff development time on Wednesday, May 18.

In addition to these activities, two other steps have been completed for Strategy I – Advanced Technology:

- The Board at the February 14 meeting approved the release of funds for completion of network infrastructure hardware (Strategy I, Action Plan 6), which was authorized originally as part of the 2010-11 implementation budget.
- The Technology Implementation Committee (TIC) (Strategy I, Action Plan 7) has been formed and includes about 15 volunteers from the current strategic plan committee. Modeled on similar functions in the private sector and at the state and federal levels, the group will begin work in March to ensure value-driven technology implementation.

Further Activities

Implementation activities also are beginning as scheduled in these new areas:

- The first efforts are underway in Strategy III – Collaboration within our Partnership. Dr. Bender is leading Action Plan 1, which seeks to expand the involvement of all members of our partnership to provide a rich, more powerful and diverse student learning experience. The work will begin with a meeting to review the work of the Action Planning Team from fall 2009.
- Strategy IV, Action Plan 2 – Assistant Superintendent Sandra Stringer will be meeting in March with all principals and a representative from the District's online application service provider, General ASP. The meeting will focus on the application tool that will be used to help screen new certified teacher candidates for differentiation experience in student learning and instruction.

A more detailed progress report to the Board is scheduled for April 4.

We believe that this District-wide committee structure continues to offer each certified staff member an opportunity to build a personal connection to the *"Journey of Excellence,"* and that this involvement will increase understanding as implementation activities carry forward into future years.