

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Philip Bender, Superintendent
Bernadette Tramm (Strategic Plan Internal Facilitator)
DATE: June 27, 2011
SUBJECT: Update on Strategic Plan Instructional Coaching Pilot for Technology

Background

The Board of Education on May 23 approved the Strategic Plan activities and budget for 2011-12 for the five strategy areas. A one-year pilot for three certified teachers to work as instructional coaches in technology was included as part of Action Plan 3 within Strategy I/ Accelerating the Advanced Use of Technology. The instructional coaches will provide research-proven professional development that will help District 64 meet the strategic plan goal of accelerating teachers to the next level so they can swiftly impact student learning.

As presented this spring, the pilot will assign a full-time instructional coach at three schools: one middle school (either Emerson or Lincoln), one large enrollment elementary school (Field, Roosevelt or Washington), and one small enrollment elementary school (Carpenter or Franklin). This configuration was recommended by the Technology Implementation Committee (TIC), a subcommittee of the Strategy I committee. It is designed to generate a wide array of information needed to evaluate the impact of instructional coaching on an entire faculty under differing circumstances.

In addition, a Staff Technology Survey also was completed in May by 319 certified teachers. The data was reviewed by the Strategy I committee during the final all-District early release Wednesday used for strategic planning on May 18. The committee members broke into smaller groups by building and used guiding questions to review and synthesize the data by school. They then reconvened as middle school and elementary groups to share commonalities in terms of professional development needs.

Selection of Schools for Pilot

After careful consideration of this survey data and the pilot objectives, along with discussion with building and District administrators, three schools have been selected to each receive an instructional coach for technology in 2011-12:

- Middle school: Lincoln
- Large enrollment elementary school: Roosevelt
- Small enrollment elementary school: Franklin

The rationale for this decision includes:

- Established principals in each of these buildings will provide support and leadership for the pilot at the building level.
- Administrators in each of these buildings have been or will be leaders in the Strategic Plan's technology committee and the TIC.
- Teachers in these buildings represent a wide range of ability usage in terms of technology as reported on the Staff Technology Survey. Technology coaches,

therefore, will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to provide professional growth for teachers ranging from novice users to proficient users.

- The non-certified technologists in each of these buildings are highly effective in their roles and will be critical in the support of the coaching pilot.
- Roosevelt has substantial technology hardware in the building that can demonstrate the maximum potential of all types of equipment when combined with a technology coach.

As stated earlier in the spring, the instructional coaching pilot in 2011-12 is intended to provide a wealth of measurable data for critical evaluation. This array of schools should provide the information needed to assess how progress has been achieved on the specific functions and services that the coaches will provide and the impact of these services on the use of advanced technology by teachers.

We look forward to a successful second year of implementation of all Strategic Plan activities in 2011-12, and will continue to update the Board on progress of all the plans.