



Board Summary

Instructional Materials Update

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum (TLC), presented a report to the Richland School Board on the district's efforts to update and renew curricula and materials in schools. The district implemented a six-year plan to review and update curricula and materials. Since then the district has implemented new curricula for world language, social studies, English language arts and digital citizenship. New math curriculum for all students is being implemented this school year. Art, technical education, special education Life Skills and transition courses and secondary science are the next subjects up for curriculum updates. Board members discussed whether to stick with a 6-year renewal cycle of materials or opt to push it to a 7-year cycle. Board members also indicated their interest in having a workshop meeting dedicated to further review and discussion of the district's instructional materials.

K-12 Math Update

Mrs. Blake presented an update to the Board on implementation of new math curriculum and materials in all district schools. Teacher manuals for the new curricula were delivered to teachers before school ended in June and they and administrators were trained on the materials before the start of the 2019-20 school year. Further training and support are being provided through the school year and upon request from teachers. TLC staff are working on creating a document for parents that identifies tools within our newly adopted instructional materials to help support learning at home.

2019 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAs)

Deputy Superintendent Mike Hansen presented to the board the results of the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAs) administered to students in Grades 3 to 8 in Spring 2019. Mr. Hansen's data varies slightly from that reported by the state as the state's results include students who did not take the tests.

Mr. Hansen said average English language arts (ELA) scores for the district show positive gains at all grade levels over a five-year window. Math results vary and while the district outperforms the state at the elementary level, the percentage of students reaching proficiency generally declines as students move through their academic career. The median growth for RSD students in ELA has improved over the past four years while scores on this measure for math remain flat.

The district continues to work to narrow the achievement gap between those students who do and do not receive free and reduced price meals and/or receiving special education services. All schools in the RSD have developed School Improvement Plans utilizing the data specific to each schools with 2020 goals established and with trend line data updated for ELA, math, absenteeism, discipline and graduation ate. Each action plan will be reviewed and actions will be developed to create instructional changes that move the needle.

Board members discussed looking at new ways to support student growth, particularly in math where student proficiency appears to decline as students go from third- to eighth-grade.

Policy No. 3423 – Parental Administration of Marijuana for Medical Purposes

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, presented a new policy regarding parental administration of marijuana for medical purposes to students. The legislature passed a bill in the recent legislative session that allows parents of a child who is a qualifying patient under Washington's medical marijuana law are permitted to administer marijuana infused products to their child on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or while attending a school-sponsored event. The law does not allow a student to be administered marijuana by smoking it. The medication may not be stored on school grounds or carried by students. School staff are not permitted to handle or administer it and districts may continue to take punitive steps, including termination against employees who possess or use drugs. The law includes a mechanism to suspend its own implementation if the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) and school districts must suspend implementation if the federal government issues a communication that suggests that implementation will result in the withholding of federal education funds and Washington state's Attorney General finds that it has been "reasonably demonstrated" that implementation of the law would "reasonably jeopardize" future federal funding. The board approved the first reading of the policy.

Superintendent Search Firm Interviews

Board members discussed the next steps in the selection of a consultant to assist them in finding superintendent candidates. Three consultant firms replied to the board's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) — Ray and Associates, Inc., Human Capital Enterprises and Northwest Leadership Associates. Board members indicated they want to interview representatives from all three firms before making a selection at the Oct. 22 board meeting. Board member Jill Oldson will conduct reference checks of all three firms before the interviews.