BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: June 29, 2023

Topic: Verizon Innovative Learning Schools

Background Information (History, Rationale, etc):

This partnership fosters a dynamic and inclusive educational environment where all students have equal access to technology resources, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. Through this continued partnership, we aim to bridge the digital divide and ensure that every student has the tools and resources necessary to succeed in the modern world.

We recognize the transformative power of technology in education and its ability to engage students, enhance their critical thinking abilities, and prepare them for the future workforce. By embracing the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools initiative, we are equipping our students with the necessary digital skills and competencies that are essential for success in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Furthermore, our purpose extends beyond the classroom, as we strive to create a strong partnership with Verizon and Digital Promise. Through this collaboration, we aim to develop a sustainable model for integrating technology into our curriculum, while also providing professional development opportunities for our educators. By leveraging the expertise and resources of Verizon and Digital Promise, we can continually improve our instructional practices and ensure that our students receive the highest quality education.

In summary, Wichita Public Schools is committed to continuing with the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools initiative to empower our students with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to thrive in the digital age. By embracing this program, we are bridging the digital divide, fostering innovation, and preparing our students for a future that is increasingly reliant on technology.

The district originally applied for the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Initiative in the fall of 2019. The plan was to have these schools be our “lighthouse schools” for showing how to create the right systems for a 1:1 device environment. Through a yearlong application process, we were approved for all 12 Middle Schools that had submitted. At the time we didn’t know the pandemic was going to occur and push all of our schools into a 1:1 device initiative. This grant saved the district over $4 million in device & warranty costs so far.

Current Verizon Innovative Learning Schools:

1. Brooks Center for STEM and Arts Magnet
2. Coleman Middle School
3. Curtis Middle School
4. Hadley Middle School
5. Hamilton Middle School
6. Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy
7. Marshall Middle School
8. Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet
9. Mead Middle School
10. Pleasant Valley Middle School
11. Robinson Middle School
12. Truesdell Middle School