

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: September 23, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-09-(2)-08

ACTION: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Denise Morton PHONE: (919)732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. MOU between Orange County Schools and CTQ, Inc.

PURPOSE: To request the Board of Education review and approve the MOU between the Orange County Schools and the CTQ.

BACKGROUND: The CTQ is a national nonprofit established since 1999 that is located in Carrboro, North Carolina. The Center focuses on teachers transforming teaching for the benefit of all students.

The MOU describes a partnership between the CTQ and the school district to engage the leadership of National Board Certified teachers (NBCTs) in further implementing the common core state standards. A group of secondary Orange County NBCTs will be selected to come together to create a virtual community focused on developing and disseminating tools to meet the needs of their schools as it relates to the common core.

This MOU is underwritten by a grant the CTQ received from the Gates Foundation on improving teacher quality and providing teacher leadership opportunities to lead implementation of the common core.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There will be no financial impact for the district. The Gates foundation grant will provide funding for all activities associated with the MOU.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the MOU between the Orange County Schools and the CTQ.



Memorandum of Understanding between Orange County Public Schools and Center for Teaching Quality, Inc.

A working agreement to facilitate teacher-led implementation of the Common Core State Standards

Background Information

The Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ) and Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) (hereafter, "the District") will enter into a partnership to engage the leadership of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). A core team of 20 teacher leaders from North Carolina districts, including 6-8 from the District will come together to create a virtual community focused on developing and disseminating tools to meet the needs of their schools, districts, and states. CTQ staff and teacher leaders will connect, ready, and mobilize this core cadre and broker opportunities for teachers to lead Common Core implementation.

Contractual Agreement

This working agreement includes the responsibilities of CTQ and the District in advancing this work, as well as the related activities for each entity.

CTQ agrees to:

- Identify a CTQ point of contact for this project;
- Assist/advise the district in selecting members for this cohort, using criteria outlined in a subsequent section of this agreement;
- Develop the cohort's research, policy, and background skills and prepare them to collaborate efficiently and effectively within and beyond the group by:
 - Building essential background knowledge and understanding around tools for implementing the CCSS by facilitating face-to-face as well as virtual professional development;
 - Establishing an online community devoted to enabling ongoing asynchronous conversations and collecting policy, research, and practice resources;
 - Creating opportunities for cohort members to participate in a series of webinars offered throughout CTQ's wider virtual community, including presentations on relevant education policy topics; and

- Connecting cohort members to teacher leaders throughout the country within our virtual network, allowing them to learn from a diverse group of colleagues.
- Build the communications capacity and leadership of the cohort by:
 - Facilitating the creation of dissemination plans and supporting teacher leaders in their execution of these plans;
 - Providing messaging and communication strategies for speaking with a variety of audiences; and
 - Promoting opportunities for the spreading of teachers' thought leadership by way of blogging, writing, and speaking opportunities at the local, state, and national levels.

The District agrees to:

- Identify a clear point of contact from the District office staff or leadership to communicate and collaborate regularly with CTQ staff;
- Participate in recruitment and selection of 50-100 teachers to engage in the Common Core implementation initiative;
- Participate in recruitment and selection of five highly accomplished teachers for the core team cohort, in partnership with CTQ and in accordance with criteria, process, and timeline to be agreed upon with CTQ;
- Support the growth of participants' leadership and their efforts to engage others; and
- Highlight the leadership of the full cohort and utilize their expertise in the planning and implementation of district professional development around the Common Core.

Cohort Selection

CTQ will work with the designated District leadership and point of contact to select five highly accomplished teachers to participate in a core team that leads the larger cohort of teachers involved in this project. Throughout the selection process, the District and CTQ will strive to find a balance of teachers from grades 6-12 and across a variety of subject areas. The following criteria will guide the selection:

- Highly effective teaching, as evidenced by National Board Certification as well as some combination of awards for teaching excellence, selection as a Teacher of the Year, evidence of student growth as defined by the candidate, portfolios of lesson plans and work samples, and video tapes documenting effective teaching practices accompanied by written or recorded reflections;
- Ability to express themselves clearly and cogently, orally and in writing;
- Creative thinking about issues of teaching and school system effectiveness;
- Recommendations from principals, other administrators, students, parents, or colleagues (obtained via reference calls or letters of reference); and
- Some level of comfort and facility with online networks or collaborations (and willingness to receive additional training and support as provided by CTQ staff).

The following process will be used to select participants:

- CTQ will establish an application using the above guidelines and with input from the District;
- CTQ will collect applications and distribute them to the District to review; and
- From the applicants, the District and CTQ will collaborate to finalize candidates.

The signatures below commit our organizations to the partnership described in this document.

District

Dr. Del Burns, Interim Superintendent

Date

Mailing address:

200 East King Street

Hillsborough, NC 27278

Telephone number:

(919) 732-8126

Center for Teaching Quality, Inc.

Project Leader

Date

COO & Partner

Date