

# THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Board Meeting Report

**Board agenda items are due in the Superintendent's office by 5:00 pm the first Thursday of the month.**

Board Meeting Date: January 12, 2016

Agenda #

Staff/Administrator: Joseph Flaherty

Superintendent:

Information:

Action:



**I) Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?**

I would like to attend the 2016 General and Special Education Conference in Seattle, Washington on March 2-4. The conference will focus on Brain-based Science, Learning and Achievement. I would like to take three all-day classes. Clayton Cook from the University of Minnesota will teach "Intensive Supports for At-risk Students: Matching Students to the Appropriate Intervention." Steven Feifer from the Monocacy Neurodevelopmental Center will teach "The Neuropsychology of Mathematics: Diagnosis and Intervention Strategies for Students Struggling in Math." Sarah Powell from the University of Texas will teach "Using Manipulatives for Students Struggling with Math."

**II) Provide history/background information on your proposal.**

When our district adopted the Common Core Math Standards and the Pearson EnVision math curriculum a few years ago, we made a commitment to bring increased rigor into our classrooms. Instead of simply practicing their math facts, students are now expected to understand deep mathematical principles such as the associative property and variables. New concepts are added every day, and a great deal of time is required for direct instruction. I have learned to use my engagement strategies and frequent checks for understanding to keep my students following along. However, I often have a few students who I struggle to reach. The fast pace of the curriculum challenges my students and me to remain focused. I need new intervention strategies to help me keep my students--especially my most at-risk students--engaged.

**III) List possible disadvantages of your proposal.**

The conference in Seattle is about a 7 hour drive from my school, and it requires out-of-state travel.

**IV) List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal.**

The Innovative Northwest Teacher is offering two winter classes called "Working with Challenging Children in the Classroom" and "Common Core Mathematics Content." These classes seem to address some of my needs, but they are both

on-line classes with little opportunity to engage with colleagues. Also the Oregon Association of Teacher Educators is holding a conference at Western Oregon University on February 26. This one-day program seems to address some of my needs. The brochure does not include a detailed agenda. I would be interested to hear of any other alternatives the district may know of.

V) **Superintendent's Recommendations:**

yes! 