

# Pleasantdale School District 107

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Summer professional work is an important part of the planning process for the upcoming school year. In the past, the Pleasantdale SD 107 curriculum council (comprised of teachers and administrators) has proposed and approved summer work. This year, the structure of curriculum council has changed to focus on a single curriculum review each year. This year's curriculum council focus is on math.

Due to this change, curriculum council is no longer the best venue to propose and/or approve summer professional work. Currently, a summer professional work application process is in development, and all projects will be approved by the district administrative team. The professional work performed this summer will focus on three main areas: professional development, district initiatives, and specific curriculum work. Our goal is to make summer professional work more meaningful to teachers, have a positive impact on students, and produce high quality products.

## **Professional Development**

In the area of professional development, the district will seek to provide teachers with opportunities to expand their knowledge and understanding of best practice. Summer often affords teachers the opportunity to attend helpful workshops, classes, or seminars. While beneficial and helpful, these experiences are not required in order for the teacher to effectively do his/her job. In these cases, the district will cover only the registration fees for this professional learning opportunity and not pay the attending teachers the summer professional work rate. Additionally, we may encourage district recommended professional development sessions. If the professional development session is recommended, the staff member will receive the summer professional work rate for their attendance.

An example of a recommended professional development session might be a training session that enables the teacher to properly roll out a new curricular program (e.g. math training).

## **District Initiatives**

Over the course of the 2015-16 school year, the district has rolled out several new initiatives. As such, we have made these district initiatives a focus for summer professional work. Technology has been a focus this year. Therefore, we will give priority to projects that help us integrate technology into our classrooms. Likewise, priority will be given to teachers who wish to plan professional development for their colleagues.

## **Specific Curriculum Work**

Our third category for summer professional work will focus on specific curriculum work begun in the 2015-16 school year. This will include preparation of science units that align with the Next Generation Science Standards. Additionally, we will continue our deep dive into our math review process. Finally, we will focus on a continued refinement of the English Language Arts (ELA) units.

This refinement will specify standards that support each ELA unit and the essential questions that accompany each unit. This work will be completed by small teams and guided by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Candy Kramer.

## **Main takeaways:**

- Summer professional work will fall into three categories: professional development, district initiatives, and curriculum work.
- Administration will approve all summer professional work projects
- The end result will be high quality products to enhance teaching and learning.

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## **Mission**

*Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.*