



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: August 22, 2024

TOPIC: ELA Consultant | Literacy Consultant & Professional Development

PREPARED BY: Dominick Lupo

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

The Board of Education approves all contracts.

This year, the District will conclude a full kindergarten through 8th grade curriculum review and adoption cycle of the District's literacy programs. Next year we will be looking at the middle school reading program, and the following year we will be reviewing the kindergarten through 5th grade program.

Literacy is the foundation of academic development for all subjects, and the District is dedicated to making the most informed decision on materials and strategies for the future of this programming. The first step in achieving this goal was to invite Pat Pollack to join our team last year. Throughout the year, Ms. Pollack assisted the District in identifying strengths and weaknesses of our current programming, she provided professional development on best practices and effective instructional strategies in literacy, and she worked with our newly formed literacy committee throughout the year. With the relationships and trust that she has built with the coaches and staff, we feel that her experience and guidance in the materials selection will be invaluable as we move towards making long-term decisions about our literacy programming.

The Goals:

- Identify materials that would best meet the needs of our District based on the program audit findings from last year
- Develop a learning progression of skills and curricular scope and sequence

- Provide professional development to staff on the most effective instructional strategies in the area of literacy

Fiscal Impact:

The plan will include six on-site days of PD and literacy team support, plus the annual District support plan (inclusive of unlimited support phone calls/emails with PD Director, scheduled remote discussions).

The overall total comes to \$17,100.

The team has budgeted for this expense through the Title I Professional Development grant funds.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administrative recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the proposal to hire Pat Pollack, Literacy Specialist and Consultant, to perform a full literacy audit and to deliver professional development at a cost of \$17,100 for the 2024-2025 school year.