



# SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: 12/13/2010

Agenda #                     

Staff/Administrator: Lisa Beteta

Superintendent: Dan Huber-Kantola

Type of Item:       Informational       Action

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

To allow Lisa Marie Beteta, PhD (autism specialist), to attend a conference in San Francisco entitled "iGeneration: How the Digital Age is Altering Brains, Learning & Teaching." Conference is February 17-19, 2011. Conference will be funded through the teachers Professional Development Fund.

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

Currently, students on the autism spectrum tend to be drawn to technology. On the lower end of the spectrum, students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) rely on technology to learn, communicate, and interact with their environment. On the higher end of the spectrum, many individuals with ASD rely on technology as a means for education, social interaction, and employment. While students may not be able to engage in traditional teaching methodologies, they are able to learn and demonstrate knowledge when technology is introduced. Current research pertaining to brain scans demonstrate more brain activity when technology is used rather than other forms of media forms.

**List the advantages of your proposal:**

This conference brings together some of the top researchers in the education/neuroscience field (Stanford, Harvard, John Hopkins, Yale, etc.) to present their educational findings and how they impact today's students. Rarely is an opportunity like this available for educators to participate in and learn from researchers where neuroscience is directly linked with education.

**List possible disadvantages of your proposal:**

Travel to San Francisco.

**List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?**

There are no alternatives to the proposal.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes  No