



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: 18-Oct-16 **Superintendent:** Dave Valenzuela

Administrator/Staff: David Regal

Type of Item: Informational Action

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

We are planning on sending a team of 5 teachers and the principal to the Kagan Winter Academy on February 17th-20th in Las Vegas, Nevada to support our teachers with research based learning strategies that will engage all learners. My plan is to send 2 teachers to the Elementary Literacy and Writing process (4-day workshop), 1 teacher and the principal to the Kagan Structures Level 1: Cooperative Learning (4-day workshop), and the last 2 teachers to the Kagan Structures for Little Ones (k/1): Engagement! Learning! Social Skills! (3 day workshop). With such a turn over in my staff and district, we would like to support new/old teachers in utilizing Kagan strategies in their classrooms at Evergreen and throughout Three Rivers School district.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

With the hiring of 10 new certified teachers at Evergreen within the last 5 years, we have a gap/hole in the Kagan strategies that were shared across the district prior to my hiring. I have seen these strategies used in my veteran classrooms have been very successful. With the adoption of new curriculums in reading and math, I feel that providing an updated training in Kagan strategies in 3 different workshops will support our teachers at our school and in our district with continuing to engage all learners. Our team is very interested in providing scientifically research based strategies through this opportunity.

List the advantages of your proposal:

The advantages are increased achievement for all groups of students, improved social skills and student relations, decreased discipline referrals, higher self-esteem among students, increased liking for school, class, teacher, and content, not to mention cooperative learning strategies for all teachers to implement throughout the day. I also believe that having teachers trained in similar strategies will provide them with the tools to support all of our students and give PLC teams opportunities to have on-going rich conversations around using these cooperative learning strategies in all areas of instruction.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

After providing professional development to staff, some may choose not to use these strategies even if they are needed in their classes. If this happens, this would be my job to work with individuals through the observation process and support engagement in their classrooms if necessary. Overall, I do not believe there is a disadvantage to providing quality training to teachers and having them deliver on-going professional development to our staff.

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

Kagan is a very respected training across the nation that has been around for more than 30 years and is only offered in 2 locations throughout the year and this is a opportunity to replenish "tools in our toolkit" of knowledge around cooperative learning and "brush up" on new strategies that may be presented at this workshop. We can continue to go to engagement workshops around the state that may share a few strategies, but Kagan offers a more in-depth training with key hands-on tools that will help support all students in their learning.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No