

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

September 9, 2008

UniServity Collaborative Learning Communities Technology

Purpose of Report

This item requests approval of an expenditure of \$59,000 for a technology collaborative learning platform for Denton HS, Ryan HS, and Guyer HS. It allows students, teachers, and parents opportunities to extend their learning experience through connected learning communities. The report will share the instructional advantages this platform provides for our students and teachers. The website for the product is www.uniservity.com, go to the cLc (connected Learning community) page to learn more.

Objectives

- Uniservity, based in the United Kingdom, provides the learning platform called “connected Learning communities (cLc)”
- The platform provides professional collaboration among our teachers with other teachers around the world
- The cLc technology has been reviewed since October of 2007 by Denton ISD staff over the course of the 2007-08 school year: Among those reviewing cLc benefits: Asst Supt for C & I, Exec. Director of Technology, Deputy Supt., Director of Instructional Technology, Director of Secondary Curriculum, High School Principals, High School Associate Principals, and the high school Academic Leadership Team members.
- cLc is currently in use in 14 countries, and by over 1 million students.
- Our contract is for one year, renewable at anniversary if desired.

Operational Impact

Costs include a hub setup, hub management, subscription fees, and staff professional learning fees for a total of \$59,000. The cost will be shared by the three high schools, the C&I Division, the technology department, and Title II (a) monies.

Results

Using cLC will allow students the opportunity to create safe and secure learning spaces (e-portfolios) that are interactive and may be shared with teachers and other students worldwide. It will provide teachers with extra assistance in collaborative lesson planning and delivery with other teachers from other classrooms. In addition, cLc provides a forum for students in IB to experience internationalism in a more personal manner.

The platform allows opportunities for teachers and students to electronically connect with content “experts.” Because teachers have access to learning modules from a plethora of teaching communities, the ability to incorporate proven best practices is increased.

Other Options

None at this time