



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: October 21st, 2014

Agenda # _____

Staff/Administrator: Dave Valenzuela

Superintendent: Dave Holmes

Type of Item: *Informational* *Action*

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

Dave Valenzuela requesting permission for out-of-state travel for up to four members of the Tech Department to attend the Edupoint National Users Conference focusing on Synergy, the District's student information system. The participants would include Pete DelVaglio - Network Programmer, Malachi Hall - Systems Analyst, Michelle Pitts - Curriculum Office Manager and Rob Saunders - TOSA (Technology and Grade Book). This conference is being held in Anaheim, California on November 6th and 7th. This conference has proven to be extremely valuable and was pre-planned and budgeted for.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

We have had one full year of experience using Synergy as our student information system (SIS) and the conversion process has been arduous. This system supports an incredible amount of data and information for our district and it is critical that it functions according to district needs. As with any new technology, Synergy is going through a significant upgrade impacting many, if not all of its features. This conference is designed to give our key personnel the support they need to address the new features as well fix any issues we are currently dealing with.

List the advantages of your proposal:

By sending a team to the National Users Conference, we will receive hands on training from the foremost experts on the latest and most pertinent features of Synergy. From state reporting to final grades/report cards; there will be a number of things still to front-load, set up and learn following our initial go-live with Synergy that we will be able to address at this conference. Last year we built our curriculum and technology department budgets with this conference in mind and have planned accordingly.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

Traveling out of state can be expensive and viewed as superfluous by some. This year's National User's Conference is in Anaheim, CA and being held at the Disneyland Hotel (not in the resort itself, just at the Hotel). We do not get to choose where a conference is held, we can only determine the viability to our district. There is no other conference of this type offered by Edupoint.

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

The only alternative is to not attend the conference. This was not recommended because Synergy not only has to work for our employees, it has to work extremely well. We can better ensure that it works extremely well if we have all the tools necessary to support it.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No