

Teaching and Learning - Board Report

Mark Schommer

April 14, 2025

Positive Talking Points:

Pillar #1: Teaching, Learning, and Relevance

- We are actively preparing not only for the closure of this year but also for a successful start to next year. This means ordering materials, setting up PD, and many other items.
- The Summer PD Catalog is a major shift in professional development for our staff. Each staff member will have 5 PD days this year, already included in their salary, to choose where they want to “professionally develop.” The catalog includes **44 options (up from 22 last year)** and allows users to submit their own plan. This also includes criteria for having external PD paid for by the school district. The goal is for teachers to be engaged in PD that they find effective.
- Assessment scores (state testing) are rolling in. We currently have the new ACT scores. We anticipate receiving the Pre-ACT scores by the middle of May, the Forward Exam scores before school ends this year, and the ACCESS test scores for our EL Students by the end of April.

Pillar #2: The Whole Student

- In conjunction with Riley Curtis, our School Psychologist, we are updating the resources we use for our level 3 and 4 intervention students. When Act 20 was enacted, all of our existing resources were considered “not allowed.” We have been using allowable resources, but now that publishers have had time to catch up, we can define our true resources for these students.
- We are in the middle of our final required Act 20 Assessments for the year. We will have results by the end of April. These assessments determine which students receive new, updated, or exited reading plans.

Pillar #4: District Workforce

- Last year, we tried a new mentor process. In areas, it showed success. In others, it showed opportunities for growth. We learned that certain areas, such as Special Education, specialized positions like Guidance Counselors and Interventionists, and specialized content like Music or Art, need 1:1 mentors. We will also cluster our mentors by grade bands.