



Three Rivers School District

Quality Education Runs Deep

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September 8th, 2014

RE: September Board Report

The start to the 2014/2015 school year has been repeatedly regarded as the year of faces. With new building administration, teachers and administrators moving from one building to another, a new superintendent and new director at the District Office; a lot has changed since last June. This has provided us with a great opportunity for fresh beginnings and I believe that we will be stronger than ever as a district.

We have stepped into a new era of connectivity as an administrative team this year. Every administrator has a Google Chromebook (***a new category of notebook computer specifically designed to run Google's cloud-based OS. They lack the processing power of traditional laptops and are designed to run internet based apps only. The trade-off is the price. Chromebooks can be purchased for under \$200***) and they are able to share, collaborate with and publish documents, surveys, spreadsheets and presentations like never before. The main selling point for me is the increase in productivity for our team as a whole. The real-time collaboration on documents, agendas, assessments and more is astounding. Another perk to the use of Chromebooks as an organization is our ability to take one more step towards a paperless environment. There is little need for printing when everyone on your team has access to the cloud-based resources you are working with. This is an exciting time and we are all learning from each other as we move forward with this technology.

Another positive aspect of the administrative team using Chromebooks for their productivity is their ability to provide training to their teachers using this technology. Throughout in-service week and into our first Friday late-start, I observed (and facilitated) many instances where large groups of teachers were collaborating on a single document from several different Chromebooks. Once these collaborative works are created and shared, teachers can access them from a Chromebook, their workstation in their classroom, from home or from anywhere for that matter. Now we have ELA teachers from the Illinois Valley, North Valley and Hidden Valley working together, in real-time without having to sacrifice time and travel.

This report may appear to have a heavy "Tech Director" emphasis, but it really comes down to collaboration, teamwork and productivity. These three things are incredibly impactful to me as a "Director of Teaching and Learning". As a district we have worked incredibly hard at creating situations where our teachers can work together to provide the best possible learning possibilities for our students. Based on my early observations of the interactions between teachers from different attendance areas, and even different levels this year, I am very encouraged that the work to which we have been so attentive is paying off. Our teachers are not only willing to collaborate, but they desire to work together in an effort to improve the teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms across the district.