Consider approval of a contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) for School Improvement PLC Supports

1. Background:

Curriculum & Instruction is requesting the approval of the contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). This contract is a part of the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Math Grant that was awarded to Southwest ISD in February of 2025. The grant is for the support of implementation of the Texas Open Education Resource (OER) instructional material (Bluebonnet Math) for 6-8, Algebra 1 through PLCs. The grant requires that districts choose a provider for School Improvement PLC support. The district has chosen the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) as our approved provider.

2. Process:

Southwest ISD was awarded the LASO Grant Cycle 3 in the amount of $225,000. These funds will be used to enter into an additional contract with NIET, the district's approved provider, to extend the number of support days available to campuses beyond those covered in the original agreement. As a result of this supplemental contract, the number of support days provided by NIET will increase, with each campus to receive 2–3 days of support per month. Anitra Crisp, Executive Director of Middle Schools, will lead districtwide collaboration efforts with stakeholders through planning sessions, learning walks, and feedback opportunities, all supported by NIET facilitation. Because the total cost of this expanded contract with NIET now exceeds $50,000, board approval is required.

3. Fiscal Impact:

The total cost of an additional National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) contract is $89,054. This amount will be paid out of the $225,000.00 LASO Grant Cycle 3 awarded to the district.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approves the contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to provide additional support to all three middle schools at the cost of $89,054.

5. Required:

Board Action