

January 29, 2019



Board Summary

Summit Learning At Leona Libby Middle School

Principal Andre Hargunani presented information to the Richland School Board on the pilot of the Summit Learning Platform in sixth-grade at Leona Libby Middle School. Summit is an online platform that helps students work on skills and tasks at their own pace while giving teachers insight into a student's progress and helps them meet each student's needs. Mr. Hargunani said sixth-graders at the school have shown markedly more growth in the year and a half since Summit was implemented compared to other students at the school and across the district. Libby teachers have noted that sixth-graders better understand what they are learning and are developing strong work habits and mindsets. Mr. Hargunani said the school wants to fully adopt Summit for its sixth-grade classes and make it available to seventh- and eighth-grade classes based on student and parent choice.

Students, parents and staff gave input to the board both for and against Summit. Board members said they are interested in making sure families have choices for their child's education and that additional training for staff and parents on using Summit could help resolve some issues.

Use of Summit in sixth-grade at Libby will now be presented to the district's Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) for review. The IMC is expected to make a recommendation to the Board this spring. A proposal to adopt Summit for seventh- and eighth-graders at Libby would be reviewed during the 2019-20 school year.

Highly Capable Identification

Beth Harrington, Assistant Director of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, provided an update to the Board on efforts to improve identification of students who qualify for Highly Capable (Hi-Cap) programs. Changes to state law requires school districts to use multiple objective criteria to assess students to receive accelerated learning and enhanced instruction offered by those programs. Additionally, student assessments must prioritize equitable identification of low-income students. Mrs. Harrington said she formed a committee that will review the district's current Hi-Cap nomination process and look for assessment measures that will level the playing field for all student populations to pursue Hi-Cap enrollment. In addition, work will begin next year to evaluate and enhance the service delivery models at all schools.

Enrollment Estimates For 2019-20 School Year

Rich Puryear, Executive Director of Financial Services, presented enrollment estimates for the 2019-20 school year to the Board. The district is beginning to develop a budget for the next school year and enrollment determines how much state funding will be provided. Mr. Puryear said he is estimating the district will have the full-time equivalent (FTE) of 13,700 students in the next school year. That's 150 FTE above current enrollment but 50 FTE below what was budgeted for the current school year.

Next Regular Meeting: Feb. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Richland School District

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