

January 15, 2019



Board Summary

Digital Citizenship Curriculum

The Richland School Board had their second reading of the proposed Digital Citizenship curriculum. The curriculum is aimed at helping students responsibly navigate the digital world. Board members made five requests for further work on the proposed curriculum at their Dec. 11 meeting. Administrators say they are taking the following steps to meet those requests:

- Administrators will draft a procedure for students, teachers, administrators and IT staff to follow when students encounter inappropriate content. Policy 2314 also will be revised and presented to the Board for approval.
- Paul Chartrand, Director of Technology & Innovation, will work with teachers to develop guidelines to clarify what inappropriate content means in Grades K-5.
- Added a learning target to the curriculum that students will be able to safely report inappropriate content and are currently developing components for the curriculum to support it.
- Development of more robust online training for teachers that will be made available to teachers in the spring.
- Mr. Chartrand is forming a committee to further research and develop guidelines regarding student screen time. The committee will meet this spring and present findings to the Board in June.

The Board unanimously approved the Digital Citizenship curriculum.

Elementary Math Committee Update

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, provided the Board an update on the district's efforts to adopt new elementary math curriculum. The 26-member staff committee has met numerous times since October to review standards, analyze district data, research best practices, and review and recommend instructional materials. Committee members will field test instructional materials in their classrooms during the next several weeks. The committee will meet later this winter and spring to review the field test data before making a final recommendation to the district's Instructional Materials Committee (IMC). The Board will vote on the IMC's recommendation in May. Approval of the curriculum would lead to staff training and ordering of materials through the summer.

Graduation Rates

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, presented to the Board the latest graduation data for the Class of 2018. The district's four-year graduation rate is now 82.8 percent, its highest level in five years. Mr. Hansen says that jump was supported by increased graduation rates by student groups that often face challenges at school. More than half of the district's homeless seniors graduated in 2018, a 20 percentage point jump from the previous year. English language learners and seniors receiving free or reduced-price meals also hit graduation rate highs while seniors receiving special education services approached a previous record high graduation rate. Mr. Hansen says numerous adjustments at the high schools are likely responsible for the improvements, such as hosting more in-house credit retrieval opportunities, student mentoring and use of a tracking system to provide early warning when a student's academic performance, attendance or discipline slips. Board members said they want the district to research other ways to improve graduation rates and ensure students are prepared for their futures.

Health Sciences Academy Update

Jon Lobdell, principal for the district's Health Sciences Academy, provided an update to the Board regarding development of the program. The academy, scheduled to open for the 2020-21 school year, would offer high school students interested in health care careers college-level or dual credit courses and partnerships with local institutions of higher learning and health care providers. The academy's Program Development Committee recently toured three health-sciences-focused high schools throughout the Pacific Northwest to provide inspiration for the program's structure. The district is promoting health care careers to students through hands-on camps and special events, including one this summer for middle school students. Promotional materials also are being developed to spread word about the program ahead of high school students selecting courses in January 2020 for the 2020-21 school year.

Next Regular Meeting: Jan. 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

Richland School District

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