

INFORMATION ITEM

Date: August 26, 2019
To: Members, Board of Education
From: Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Subject: Response to the Community Review Committee (CRC) Report

BACKGROUND

For more than four decades, the Community Review Committee (CRC) has united stakeholders around an expansive set of initiatives and supported transformative growth of District 39’s mission. The Community Review Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Education, draws participation from District 39 parents, community members, teachers, and administrators. Each spring, this committee generates a report on a topic of community interest, resulting in strategic recommendations supported by research. Following a June report by administration detailing the previous year’s progress with the strategic plan goals/outcomes, the Superintendent and administrative team reviews the CRC’s report. Then in August, the Superintendent presents a formal response regarding implementation of CRC recommendations.

During the Board of Education meeting held on May 20, 2019, the CRC’s report titled “Mobile Learning in Grades K-4” was presented. The findings and recommendations focused primarily on how District 39 can foster an environment that enables technology devices to enhance learning in the elementary grades.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RESPONSE TO THE CRC

The Superintendent reviewed and presented the strategic recommendations to District 39’s administrative team.

As a result, District 39 has accepted the following CRC recommendations:

1. District 39 should increase access to technology so that every student has access to one device.
2. District 39 should advocate for a balanced approach to technology use in the classroom, supporting a blend of traditional and innovative modes of teaching.
3. District 39 should provide in-depth professional development in a tiered, ongoing manner.

¹ Community Review Committee Report: <https://bit.ly/2LYkISfs>

4. District 39 should model leadership in the field of health and wellness as related to technology use.

In addition, the following CRC recommendations will continue to be a part of District 39's practice:

1. District 39 should ensure that technology use in the classroom enhances instruction and emphasizes the 4C's of modern education and higher order thinking.
2. District 39 should define a statement of philosophy about the use of technology in the classroom to provide a district-wide purpose and unifying goals.
3. District 39 should formulate a robust communication plan for any new technology initiative; specifically, a plan that includes parents, students, teachers, and administrators.

The Superintendent and administration supports these recommendations and acknowledges that each contribute to achieving the District's goal to enhance instruction with technology. In addition, the recommendations made by the Community Review Committee have informed administration's decision to add mobile learning and the effective integration of instructional technology as a new initiative this year. District 39 plans to embed these recommendations in the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan which will be presented to the Board during the September Board of Education meeting.

CONCLUSION

The Superintendent commends the 2018 -2019 Community Review Committee members for the work and research required to provide the findings and recommendations in the "Mobile Learning in Grades K-4" report². These strategic recommendations will assist District 39 in delivering its mission:

District 39's mission is to nurture, guide, and challenge students to become creative thinkers, collaborators, and socially responsible, compassionate, and productive citizens of a global society.

The Superintendent values and appreciates CRC's contributions to the strategic planning process. It continues to ensure that District 39 remain current in best practices. District 39 continues to support the work of the committee and looks forward to future reports.

Respectfully submitted for presentation to the Board of Education,



Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D., Superintendent

² Ibid