

Press Clippings - 7/24/2024

- The Examiner - Dist. U-46 Board approves code of conduct changes

By: Seth Hancock

Date: July 24, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, via 7-0 votes, of updates to the Student Code of Conduct and a math curriculum proposal at its meeting on Monday, June 24.

Mark Gonnella, coordinator of culture and climate, outlined the changes to the code of conduct in a memo.

“Most of the changes are in regards to updating the language throughout the code of conduct, updated procedures for out-of-school suspensions, updated procedures for expulsion hearings, dress code, guidelines, high school student parking, random searches, restraint and isolated timeouts and seclusions, hate speech and harassment,” Gonnella wrote.

On the process for updating the code, Gonnella added: “The current proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct were reviewed by the Coordinator of Culture and Climate, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools and the Chief Legal Officer. The changes were reviewed and approved by the U-46 Safety Council, which is jointly chaired by the U-46 district administration and ETA leadership. Membership on this committee also includes teachers, building administrators, and parents.”

The math curriculum proposal is a revision to middle school math to “standardize our expectations for student instruction across the district,” the proposal states. The current resources, Reveal Math, are expected to remain, and there is no cost estimated for the proposal.

“U-46 uses an Understanding by Design (UbD) curriculum framework, which includes three stages in the framework model,” the proposal states. “Stage 1 is to identify the desired results, where the standards are unpacked to articulate what students should know and be able to do. Stage 2 is to determine the acceptable evidence, which includes our common rubrics and assessments. Stage 3 is to plan learning experiences and

instruction.”

- The Examiner - Strategic planning aid cost supported by U-46 board

By: Seth Hancock

Date: July 24, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved an \$82,800 expenditure item, to be paid from the education fund, with Performance Fact to assist with strategic planning at its Monday, June 24 meeting.

The board was presented with two finalist companies, Performance Fact and Creative Entourage at a cost of \$196,000, at its June 10 meeting. At the meeting, five board members preferred Performance Fact and two Creative Entourage.

“Performance Fact provided clear examples of their ability to provide systems for identifying, gathering and reporting data that district administration can support with procedures,” the proposal stated. “Creative Entourage provided detailed systems for gathering community input and buyin. With these considerations, administration determined with confidence that both service providers could successfully facilitate the strategic planning process and should present to the Board of Education as the final step in the process for review.”

The proposal added: “The selected firm will assist in developing a longterm strategic vision of what public education could be in School District U-46 in 10 to 15 years, as well as a short-term comprehensive strategic plan for 2025-2030 that will align with the District’s long-term strategic vision developed through this process.” Nine proposals were initially submitted in April with costs ranging from \$43,000 to \$220,000. From there, staff used a rubric to come down to finalists.

“For the first time since 2014, School District U-46 has a new superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson,” the proposal states. “With Dr. Johnson as the new superintendent, the District is looking to set a long-term strategic vision to update the previous plan drafted in 2016, establish the course of School District U-46 for the next 10 to 15 years, and develop a short-term plan for the next five years (2025- 2030).”

The proposal adds: “School District U-46 has a history of innovative instructional programming, and the strategic planning process will allow it to focus on the foundational aspects of the organization and position itself for the future of public

education. The School District U-46 Board of Education and Dr. Johnson look forward to creating the future with our students, parents, staff, community members, and other stakeholders as we analyze the challenges and opportunities ahead to ensure that School District U46 remains a place where students can grow and create the future of their dreams.”