THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL
KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

To: Kenilworth 38 Board of Education and Dr. Kelley Kalinich
From: Kendra N. Wallace
RE: Principal Update
Date: April 20, 2015

1. **General Strategic Plan Updates**

   A. **IQWST (Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology):** We are into year two of using the science program in our classrooms. The pilot will be audited this spring/summer. A number of areas identified as needing strengthening and additional materials will be addressed. Additionally, we will look to identify a textbook or text that supports specific units.

   B. **Elementary Science:** Four out of six grade levels have completed a pilot unit. Teachers complete an evaluation at the end and are able to debrief on strength and weaknesses. Mixed feedback and definite areas of identified strength and others for supplement have been identified to day. We will review other publishers and similar units. Each grade level received professional development and targeted planning opportunities prior to starting the their unit.

   C. **Extracurricular Science Opportunities:** Opportunities for students to pursue science minutes outside of classroom have grown. With the addition of Lego League and the expansion of Science Olympiad, we increased the number of minutes and students involved in the field outside of direct instruction. The shift in the master schedule will also provide these opportunities.

   D. **Use of Space:** A facilities audit of classrooms is underway and needs have been identified in the current 6th grade science classroom. A faculty and staff break room was designated on the 2nd floor, and we are looking at other larger spaces for next year.

   E. **Junior High English Language Arts:** Revision of curriculum and materials to align with CCSS and revised minutes. PARCC Performance Based Assessment was fully implemented in March and preparations for May End of Year test are underway. Anchor performance assessment was pushed back one year as we rework the Curriculum Map and developing a common language.

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F. **World Language:** World Language is making visits and will begin work to adjust curriculum. The goals of the Strategic Plan need to be revisited, as the beginning of the year request was to wait one more year. The dialogue with New Trier and other schools in the area is open and continuing. Teacher have gone on school visits and attended professional growth regarding best practice in the field. We plan to have teachers attend TPRS (Total Physical Response Storytelling) approach to teaching World Language.

G. **Math in Focus:** Some grade levels are ahead of others in debriefing about the pros and cons of the program. Some grade levels have identified areas of need in the program, professional development needs and an opportunity to review the program in light of a scope and sequence.

H. **Junior High Math Curriculum:** Junior High is working on scope and sequence and working to identify the elements of the math program here at Sears. Summer work will revolve around identifying our philosophy of mathematics, course offerings and identifying school wide scope and sequence and benchmark skills at each grade level. We will continue to research and review materials to identify rigorous and aligned materials for all Junior High classes.

I. **State Testing:** PARCC Performance Based Assessment was fully implemented in March and preparations for May End of Year test are underway. Rubric for math placement is under revision and additional the process. Course offerings have been reviewed as is the philosophy statement. Three teachers sit on the articulation committee with New Trier and the township. This summer will be the more intense curriculum work. A draft scope and sequence is in place and will be revisited and refined reviewing performance data and with reflection on what was covered. Areas of need will be identified and will be addressed through professional development or search for supplemental materials.

J. **Social Science:** The work of Grades 6-8 curriculum sequence has started. The goal is to have a completed scope and sequence by the end of summer. We will begin the work of researching and identifying course materials this summer and continue throughout out the year. Materials are on order for review as well as a few digital platform resources. We are exploring the C3 Framework for College, Career and Community life that is under review to be adopted as part of The National Standards and integrated as Illinois State Standards. Additionally, we will begin the work on creating our SS curriculum next year with the goal of completions in the SY 2016-17.

K. **Master Schedule Update:** The Master Schedule is almost complete. The adjustment has been approved. The committee will meet to finalize details and work on some of the programmatic offerings on April 30. Recommendations for JK-5 and 6-8 master schedules are being fine-tuned.

L. **Literacy:** Reading and writing programs have been identified at the elementary school level as an area to audit and prioritize for curriculum.

M. **Curriculum Renewal:** The Curriculum Renewal program is being revised to adjust to some of the needs and changes the new master schedule will require and align with the conclusion of piloted materials. Policies and procedures for students were clearly identified and have been implemented, monitored and revised. Additional policies and procedures needing updates and modifications have been identified for the summer.

N. **Discipline:** We have not yet identified the correct discipline and behavior system to meet our needs and are using a Google doc and traditional paper system in the interim.

O. **Junior High Homework:** We have addressed homework expectations in the Junior High and continue to monitor and remind educators. Additional, an 8th grade testing calendar was implemented to help spread out the work load and reduce stress for students.

P. **General Evaluation:** Identifying key concepts and critical understanding is underway as we work to identify what it means to have a Joseph Sears School education. School traditions were examined and communication has gone home outlining expectations. Where needed they have been adjusted or modified. Community and staff surveys were reviewed and goals have been set in response to information gathered.

Q. **Communication with Parents:** *Sears to Home* has been refined and balancing what type of information is shared through which vehicle is continually being refined.

2. **Summer Professional Development**
   - **A.** Use data to create plan
   - **B.** Reading/Writing and Assessment review/audit
   - **C.** Identify key support and establish 2-3 year plan with benchmark/goals
   - **D.** Begin work to create School Improvement Plans with teacher involvement to connect data, teaching and learning
   - **E.** Address strategic plan and have teachers/departments/grade levels identify in summer/early fall and evolve into SIP plan
   - **F.** Technology Days to train staff on new management/web page system