

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS

TO: Dr. Mike Riggle

**FROM: Dr. Rosanne Williamson
Michael Field**

DATE: October 26, 2015

RE: Discussion/Action: Approval of Classroom Furniture Pilot

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve a pilot to evaluate classroom furniture at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Funds are included in the technology budget.

Background

As part of the overall technology vision, the district would like to update approximately 150 classrooms with furniture that supports the District's learning and teaching focus as well as its 1:1 initiative. This approximation is based on data collected at each building during the summer of 2015. Current traditional classroom furniture is being phased out by the manufacturers. Regardless of the quantity of furniture replaced following the pilot, new furniture types need to be identified as the district seeks to replace furniture that is no longer usable, in a state of disrepair or as computer labs are converted into classrooms to address enrollment growth. Teachers and students also articulated the following limitations with current classroom furniture:

- Tablet Arm Desks were introduced decades ago to support traditional teaching - students in rows, lecture style, minimal collaboration, stationary desks and chairs.
- Desks don't allow space for notebooks, book, laptop (Chromebook), calculator etc. Students often sit on the floor to allow for more space.
- Furniture is cumbersome to move and doesn't allow for easy groupings - partner, group, presentation style.
- Furniture does not allow for backpack storage, backpacks take up floor space & can be a trip hazard.

The following traits have been identified by students and teachers as being integral in supporting current instructional approaches:

- Mobile and flexible to accommodate individual reflection, partner work, group collaboration, large group discussions, presentations & demonstrations

- Ample surface space for laptop (Chromebook), book, note book etc. . .
- Backpack storage
- Ease of configuration - flexible and agile
- Writable surfaces
- Durable and easy to maintain

Pilot Purpose and Process

The purpose of the pilot is to allow teachers and students to evaluate four types of active classroom furniture. Two classrooms at each school will be set up with this furniture for evaluation and then rotated to the other school. A variety of teachers across all departments will have access to pilot classrooms. Feedback will be collected from students and teachers regarding their experience with the pilot classroom furniture.

Cost of the Pilot

A Request for Information (RFI) was sent to eight furniture manufacturers who focus on the educational market. A committee of district and building personnel reviewed the furniture and proposals and selected four manufacturers to pilot. Two person tables as well as individual student desks will be included in the pilot. The cost of the pilot is expected not to exceed \$15,000. The cost allows the district to pilot four complete classroom sets.

Timeline

<u>STEP</u>	<u>PARTIES INVOLVED</u>	<u>KEY DATES</u>
1. Request for Information (RFI) - send to 8 furniture manufacturers - request recommendations for furniture pieces and layouts	Committee - R. Williamson, R. Bretag, C. Muir, M. Field, K. Ptak	Completed
2. Review RFIs and narrow down manufacturers and furniture pieces to pilot.	Committee - R. Williamson, R. Bretag, C. Muir, M. Field, K. Ptak	Completed
3. Pilot a total of 4 classroom sets (4 different sets of furniture). Pilot 2 classroom sets per school and then	Various teachers, students and administrators.	January - March, 2016

<p>switch classroom sets to allow for piloting at the other school.</p> <p>COST of PILOT: not to exceed \$15k</p>		
<p>4. Collect survey data and focus group feedback from buildings.</p>	<p>M. Field</p>	<p>Throughout pilot</p>
<p>5. Review findings and determine recommendation.</p>	<p>Committee - R. Williamson, R. Bretag, C. Muir, M. Field, K. Ptak</p>	<p>April, 2016</p>
<p>6. Present recommendation to BOE</p>	<p>Committee - R. Williamson, R. Bretag, C. Muir, M. Field, K. Ptak</p>	<p>April, 2016</p>