To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, innovation & technology, ext. 2755
         Tara Martin, facilitator, elementary curriculum, ext. 4844
         Nicole Corn, kindergarten teacher, Sunset Hill, ext. 1702

Re: Kindergarten Global Project

Date: May 4, 2017

Background:
In January 2017, Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent of innovation & technology,
elementary curriculum facilitator, Tara Martin, and Sunset Hill kindergarten teacher,
Nicole Corn, embarked on a global cultural exchange project with Copernic
kindergarten principal, Josh Bobley, in Shanghai, China. The Kindergarten Global
Project, known more formally as the US-China Kindergarten Exchange (USCKE), has
the broad goal of connecting students globally to share knowledge and broaden their
understanding of the world.

Prior to connecting students, parties planned via email and met virtually on WeChat, a
popular texting and video app in China, to determine a digital platform that would work
in both the US and China. They eventually settled on SeeSaw, a popular app which
enables students to create portfolios of digital work – pictures and videos – that they
can share with peers, teachers, parents and, in this case, new pen pals across the
globe. The group also worked with the district's graphic designer to create a logo and
wrote and edited a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the scope of the current
project and goals for the future.

Students have shared photos and videos of their favorite foods, personal works of art,
school and home activities, how subjects are taught differently in the two countries,
and their favorite books. To ensure confidentiality, the student names are protected
and access to the site flows through the teacher. Future projects will be more
intentional, directing students to connect and engage each other on a deeper level to
work together to solve problems.

Current Report:
This report will summarize the work thus far of the US-China Kindergarten Exchange,
sharing examples of the students' exchanges and long-term goals for the project.