

To: Board of Education

From: Kirsten Wondra, assistant director, curriculum, instruction& assessment, ext. 2622

Re: Changes in District Professional Learning

Date: February 4, 2016

Report:

An overview will be presented outlining the evolution of district professional learning from the beginning of the year to present. The Whova app will be demonstrated and educator feedback will be presented.

Professional learning for staff in Lawrence has been based on a combination of current trends and research in pedagogy, instruction and learning, combined with board goals and building needs. However, based on feedback from our professional education staff, the current model of our professional learning days were not meeting their needs to the extent desired. The Teaching and Learning Department (T&L) also noted that our current model did not allow for our educators to experience personalized learning through a blended format.

One of the large shifts we are asking our educators to make is to truly personalize student learning through the blended learning model. This year, T&L sought to alter the traditional “sit and get” model of professional development and to personalize the professional learning of our educators through a blended learning approach. The new model empowers educators to utilize their individual goals and needs to customize their learning – be it in a particular content area, learning strand or session format. The sessions offered utilize a combination of administrators, teachers, outside community groups/leaders and students as presenters. The board goals translate into six learning strands, upon which all sessions are categorized.