

Linden Unified School District
BOARD ACTION ITEM

Date: April 7, 2014
To: Superintendent
From: Mary Evans
Principal, Linden Elementary
Subject: Reading & Writing Summer Institute
Teacher & Administrator Professional Development

BACKGROUND:

In February, five Linden Elementary teachers and one administrator attended the *Reading & Writing Institute* to participate professional development from top leaders in the field of reading and writing at the Teachers College of Columbia University. This institute addressed specific strategies in reading and writing content areas of social studies and science. Numerous lessons were presented by institute experts that included planning and acquiring resources from a variety of mediums. Classroom teachers and the principal returned from the February Institute with much knowledge to share and much more enthusiasm about the shift to Common Core Standards. These teachers are using strategies in their classes, collecting data, and using resources from the institute to be better prepared to share with colleagues as part of professional development. These institutes are coordinated and researched by Lucy Calkins, a highly regarded true practitioner and researcher in the field of reading and writing.

Participants will return with knowledge of the central role of curriculum development and planning in the teaching of reading, units of study in reading workshop, comprehension strategy instruction, the importance of assessment-based instruction, the role of the read-aloud book, methods of holding our students accountable for doing their best work, helping students grow ideas about literature, and classroom structures that support inquiry and collaboration.

Participants will provide professional development to district staff upon their return.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board approval for the six teachers, (including our reading intervention teacher) and the administrator to attend the Reading & Writing Summer Institute at The Teachers College of Columbia University in 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION: Title I

Financial implications include registration (\$750.00 per person), accommodations (\$150/night per person), and , at this time, travel expenses (Airfare - \$550.00 per person), for a total estimated cost of \$15000.00, plus meals and travel incidentals.