

TO: Linden USD Board Members
FROM: Janet Handley
DATE: December 9, 2013
RE: Approval for Travel to "Pathways to the Common Core" Conference
Hosted by Author, Lucy Calkins

The Board is being asked to approve the expenditures for five elementary teachers from Linden Elementary to attend a conference in New York. Costs will be paid through Title I site funding.

Lucy Calkins, author of Pathways to the Common Core, provides teacher institutes at Columbia University in New York. She offers a summer and winter institute. Teachers may apply to her program and she will accept a limited amount of participants.

Next year Linden USD will be focusing on reading and the major shifts in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These shifts include: ensuring that 35% of the students are reading informational text, learning to develop, ask and respond to text referenced questions, and understanding text complexity to get at the higher level of reading, and understanding required of our students in Common Core.

This institute will present ideas on how to ramp up the level of rigor and engagement in the content areas, repertoire of skills for teaching student to think and read analytically about nonfiction texts, close reading strategies along with informational writing. This institute will help tie what was learned and implemented this year with the reading they will be doing next year. Teachers will develop an implementation plan for implementation into ELA, science and social studies.

Linden Elementary teachers have an opportunity to attend training with an expert in the field using Title I money. There will be one teacher leader going per grade level. Travel and registration will be covered by Title I. When the teachers return they will provide workshops on what they have learned and will also take a leadership role at their grade level to incorporate their training into grade level planning. Developing teachers is an excellent way to see that we successfully continue the transition into the CCSS. This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to learn from a highly regarded educator/researcher.

Thank you for your consideration.