



# Levy Implementation Update

May 30, 2014

## **Technology Innovation**

### Teacher Computers

COMPLETE-All new teacher devices have been deployed. Seven teachers are on leave and will receive their new devices when they return.

### Student Devices and Online Testing Field Tests

The second testing session for the PARCC and ODE NGA assessments concluded last week.

This session showed improvements over the first testing session, with very few issues reported.

We continue to work with ODE and PARCC communications in preparation for next year's official rollout of assessments. Additional student devices will be part of this summer's technology action items to meet the testing needs and provide modern devices for instruction during non-testing periods.

### Wireless Upgrade

We are currently coordinating the upgrades of the wireless systems at both Hopewell Elementary and Hopewell Junior by the end of May. This will ensure this project does not interrupt the HVAC upgrades taking place in those buildings this summer.

We continue to coordinate the district wide upgrades, which will take place once school is out of session. Plains Jr. and Van Gorden will be first to ensure their wireless system is fully functional for Summer School.

### Network Infrastructure Upgrade

Fiber-optic cabling installation is currently underway in both high schools. Copper cabling expansion is currently underway in some elementaries in preparation for the wireless expansion.

All interior cabling will be completed by the end of school, with external cabling taking place once school is out of session, with the exception of the Central Office, Plains, Van Gorden campus, which was completed in April.

### Internet Service Provider

We continue to coordinate this project with the vendor for implementation this summer.



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## Digital Learning Team

All hiring is complete! Krista Heidenreich continues to collaborate with the Hamilton County ESC, is exploring visiting other districts, and is coordinating some professional development through the University of Cincinnati for the Digital Learning team. Additional professional learning opportunities are also being explored.

The teacher survey remains active and we have received over 400 responses thus far!

The team schedule for the summer is being coordinated summer to ensure the team is prepared for their official start dates in August.

There are several moving parts and much planning underway with much more information we look forward to sharing as it is finalized.

## Technical Support New Hires

Two positions remain open and we continue to interview while onboarding all new technicians.

## Student Information System Upgrade

We are working with the vendor and the final customizations conversions and few remaining open items.

Teacher Access Center documentation and communications have been shared with teachers and principals. eSchool documentation and communication has been finalized and will be shared with office staff this week. Shawn Smith met with the District Parent Council and shared her communication and documentation with the group and offered an email address they could provide their input and feedback (nothing has yet been received)

In addition, staff professional learning opportunities are being scheduled for June and August.

Additional communications will go out this summer.

## **Safety and Security**

The College S.A.F.E. course was offered to Lakota East and Lakota West senior females. Short for Self-defense Awareness Fundamental Education, the 10-hour course combines lectures and guided discussions with practical application. The optional course is free to students and is administered in two-hour increments through five consecutive after-school sessions. The opportunity was made available to Lakota West students the week of April 28 and to Lakota East students the week of May 12. Two



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additional sessions during the weeks of June 16 and June 23 will be offered to accommodate additional students at either school.

The S.A.F.E. course is modeled after the community course already available at the West Chester Police Department. Law enforcement officers serving Lakota Schools will assess the effectiveness and responsiveness to this course to determine additional course offerings for next school year.

In addition, on June 10, all administrators will meet with the district's school resource officers for a day of in-depth training in responding to various situations that arise at school. We will be focusing on standardizing safety procedures across all buildings and preparing personnel to respond to different variables.

We've selected VSWC Architects to lead the district's safe and secure entrances project. Twelve Lakota buildings required architectural plans. Building visits to prepare these plans are now complete.

Conceptual blueprints will be complete by the end of June with the goal of developing full design plans and initiating construction bids by December 2014.

Grants for radios and buzzers have been approved and we are now working to get the new devices installed and implemented in the buildings.

Financing for all safety and security projects has been approved, allowing for work to be done as soon as possible, with the debt to be repaid from levy funds as they arrive. This financing is also being used for the facilities work detailed below.

## **Operations**

The HVAC system upgrades at Hopewell Elementary and Hopewell Junior High School are continuing. Demolition of the original, inefficient systems is largely complete. We are still on track to complete the upgrade before school starts Aug. 21.

The cost of this major work is projected at \$7.9 million. Savings are being realized from doing both schools at the same time, as their proximity to each other will allow crews to work on both projects at the same time. Financing has been approved, and will be repaid with future Permanent Improvement fund revenues generated from the levy.

We are preparing for other standard summertime operational repairs, like sidewalk and blacktop improvements, replacement of carpet and other flooring where needed and summer cleaning. All of these efforts are supported by existing permanent improvement funds.



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## **Student Learning and Innovation (Grades 7-12)**

Implementation of the new seven-bell day for grade 9 continues on schedule. We have final numbers in for student course requests and are now working with district staffing.

Student enrollment numbers for new course offerings in Chinese showed sufficient enrollment numbers, but at this time no teacher has been found. Enrollment numbers were insufficient for the Venture Highway entrepreneurship courses, which will not be offered.

## **Student Learning and Innovation (Grades K-6)**

We are still on schedule to begin offering an additional rotation of art, music or P.E. each week beginning in fall 2014. The new elementary class schedule has been developed.

On the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, parent communications have been developed for those students who may be retained under the requirements of Ohio law. We are also introducing a summer Third Grade Reading Guarantee program.

## **Student Learning and Innovation (all grades)**

We continue to prepare to implement the new (required) Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. We have conducted professional development sessions with assistant principals, and presented to all principals on the performance rubric and consistency in observation practices and scoring.

A professional development summer learning series is scheduled for two sessions, one just after students' last day and one before the start of school. A communication on this Summer Learning Series went out to all staff this week. This learning series is a collaborative effort between the Curriculum and Instruction Dept., the Technology Dept., and the Special Services Dept.