

Rescheduled Board Meeting – April 12, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 TECHNOLOGY STAFFING ALLOCATION**Overview**

Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, the Administrative Team is recommending an additional staffing allocation for a Director of Informational Technology.

Rationale

In the spring of 2010, the Board of Education approved the allocation of an additional technology position to better address the rapidly growing need for instructional and communication applications of available technological resources, and to help guide the district to future applications of technology across both our instructional and business operations. A Director of Instructional Technology was hired this past August.

The integration of the new instructional technology role with the existing network administrator role has proved complicated and at times problematic. The interdependence of instructional technology with network capability requires leadership in both technical and project-management expertise to adequately design overall responsibilities and ongoing tasks and to adequately supervise existing personnel.

This past January, we contracted with Revere Group, an IT consulting organization, to perform an assessment of our technology department in order to develop industry-standard strategic goals and processes. The recommendations of the assessment provided a much-needed and reasonable roadmap for moving the district forward. The key recommendation highlights the need for an overarching leadership position within the department to bridge the instructional components with the technical components. A Director of Informational Technology would have both the management and technical expertise to oversee the Technology Department and to ensure more efficient and effective operations across the district.

Conclusion

District 68 must begin to prepare itself for the exponential growth of technology applications for both instructional and business operations. New curriculum materials, student achievement data warehousing, communications, and business services are now all dependent upon a sophisticated technology interface. We must be able to support increasingly advanced technology applications for 21st century teaching and learning, for fluid electronic communication between district stakeholders and especially between students and their teachers, for more efficient business applications, and for more secure informational and data warehousing. The Technology Department has grown over the past few years in relationship to the demands of technology applications across the district, and now requires a skilled leader to manage the many components of a continually expanding and critical element of the school district.