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OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Memo

To Board of Education
 From Tony Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent
 By: Maria Santos, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction, Leadership & Equity-in-Action
 Vernon Hal, Deputy Superintendent, Business & Operations

Board Meeting Date November 16, 2011

Subject Memorandum of Understanding - Mills College and Oakland Unified School District - High School Network

Action Requested Approval by the Governing Board of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Oakland Unified School District and Mills College, to work together to implement the Digital Civics Initiative for OUSD High Schools as funded by Bechtel Planning Grant, which has been awarded to Mills College; this MOU will continue in effect until June 30, 2015, thereafter, the MOU may be modified by mutual agreement of both Parties, with enough advance notice such that the changes can take effect before the next academic year, at no fiscal cost to the District.

Background The purpose of this initiative is to leverage web 2.0 tools and practices to provide all high school students with opportunities that support their development as committed, informed, and effective civic actors. This initiative grows out of the knowledge that many youth do not currently have the knowledge, skills and dispositions that enable them to effectively engage in civic and political life. The emphasis on web 2.0 tools reflects recognition that digital media have become central to civic and political life and that digital media literacy has become a core educational and civic competency.

Discussion During the planning grant period, September 14, 2011 - February 15, 2012, the leadership team members will:

- Attend 3 planning meetings (4 days total, 3 days of instructional time) - tentatively scheduled for Nov. 4, Dec. 2-3, and Jan. 10 - where they will contribute their expertise to help craft a high quality professional development initiative.
- Spend additional time between meetings engaged in inquiry around core planning grant questions, such as - What do we mean by powerful civic engagement? What opportunities and resources are in our diverse community? What barriers exist? How do our curriculum and practices contribute to and/or limit this vision of civic engagement by and for youth? How can we use our identified leverage points to expand powerful civic engagement by and for youth in OUSD?



- Represent the initiative as a core member of the leadership team to colleagues and students in OUSD.

Recommendation

Approval by the Governing Board of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Oakland Unified School District and Mills College, to work together to implement the Digital Civics Initiative for OUSD High Schools as funded by Bechtel Planning Grant, which has been awarded to Mills College; this MOU will continue in effect until June 30, 2015, thereafter, the MOU may be modified by mutual agreement of both Parties, with enough advance notice such that the changes can take effect before the next academic year, at no fiscal cost to the District.

Fiscal Impact

None—all expenses will be covered by Bechtel Planning Grant, already awarded to Mills College. The effort of the Planning Grant team will be to request further funding from the Bechtel Foundation to support the Digital Civics Initiatives in collaboration between Mills College School of Education and OUSD Social Studies Department.

Attachments

- Memorandum of Understanding

AMD:s/

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Mills College and
and
Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)
to develop
a Digital Civics Curriculum within the Social Studies Department of OUSD

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms by which Mills College and the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will work together to implement the Digital Civics Initiative for OUSD High Schools as funded by Bechtel Planning Grant, which has been awarded to Mills College.

Mills College has been awarded a planning grant by the Bechtel Foundation for a collaborative project between OUSD and Mills College and the National Writing Project. The purpose of this planning grant is for staff from Mills to work with a group of Social Studies teachers and staff from the National Writing Project to create curriculum that will be embedded in OUSD Social Studies classes. The purpose of the curriculum will be focused on the use of technology and digital education, civics and community service and writing instruction. During the planning grant, staff from Mills College and the National Writing Project may gather information, via teacher and student surveys and interviews, in collaboration with OUSD to ensure that initiative aligns with OUSD's needs and goals. This may include interviews, focus groups or surveys with students during instructional time.

Program Design and Implementation—Planning

The initial planning grant which has been awarded to Mills College to support teacher planning, which will include the costs for 3 substitute days for teachers who are involved (36 days total). This amount will be paid for with the planning grant and will not have a fiscal cost to OUSD. The planning grant will also support ¼ of the coordinator's salary

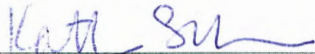
and benefits—which comes to a total of \$12,321. This amount will also be covered by the planning grant. Teachers will be compensated for any planning time conducted after school or on Saturdays.

Review of Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU will continue in effect until June 30, 2015. Thereafter, the MOU may be modified by mutual agreement of both Parties, with enough advance notice such that the changes can take effect before the next academic year.

Should either Mills College or OUSD determine that one of the parties is not fulfilling the terms of this agreement, either can ask for a meeting to discuss concerns. At such a meeting, it is agreed that the concerned party will notify the other that a concern exists and the meeting to discuss the concern will include, as appropriate, the OUSD Coordinator of the project, the key Mills staff, the Executive Officer of High Schools (if needed). Each organization may bring additional people, as they deem necessary.


Accepted and Agreed:



Kathy Shultz, Dean
Mills College, School of Education

10/24/11

Date

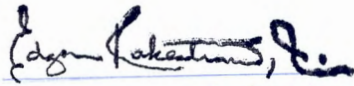


Anthony Smith, Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

Date

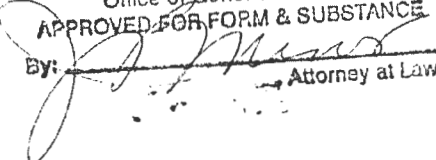


Jody London
President, Board of Education



Edgar Rakestraw, Jr., Secretary
Board of Education

11/17/11

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of General Counsel
APPROVED FOR FORM & SUBSTANCE
By: 

Attorney at Law

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