To: Dr. Charles Johns
From: Cameron Muir, Ed Solis, Eric Etherton, Jason Markey, Jennifer Pearson, Lara Cummings, Rosanne Williamson, Ryan Bretag
Re: Student Success + SEL Platform Update
Date: March 14, 2022

Recommendation

The administration is seeking approval to utilize approved grant funds to purchase a student success platform for $50,687.50 annually as part of a three-year contract (15% license discount).

Background

A student success platform is an all-in-one data platform that pulls student information into one spot to easily scale student supports. It allows staff to see the whole child: to help guide student interventions, monitor student progress, and see the student and the district holistically. A platform will allow us to proactively identify and support at-risk students using early warning indicators as well as understand what is working or where further support is needed. Finally, it will allow the district to measure and understand social-emotional (SEL) learning with research-backed assessments and actionable data reports.

Process

Over the past two years, the district identified a gap in our ability to
- Centralizes our data across multiple systems in an easily accessible and navigable interface
- Collect and measure data on the social-emotional state of our students
- Understand and analyze the full data story of students across four major markers: academics, attendance, behavior, and social-emotional
- Develop interventions that can be monitored and tracked as part of a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)

After a review of potential solutions, a team reviewed three platforms before narrowing our focus to one in the late fall 2021. With a narrowed lens, we expanded the review across different discussions and project work with members of curriculum and instruction, deans, principals, special education, student services, and our PowerSchool district-wide committee.

Across each of these groups, the feedback continued to support Panorama Education as the ideal student success platform for addressing our identified gap and supporting the work of our staff with students. As well, we contacted both area and national school districts that are currently using the platform. These districts shared how the tool has been an effective instrument in closing similar gaps. The following is a partial list of area districts utilizing the platform:

Hinsdale High School District 86	Niles Township High School District 219
Indian Prairie CUSD 204	St. Charles CUSD 303
Maine Township 207	Stevenson High School District
Naperville Community Unified 203 (IL)	Township HSD 211

Implementation

The implementation process begins this spring with the data integration and optimization work. In addition, we will begin the construction of our SEL benchmark assessments. We intend to customize SEL benchmark assessments based upon our strategic focus and publish the final, customized instruments on our district website to promote complete transparency. Key stakeholders will be involved in the design of these benchmarks. In the summer, we intend to launch the student success platform to school and district leaders which will provide dashboards for district-wide patterns and trends. This will allow us to center our professional development on specific workflows for the start of the 2022 academic year centered on student-specific data that allows for proactive action and awareness. During the fall of 2022, our classroom teachers will gain access to the full platform for their students. We will provide opportunities for ongoing professional development throughout the year including understanding the SEL benchmark assessment data.