

K-64

For Release: June 29, 2017

K-64 BOARD AUTHORIZES SHORT-TERM TRAINING PLAN, FORMS TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

HICKORY, NC – The K-64 Education Board met June 29, 2017, and voted to initiate implementation of a short-term professional development plan for teachers in Catawba County Schools, Hickory Public Schools and Newton-Conover City Schools this summer.

The plan calls for the school systems to coordinate instructional technology training for more than 100 teachers from all three systems. Teachers will also be provided with technology tools, such as iPads and Chromebooks depending on grade level, to facilitate integration of what they learn into their classrooms starting this fall.

The Board approved funding in the amount of \$118,505 from the K-64 operating budget to support plan implementation.

The Board prioritized this action due to the opportunity summer break provides for teacher training. This effort directly aligns with K-64's goal to provide educators with the knowledge and tools needed to incorporate leading-edge technologies into lesson plans and classroom environments.

Also during today's meeting, the Board voted to establish a Technology Task Force which will be comprised of an instructional technology representative from each school system and additional community members. The Task Force will assess needs and recommend solutions to increase student and teacher proficiencies through the use of relevant instructional technologies on an ongoing basis. K-64 board member Michael Ellwanger, director of global cable product development for Corning Optical Communications, was nominated to chair the workgroup.

K-64 is an education and economic development initiative that prepares students of all ages with the skills needed to compete in the global economy with a focus on six priority areas: 1-to-world technology, character development, tech-savvy educators, work-based learning, employer engagement, and career adaptability. The initiative builds on what's already working in Catawba County by expanding and implementing model programs throughout the local education system in collaboration with local employers and community partners. K-64 is governed by a 12-member board of directors comprised of both private and public sector representatives and is managed by Catawba Valley Community College.

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