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Professional learning is vital to the success of all staff in Pleasantdale 107. We want our professional learning opportunities to be timely, relevant, grounded in best practices, and tailored to the needs of our staff members. There are several ways that staff can engage in professional learning: 1) district institute days and half days, 2) workshop and conference requests, 3) instructional coaching cycles, and 4) our PD Pathways program are just a few. In addition to these options, we are also required by the State of Illinois to make sure each staff member completes certain mandated training annually. Each of the four areas listed above are detailed in the executive summary below.

District Institutes and Half Days

Each year we plan our district institutes to align with the goal areas of the district's strategic plan. Topics for this year's institutes included: an MTSS overview for all staff, training on Skyward Q and Parent Square, and team/grade level planning time. This year was also a CPR training year, so all of our staff have been or will be trained on CPR by the end of this school year. In addition to these activities on institute days, we also took advantage of a new program from West 40 called EmpowerEd. These are free professional learning and networking sessions that are available to all West 40 districts. This year both in-person and virtual sessions were offered on most of the institute days. Specials teachers attended job-specific networking and training sessions, social studies and science teachers attended literacy in the content area sessions, and all of our instructional aides attended an in-person session for paraprofessionals. We also requested some in-house professional learning through EmpowerEd on these institute days. One strand was on Building Teacher Leader Capacity, which was designed for district and building teacher leaders. We had one introductory session in October and three follow-up sessions after school in the spring: Fostering Psychological Safety, Having Difficult Conversations, and Running Effective Meetings. The other strand was for instructional aides and the teachers who work with aides. Teachers from both buildings attended a session this spring on Teachers Supporting Paraprofessionals, and our instructional aides attended a training on working with cooperating teachers. Our intention is to continue this series next year with the teachers and instructional aides going through training and planning time together.

Workshop and Conference Requests

This year a total of **45 staff members** requested to attend a variety of workshops and conferences. These requests included content-specific conferences: ACTFL for world language, IAHPERD for PE/health, ASCD kindergarten conference, IDEAcon for technology, Illinois Reading Conference for ELA, math sessions through MCMI, coaching conferences, and the NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Annual Conference In Minneapolis, MN.

Instructional Coaching Cycles

Teachers can sign up for an instructional coaching cycle with one of our five trained coaches in two different ways. One option is that the teachers who are in the second year mentoring program can choose to do a cycle to help work towards the stretch goals they have set for the

year. The other option is to do a coaching cycle through the PD Pathways program and earn one hour of in-district credit. This year **five teachers** took advantage of instructional coaching cycles. We'll be working on several ways to expand instructional coaching for next year, including making it a part of the second year teacher experience.

PD Pathways

Professional Development (PD) Pathways is a way for teachers to select and complete professional development options at their own pace. At the same time, they can also earn credit toward lane advancement on our salary schedule. The PD Pathways options qualify for in-district workshop credit, and teachers can earn one (1) semester hour of credit for every twelve (12) clock hours of work. Teachers can earn a maximum of 36 clock hours (equal to 3 semester hours) per school year. Topics range from Apple Teacher to Google Certified Educator to SeeSaw Ambassador and more. Teachers can also propose options that are approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning in advance. Each teacher who chooses a pathway to work on is assigned a coach. The coach and teacher meet, come up with a plan, and the coach checks in on the teacher as they work through the pathway. Once completed, the teacher submits evidence and the business office is notified for lane advancement purposes. We currently have **10 teachers** who have either started or completed a PD Pathway this school year. Chosen paths have included Schoology training, instructional coaching cycles, and various other self-paced courses. We will continue to encourage our teachers to take advantage of this annual opportunity for both learning and salary advancement.

Summer Work and Professional Learning

We will be continuing our "Pleasantdale PD from Your Patio" series this summer after it was a huge success in the Summer of 2025. These are virtual workshops led by our teachers for 30, 45 or 60 minutes that can be accessed from anywhere. Last summer's **22 sessions** covered topics that drew from five categories: Literacy, Math, English Language Learning, Instructional Technology, and Skyward. We had a total of **45 staff members** attend **at least one session** this summer, and **total attendance** at all of the sessions combined was just under **200!** The call for proposals went out prior to spring break and the brochure of offerings will come out in May. Finally, teachers will engage in summer curriculum projects. Various teacher teams will be working with district and building leaders on MTSS, SEL, executive functioning, and on other curricular projects. We look forward to a productive summer!