ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Date of Meeting
   September 10, 2014

Title
   Update on Synergy—Supporting Teachers as They Use Synergy’s TVUE and Grade Book in the 2014-15 School Year

Presenter
   Cecelia Brands

Time Needed
   15 minutes including Q&A

Description
   Over the summer, the Technology Department upgraded the Synergy suite of programs, including Teacher Vue (TVUE) and Grade Book. Many program glitches that were present in last year's program were fixed, and many highly requested features were included in the 9.0 version of the program. Members of the Technology Department worked throughout the summer to ensure the rollover from last year to this year went smoothly. Because we knew the look and feel of the product would be different, time and effort was put into creating a more robust set of support documents for teachers who are using TVUE and/or Grade Book. These support materials are housed on the district website, and include technical directions, videos, and mini presentations. The hope is to add to the list of resources as time allows, since teachers are starting to explore more parts of the program.

   Teacher training for using the secondary grade book took place in a variety of ways, including:

   • Voluntary workshops offered at Cal Young Middle School on August 21 and 22, where teachers learned about aspects of the program while earning professional development credit (PDUs).
   • Cecelia Brands visited with most middle and high school staffs during inservice week, and introduced them to the changes in the TVUE and Grade Book programs, as well as the support website during staff meetings.
   • Groups of teachers are starting to request specialty trainings for setting up grade books, using Communication and/or Class Web Site modules, or learning how to attach standards or resources to assignments.