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**PRESENTATION ON REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF EXPANDING PRICE LABORATORY
SCHOOL AS A RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION, AND DISSEMINATION
SCHOOL**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: There will be a brief presentation on the report submitted to the General Assembly on January 15, 2009 regarding the investigation of expanding Price Laboratory School as a research, development, demonstration, and dissemination school.

The presentation will include highlights of two university lab schools that can serve as models for the R & D School. One of the schools is the P. K. Yonge Developmental Research School affiliated with the University of Florida. It has provided significant statewide educational benefits, especially with a literacy reform program. By incorporating best practices found in model schools, a statewide R & D School in Iowa would focus on the state's educational priorities, such as the Iowa Core Curriculum, and on innovative and promising instructional practices to support the research and development needed by PK-12 teachers and students throughout the state. The R & D School would ensure that innovative instructional practices are available to all teachers as they prepare students for life, work, and postsecondary pursuits in a changing global society.

Background:

As a result of legislation in 2008, SF 2307, the Director of the Department of Education and the President of the University of Northern Iowa established a finance and funding committee and an implementation committee which developed detailed plans for expansion of the Price Laboratory School at the University of Northern Iowa as the State of Iowa research, development, demonstration, and dissemination (R & D) school. The report was submitted to the Board at the February 2009 meeting (Agenda Item 2g).

The recommendations of the two committees focused on creating a school that serves the students and educators of the state of Iowa, recognizes the interdependence of all partners, and is sustainable under the leadership of the University of Northern Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education. In balancing the needs and the future of PK-12 education in the state of Iowa while nurturing professional respect for the work of educators, the committees concluded that the R & D school would be essential to all of Iowa's next generations and the vitality of the state of Iowa.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◇ The R & D School shall become an entity eligible for the school foundation aid formula. The R & D School shall maintain a basic geographic boundary line agreement with the Cedar Falls Community School District. Students residing outside of the boundary line agreement who attend the R & D School shall be counted in their district of residence and the resident district shall pay the R & D School in the same manner as open enrollment guidelines govern.
- ◇ If state foundation aid funding is established to support ongoing school operations, UNI shall be encouraged to reallocate funding that it is currently spending on operations to support the research, development, demonstration, and dissemination functions of the R & D school.
- ◇ If additional funding for research beyond that provided by UNI is needed, the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) shall be given legislative authority to grant supplemental weighting.
- ◇ Renovation or rebuilding of the Price Lab School shall be funded from a direct appropriation to the University of Northern Iowa from a source such as the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). The R & D School shall also be eligible to receive infrastructure dollars from the statewide one cent sales tax increase.
- ◇ The legislature shall appropriate \$35,000 to engage a design firm to evaluate the condition of the current Price Lab School facility; to determine an approximate cost of both renovation and new construction; and to recommend whether renovation or new construction is more feasible. LEED certification shall be sought for either a renovated or a new building; the school shall serve as a statewide demonstration site in energy efficiency and design.
- ◇ The R & D School shall establish a governance structure that creates an effective and sustainable school with development, demonstration, and dissemination methods that translate research into practice in all accredited public and nonpublic prekindergarten through grade 12 schools in Iowa.
- ◇ The R & D school shall serve as the environment where integration of the applied research, the development of best practices, and the demonstration of effective teaching and learning can be disseminated to all schools in the state through a network supported by the Iowa Department of Education, the University of Northern Iowa, and the Area Education Agencies in partnership with all the Regent Institutions and state PK-12 schools.
- ◇ The four primary functions of the R & D school shall include:
 - **Research:** study and test new innovative teaching and learning practices
 - **Demonstration:** model effective teaching practices
 - **Development:** determine effective pedagogical practices
 - **Dissemination:** share effective instructional practices
- ◇ UNI and the Iowa Department of Education shall be professional partners to operate the R & D School.

- ◇ UNI shall be the governing entity of the school and have responsibility for faculty, building, grounds, and staffing.
- ◇ The Iowa Department of Education shall be the accreditation agency, and serve as the authority on teacher qualification requirements and waiver provisions.
- ◇ The UNI President and the Iowa Department of Education Director shall jointly recommend a ten-member advisory board for approval by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education. The Advisory Board shall review and evaluate the process and results of the R & D School. The Advisory Board shall provide annual reports to the President of UNI, Director of the Department of Education, Board of Regents, and State Board of Education.
- ◇ An eight-member Standing Institutional Research Committee appointed by the UNI President and the Iowa Department of Education Director shall serve as the clearinghouse for the investigative and applied research at the R & D School. The Committee shall create protocols, approve proposals, review quality and results of the research, and provide support for dissemination efforts.
- ◇ The educational program shall focus on the state of Iowa's educational priorities such as the Iowa Core Curriculum, and innovative and promising instructional practices while supporting the research and development needed by Iowa's students and practicing teachers. The PK-12 student population shall mirror Iowa schools to the extent possible; the target enrollment shall be two classrooms for each grade level.
- ◇ The school facility shall be designed for 21st century learning with a state-of-the-art technology infrastructure that supports and enhances teaching and learning and that can be used for communicating with off-site universities, agencies, and schools.
- ◇ The primary audiences for the dissemination function of the school are PK-12 teachers and administrators, AEA educators, facilitators, consultants, university faculty, and pre-service teachers. The AEA network shall be used to disseminate information, and PK-12 school hubs throughout the state shall be identified to share information from the R & D School.
- ◇ The Professional Development model for pre-service teachers shall serve as another conduit to disseminate effective teaching and learning practices. State resources such as IPTV, ICN, and the Iowa Online Learning Program may also be utilized.
- ◇ A three-year timeline shall give UNI, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Education, time to develop a detailed plan to expand the Price Lab School operations into a fully functioning R & D school that serves the state of Iowa. A Transition Team appointed by the President of the University of Northern Iowa and the Director of the Iowa Department of Education shall write and implement specific transition plans that need to begin in year one and continue to occur over a three-year period to have a fully functioning R & D school. The team shall report quarterly to the UNI President and to the Department of Education Director. UNI and the Department of Education shall cooperatively provide resources needed by the Transition Team to complete its work.