Changes / Transition / Big Picture

- What does all this mean for District 181?
- How does this initiative support the Learning for All Plan?
- What small changes can be implemented in the near future (Tech)?
- Need to prioritize the planned steps and overall plan with all stakeholders.
- The plan must be strategic.
- How do we continue to educate our children NOW while we strategize for change?
- How do you implement change without hurting the Guinea Pig group?
- What practices need to be modified for today's learners?
- How do we know we aren’t throwing out the baby with the bath water?
- How do we bring independence back?
- How do you create an environment for students and teachers where it’s safe to make mistakes and learn from them?
- Where is the balance?
- Time to develop - where to start?
- How can we make schedule, space and groupings more flexible?

Curriculum / Standards

- With Common Core, how can we make room for additional elements?
- What curriculum changes are needed in the district?
- What is the role of Common Core in digital learning?
- How do we move beyond standards-based education?
- What are the standards of higher education going to be?
- Application of standards are confining
- Do we understand the scope and sequence across grade levels toward building creative and complex skills needed?
- How do we balance short life skills with long life skills?
- How can we balance our students learning between creativity and fundamental skills?
- Stem, Steam, tech, programming…how to fit in?
- How do we modify our curriculum to include more - group projects, collaboration (effective), problem solving, persuasion, etc.?
- How do we infuse problem solving teamwork, interpersonal skills within the core curriculum?
- Keyboarding skills are important.
- Intro to coding class is needed by middle school, for all students
- Need to offer more electives in the “Creative” learning spectrum
- How do we maximize engagement in learning by capturing students’ passions?
- Need to teach the students how to effectively collaborate with peers in group projects.
- Teaching how to give and receive constructive feedback in order to: collaborate, be a life-long learner, problem solve
- What kind of foundation do you need to do higher order thinking?
- How do we create the balance between foundational knowledge and high order thinking skills?
Instruction / Professional Development

• How do we encourage teachers to continually grow and change?
• Need to prioritize training for teachers to teach new skills.
• How do we reward excellent teaching?
• How do we get teachers to embrace digital tools with all that is in the curriculum?
• How to disseminate best practice?
• How do we change homework to embrace this?
• How do we handle misuse and overexposure of technology?
• How can we balance traditional, rote teaching with creative, innovative teaching?
• How as facilitators, can we become good role models for the digital learner?
• How will we engage the students who are now in the “video game” instant gratification phase?
• Do we need to challenge students to learn in their non-preferred way?
• How do we create independent learners? When do you let them be independent? Allowing to fail safely.
• We need lesson plans that present the new skills with the Common Core standards.
• Present a problem to groups of students throughout the year (weekly basis?) and have them present to class.
• How do we expect students to be creative if teachers are not allowed to be?

Assessment / Measurement

• How can we minimize standardized testing?
• How do we handle all the time spent on mandatory testing?
• Do the assessments match the 21st century needs? Ex: MAP, PARCC
• If we don’t use standardized tests, how will we show that we are producing at a high level, and show growth?
• What is the role of PARCC in digital learning?
• What is the desired outcome? (For: ES, MS and HS)
• How will we define success?
• Where is the data and pilot project?

Communication / Community Engagement

• How do we start the conversation with parents (181)?
• How do we engage more parents and market/share the need for change?
• How do we give people a common vocabulary/set of concepts to communicate well and at the same time encourage development of individual sets?
• How do we engage the community in this dialogue to support these shifts?
• What are the fears the community has?
• How do we get the perspective of the 20-something’s who have been through our system?
• Involve the community from the beginning?

Facilities

• How do we better utilize existing learning spaces?
• How can we make classrooms more comfortable?
• How can we make schedule, space and groupings more flexible?

Misc

• What part does memorizing play in brain development?
• How to abolish agrarian educational calendar?
• What does a student who is a team player look like?
• What are trends and best practices in other countries?
• How do we build the struggle in?
• Problem based (inquiry) learning?
• Over scheduling of students outside of school interferes with learning
• Play is essential for creativity
• Increased workload on teachers and students