

Strategic Planning Orientation Meeting – Thursday, August 23, 2018

MINUTES

Steve Olson, Superintendent, welcomed all those in attendance and thanked everyone for their time and commitment to the Strategic Planning process. Members introduced themselves per association with CHSD 155.

Steve Olson shared a short trailer from the movie “Most Likely to Succeed.” Mr. Olson will be sending out this movie link to all in the near future. Steve Olson then explained the process of finding assistance in facilitating and updating the district’s Strategic Plan. Mr. Olson introduced Perry Soldwedel, Consortium for Educational Change (CEC), who will be facilitating this and all future meetings.

Mr. Soldwedel briefly explained the Strategic Planning process, team members’ roles and responsibilities, and future meetings. It was noted that Arlana Bedard, Consortium for Educational Change representative, will be leading and engaging in sessions at all four school buildings. Mr. Soldwedel explained that the foundation of continuous improvement includes the following: Mission, Vision, Goals, and Values; noting that the challenge for the district is to design a plan for the next five years. It was further noted that the Board of Education is the only group that can approve this plan. Board of Education members will be continuously updated throughout this process.

Every member in attendance received a binder to organize and store materials from meeting to meeting. Information included in the binder will also be posted on the district website. Homework assignments (reading materials) will also be given at each meeting. It was noted that this evening’s meeting would focus on “Where are we now?” Other meetings will focus on the following: Data Retreat (“Where do we want to be?”; produce SWOT analysis), Vision Retreat (“How do you get from where you are to where you want to be?”; creative, change process), Setting Direction Retreat (Finalizing the plan; goals and strategies), and Final Meeting (Plan Draft - one-page with supporting document).

Perry Soldwedel, (CEC), then presented the articles/video that the district had selected as the evening’s homework assignment: “The Strategic Management Maturity Model”, How to Escape Education’s Death Valley (video), and “What Should Your Graduates Know?” Members were divided into three groups to discuss and identify five key concepts from the article they read or video they watched that they feel should assist the team as it works together to set a new direction for the district. Upon generation of five key concepts, the three groups went back to their tables for sharing of these key concepts and additional discussion.

Steve Olson shared the district’s history and background of strategic plans – “Doing What’s Right for Kids”; “For each student, we will inspire a love for learning, empower the pursuit of personal aspirations, and nurture a desire to contribute to the world”; and the current Community High School District 155 Targets.

Mr. Soldwedel then explained the Steps in the Process – noting “No Child Left Behind,” “Every Student Succeeds Act,” and how future changes may begin looking more at technical aspects (many situations in new jobs may not require a college education). He also briefly explained the CEC Strategic Planning Process color wheel noting that this may be found on the district’s website with additional information/explanation of this process.

Perry Soldwedel shared the results from the Assessment: Strategic Management Maturity Model. It was noted that 47 people completed this survey. The model included the eight dimensions of Strategic Management (Leadership; Culture and values; Strategic thinking and planning; Alignment; Performance measurement; Performance management; Process improvement; and Sustainability of strategic management). It was noted that examples of other school district’s Strategic Plans will be placed on the district website for viewing and understanding where D155 is heading. Members were informed that D47 had recently completed its new Strategic Plan with Mr. Soldwedel as facilitator.

Shannon Podzimek, Director of Communication, demonstrated how to find all relative information/documents via the district's website Strategic Plan link. Ms. Podzimek further explained how items are posted and published for all stakeholders. It was noted that the Environmental Scan Survey (needs assessment) will be shared with all stakeholders on the district's website on Monday, August 27, 2018.

Perry Soldwedel thanked everyone for their attendance, noting that the next meeting (Data Retreat) will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. The agenda and documents/information will be shared 4-5 days prior to the September 12, 2018 Data Retreat.