

VisionForward
Community Engagement Team (CET)
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021

Introduction of Community Chairs

- Members of the CET voted to have Linda Bahrke, Dave Hinde, Bob Miller and Teresa Simmons serve as the community chairs for the community engagement process.

Process Name and Branding

- Following a vote of the CET and a discussion at the meeting, the process will be known as *VisionForward: Planning For Our Future*. Creative Entourage will develop logo options for CET members to review prior to the Nov. 30 CET meeting.

Meeting Locations

- A number of locations were discussed to hold the community-wide VisionForward sessions. It was determined that the ideal location would be:
 - Inviting with easy accessibility
 - Centrally located within the District
 - Large enough to host hundreds of community members seated at round tables
 - Conducive to handling the audio and visual needs for meetings of this scale throughout the winter and spring.
- Locations discussed included:
 - Word of Life Church
 - Civic Arena
 - Various Schools
 - MWSU/Fulkerson Center
 - Frontier Casino
 - Stoney Creek Ballroom
 - Remington Nature Center
 - The Mall
 - Bartlett Center
 - Senior Center
 - Interserve
- It was determined that the mall would be the most appropriate location for the sessions and District leadership will explore the availability before the Nov. 30 CET meeting.

Calendar

- A final calendar was established for the VisionForward process. It is available on the VisionForward website

CES Presentation Topics

- Dr. Diane Rutledge from District Leadership Solutions provided information discovered during their team's meetings with district staff this fall. She noted the following areas and potential topics for discussion and discovery by the community:
 - Grade configuration
 - Middle school curriculum
 - Teacher retention
 - High school size
 - Parent/student retention
- Following Dr. Rutledge's presentation, the CET team had a lengthy discussion regarding potential topics and the focus for the first community meeting in January. Topics discussed by CET members included:
 - District Finances (School Finance 101)
 - Facilities and school structure
 - Staff retention
 - Improving student achievement
 - How do we compare to other districts (spending vs. achievement is there a correlation?)
 - Educating the whole student (attendance, achievement, opportunities)
 - What has made other districts successful?
 - Parental involvement, are there programs that can assist the community?
 - Psychological and physical safety
- The team determined that at the first meeting the community should be provided the opportunity to let the CET know what they want to learn more about before setting topics for future sessions.
- The first meeting will center around "What does success look like for the St. Joseph School District." Within this topic the following areas will be discussed:
 - What is the measurement stick? What are the measurable goals to define success?
 - What are the community's expectations for our schools?
 - What kind of school district should we be?
 - What information do we as a community need to learn to develop a plan for success in the future?
 - What are the top challenges and opportunities facing our schools?