

# Community Conversation

## Preparedness for Post-Secondary Success

### *Career Connected Learning*

The Board appreciated the thoughtful engagement from our community in the conversation about career connected learning. The panelists shared information about current as well as future work their respective organizations are doing to strengthen career pathways for students. Participants engaged in thoughtful dialogue and asked questions of the panelists. As a Board of Directors, we have held two work sessions to discuss what we learned from the Community Conversation; further, we reflected on its alignment with our Strategic Plan.

Our determination as a result of the Community Conversation is as follows:

1. Our Strategic Plan Goal: *Preparedness for Post-Secondary Success - Every student will successfully navigate the critical transitions in their personalized learning trajectory, and will graduate from high school prepared for success in college, career, and post-secondary experiences.* This is a critical goal for us to achieve.

Our stakeholders confirmed that Outcome C: *increased percentage of seniors with a High School and Beyond Plan that includes an acceptance letter to college, the military, trade/technical training, industry certification/apprenticeship, or verifiable employment-* is necessary for today's graduates.

The Community Conversation established that District staff have prioritized work that aligns resources to achieve this goal. Several Key Actions from the Strategic Plan (1.3.B., 1.3.C, 2.2.D., and 2.3.B) are currently the focus. This is evidenced by the review of the advisory program at the middle and high school level, the implementation of the High School and Beyond Plan, and the expansion of Career and Technical Education programming which ensures that students at each high school have equal access to programming in the various career pathways. The Board affirms that this work is essential and expects it to continue.

2. Our District's Student Advisory program is a necessary structure for addressing Career Connected Learning which includes the High School and Beyond Plan.
  - a. We expect the Superintendent to direct appropriate staff to ensure all students have access to career education and career planning. We also trust parents to be informed about these career education experiences. We know our current advisory programming begins the High School and Beyond plan in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we recommend that career education begin in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and continue throughout high school.
  - b. It is important that students have the opportunity to hear directly from people in a variety of careers; this is a priority for careers that require an apprenticeship or lead to a career in a skilled trade position. Skilled trade positions are in high demand and consistently provide for a living wage. Reigniting the importance and enthusiasm for trade positions is vital to attracting students to this career sector. Inviting industry experts to the school and classroom is an efficient way for students to have access to their expertise and the variety of career opportunities available in these sectors.
  - c. Students have many pathways on the journey to becoming Career and College Ready. Recognition programs at the high school level must be inclusive of all students with each chosen pathway recognized and celebrated.
3. Our military-connected career pathway for students should be strengthened. We direct the Superintendent to work with appropriate staff to ensure a complete review of current programming and explore options for strengthening student access to military preparation programming.