

## Community Conversation

### Responsible, **Resilient**, Empowered Learners

The Board was pleased by the high level of interest and engagement from our public on the important topic of **resiliency**. The panelists provided excellent information, participants engaged in reflection, dialogue, and asked thoughtful questions. As a Board, we have had the time to consider and discuss the information that was shared during the Community Conversation and to reflect on our District's current practices aligned to our Strategic Plan. We have made the following determinations as a result of the Community Conversation:

1. Our Strategic Plan *Goal 2: Responsible, Resilient, Empowered Learners* – is an important goal. Our stakeholders have confirmed that this goal is equally important to other goal areas that focus specifically on academic achievement.

The Goal is described in this way: *Every student will feel safe as an empowered, responsible, and resilient learner, open to and accepting cultural diversity and perspectives, and empowered to advocate for and pursue their own educational passions.* The Goal specific to the area of resiliency is measured under Outcome A: *Increased percentage of students meeting social, emotional, and behavioral expectations.*

The Community Conversation confirmed that District staff have prioritized work that aligns resources to achieving this goal. Several Key Actions from the Strategic Plan (1.2.A; 1.2.B, and 1.2.D) are currently the focus and are evidenced by District work such as Breaking Down the Walls, PBIS implementation, professional development on trauma-informed practices, field testing of Social Emotional Learning Curriculum, professional development on Mental Health First Aid, hiring staff to provide mental health services, counseling services, and homeless youth services, and community partnerships. The Board affirms that this is the right work and expects this work to continue.

2. Our partnerships with community organizations are strong and must continue to develop and evolve.
  - a. We expect the Superintendent to direct appropriate staff to continue to engage in regular partnership with community organizations to provide for the social, emotional, and behavior health of our students. We learned the value of the services these organizations provide our students and we know that schools cannot do this work alone. We are fortunate to have partnerships with organizations such as TreeHouse, Family Education and Support Services, Community Youth Services, St. Peter's Hospital, Catholic Community Services, BHR, SeaMar, JBLM, and others. We understand that it takes staff time to engage in meaningful collaboration with these partners; however, we believe it needs to continue to be a priority.
3. A social stigma continues to be attached to mental health; as a school system, we must continue to engage in efforts to reduce and remove this stigma for the benefit of our students. We must also continue to inform students, staff and parents about the school-based and community-based resources that are available to our students.
  - a. We direct the superintendent to work with appropriate staff to research current district-wide communication efforts related to mental health including teenage suicide, in order to develop a communication strategy that articulates that our school system embraces and supports students with behavioral health needs.