Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

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Sweet Home Central School District
Board of Education
Goals for the 2022-2023 School Year

At its annual retreat on September 30, 2022, the Sweet Home Board of Education engaged in discussion regarding its goals for the 2022-2023 school year. Emerging from the pandemic, the Board will continue to provide leadership in order for the District to achieve its mission of Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

Goal #1

The Board of Education, through strategic planning, will investigate, explore, and implement ways grades UPK through 12 can emerge through the pandemic and build programming in line with 21st Century Learning. It is critical that we prepare students for a future that is continually evolving, while at the same time close achievement gaps created by the pandemic. The Board of Education will work together with District Office to develop a plan that provides relevant programming and services where critical-thinking, problem-solving, and technological skills are developed so that students can compete in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Rationale

Now as we emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever, we must future-proof our students so they are prepared to adapt and adjust in a rapidly changing society. Many of our elementary aged students will work in a job that does not exist yet. Our students must develop their critical-thinking skills, problem-solving skills, collaborative skills, and technological skills in order to compete and thrive. We will work with District Office to develop and implement a strategic plan that is relevant for today's and tomorrow's learners.

Mid-Year Notes

Goal #2

Emerging from the pandemic, the Sweet Home Central School District will offer our students a full-slate of programming, extracurricular activities, and services so students can fully participate in the school experience at Sweet Home. By offering our students a full-slate of activities, we expect to raise achievement levels, improve students attendance, improve the mental and social well-being of our student body, and improve overall culture in the District.

Rationale

Sweet Home prides itself in serving the whole child and our entire school community. Students should experience a school that cares for their well being and will offer every opportunity for them to grow and develop into confident members of society. We will accomplish this by offering every student programs designed for them to be successful in and out of the classroom. Sweet Home prides itself on community and it is critical that our students feel that the community has a vested interest in their growth, development, and overall well-being.

Mid-Year Notes

Goal #3

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive educational and work environment where all stakeholders have the opportunity to succeed and achieve. Now that a District-Wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has been created, the next phase will be to support the creation of sub-committees in line with the New York State DEI Framework. Our entire school community is invited to participate in critical work in the areas of Teaching and Learning; Workplace Diversity; Family and Community Engagement; Diverse Schools and Learning Opportunities; and Student Supports, Discipline and Wellness, so all stakeholders have a sense of belonging and contribute to the overall success of our District.

Rationale

Our DEI initiative will move into Phase 2 of our work this year as we create sub-committees that will address the five pillars of the New York State DEI Framework. We will engage all stakeholders in our school community and be inclusive of all voices in this critical work. Our DEI mission is to cultivate a community where all members experience a sense of belonging, and we will achieve our vision to foster an equitable environment that is culturally responsive, inclusive of all voices, and dedicated to lifelong learning to make our world a better place.

Mid-Year Notes

Goal #4

The Board of Education will support a continual improvement model in terms of academic success for all students in the Sweet Home Central School District. The Board is committed to closing learning gaps created as a result of the pandemic, and implementing intervention plans to ensure all students are on appropriate academic levels at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Rationale

The Board has seen clear data that students are more successful when they are provided with in-person instruction at Sweet Home. Using data, Sweet Home will continue to explore achievement gaps, improve student attendance, and create plans with goals that will close those gaps for each and every student in the District.

Mid-Year Notes

Goal #5

The Board of Education will create a budgetary plan that promotes academic, social, and emotional growth of all students in the district, and enhances program priorities, while at the same time remains fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the district. The Board will develop budgetary priorities that incorporate our full allocation of New York State Foundation Aid, while at the same time recognizing that our economy may shrink in the next 2-5 years. We will continue to provide a full Sweet Home experience for our students, while strategically planning for our future so we can maintain and improve our programming, facilities, and services.

Rationale

While revenues have been enhanced through federal stimulus money and finally receiving our full allotment of NYS Foundation Aid, we recognize that our economy is fragile and new revenue can quickly evaporate. We also realize that inflation means the cost of education is rapidly increasing. We must remain fiscally responsible, fund our reserves, and prepare for a shrinking economy. We will remain fiscally strong to provide each student at Sweet Home with the full school experience.

Mid-Year Notes

Goal #6

Sweet Home has experienced an increase in enrollment over the past five years. While more students creates more opportunities for growth, our facilities must continue to support students in their academic, social and emotional needs. We will study our enrollment this year through the lens of data with a goal of making a plan with recommendations on how to best utilize our buildings now and in the future. Our facilities must be modern, have enough space to accommodate all services, and flexible to address programming that is in line with 21st century learning.

Rationale

While a steady increase in enrollment is good for all stakeholder groups and can provide more opportunity for our students, our facilities must keep up. We will study enrollment trends this year by using data from a District-wide census and our analytics tools to make informed decisions on building usage throughout the District. All of this work will be done by stakeholder groups with a vested interest in providing the very best facilities for our students, administration, faculty and staff.

Mid-Year Notes

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