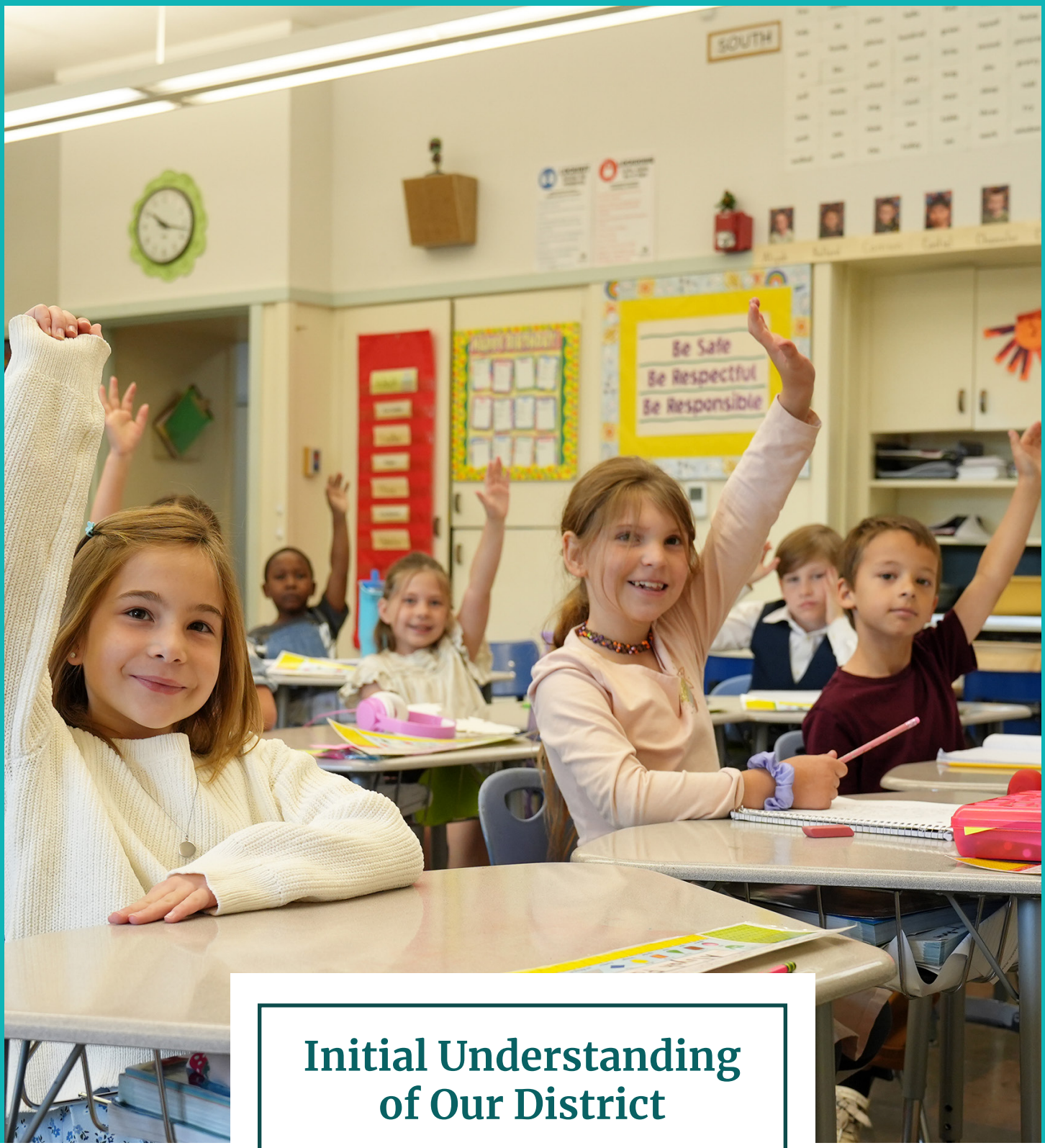


Initial Understanding of Our District

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT, SHAWN STOVER

SPRINGFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Student, Every Day

Framework

I have enjoyed learning about Springfield Public Schools these first four months. Coming from outside of the district has allowed me to ask questions without making assumptions.

After meeting with many stakeholder groups, multiple visits to all of our schools, planned activities like Shadow A Student, and analyzing district documents, I have created a high-level overview of what I have learned as well as outlined my next steps.

My goal is to use these deeper explorations to suggest to the Board and Springfield Community ideas that will help us formulate a new strategic plan for the district.

Pictured on the cover is Mr. Grasseth's second grade class at Page Elementary.
Students work hard on their math problems in Mrs. Ramsey's fourth grade class at Maple Elementary.
Pictured ahead is second grader Sophia Papakoa reading at Maple Library. Aerial view of Thurston Hills.



What have I accomplished in my first 4 months?

- I have visited every school in the district at least twice.
- I have interacted with almost all employees either through formal presentation or informal interactions.
- I have met with community groups and civic organizations across Springfield including Team Springfield, The Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Service Clubs like Rotary, and Lane Transit District to name a few.
- I have gotten to know and started to collaborate with other school superintendents in the greater Springfield/Eugene area as well as the Lane ESD Superintendent, Tenneal Wetherell.
- I have met with groups of parents at PTA/Parent Organization meetings, in small focus groups, in individual conversations and meetings, and informally at school and community events.
- I have been active in the community attending local, school, and high school sporting events.
- I have released and started to analyze various stakeholder surveys including a community and staff survey.
- Met with student groups and organized a “Shadow a Student” day for school and district administrators to better understand the student experience.



What I have learned so far…

- The district is on the right track in many areas including academic programming, communication, support for students and families, and aligned professional development.
- The Springfield community has great pride in their schools.
- SPS employees and community members want a visible leader.
- SPS employees are dedicated to ensuring the district is the best it can be.
- The district collaborates well with outside agencies to provide benefits to our students we couldn't provide on our own.
- We have strong CTE programming but it could be better aligned between grade levels and across the county with other agencies/school systems.
- SPS is an improving district but more work needs to be done to ensure improvements take hold across the district and are aligned across schools.
- There is great unity of purpose and vision among various stakeholder groups but not a universally shared vision of success centered around students that unites them all towards a common goal.

Five Areas of Continued Learning

1. To what extent do we have a coherent curriculum between schools and across grade levels focused on student success?

2. Do our offerings create pathways to future success for our students?

3. Is there a common vision of success for our students that everyone in our community (students, family members, staff, and community members) shares?

4. Are our support systems aligned to our curriculum efforts and centered around student success?

5. How can we strengthen the sense of pride and purpose in the district, across all stakeholders so we can all be better together for our students?



Research Questions

- Is the work consistent across schools and grade levels?
- Do our offerings enable a smooth transition between grades?
- Does the student experience help them find their purpose, passion, talent, and mission?
- When students graduate are they prepared to function in a quickly changing world?
- What do all stakeholders believe is best for students and best for the district?
- How do those outside the district see us?
- Is everyone in our system centered around student success?
- Are we efficient and cost-conscious?
- To what extent do our support systems truly support student success?
- Do we share a common purpose and see ourselves dedicated to every student, every day?
- Does everyone in the district value and respect both the work we are doing and those doing the work?
- What is the alignment between the Board, district staff, school-based staff, students, and the community?

Next Steps

- Continue to put students at the center of all decision making.
- Co-Teaching with staff.
- Shadow school operations staff members.
- Conduct focused learning walks to explore curriculum and coherence.
- Meet with all parent organizations at every school.
- Hold informal ask the superintendent sessions at schools or as a part of parent nights.
- Continue to meet with students groups, hold listening session with students at ES, MS, and HS.
- Work with the SPS Board to develop a new Strategic Plan.



Thank you for welcoming me into the Springfield community! I have felt great support from the staff and community. I hope to be an integral part of what makes Springfield great for many years to come. I look forward to continuing my learning journey with you as we all strive to put students at the center of our work and commit to growing better together.



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