

SPRING LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

The Spring Lake Board of Education held a work session on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, in the Spring Lake IS/MS Media Center. Jennifer Nicles called the session to order at 5:01 p.m. Board members present: Jennifer Nicles, Curt Theune, Bruce Callen, Christopher Beck, Courtney Holmes and Kelly VanderHoek. Absent: Paul Aldridge

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

Strategic Planning

Dennis Furton, Superintendent, provided the reasons for the Board and administrative team to be involved with strategic planning: to be invested from square one, driving the work to be done, supporting the plan after development, and being committed to the process.

Mr. Furton provided five reasons for strategic planning (prompted through ChatGPT):

- Vision and direction, clarity as a district
- Resource allocation, aligning spending and human resources to make sure we are targeting the right things
- Student success/outcomes
- Engagement
- Adaptation to change

Mr. Furton expounded upon engagement and adaptation to change and the importance of those two things at this time, specifically relating to student enrollment, staffing, careers of the future and community engagement.

Mr. Furton introduced Randy Liepa with the Michigan Leadership Institute, and provided that Mr. Liepa will be leading the group with mission statement work this evening. Mr. Liepa provided his background information, explained the process and key components and outlined the work for creating a mission, vision and goals. He stated a good plan can:

- Communicate the purpose to stakeholders
- Inform strategy development
- Support goal development to gauge the success of strategy
- Provide clarity to work
- Provide focus
- Create ownership
- Build an important foundation for everything the district does moving forward

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Mr. Lipea explained the planning process will communicate to stakeholders (staff, parents, students, etc.):

- Why are we doing it
- What benefits will come from this planning
- Need for participation and ownership

He indicated step one is to review and revise, if needed, the mission and motto statements, which will begin at this work session. Step two is creating a future vision for the district with feedback from stakeholders, which will be done by a steering committee on behalf of the district. Step three is to build goals that will move the district towards its vision.

After a short break, the group in attendance broke into small groups to review and potentially revise the current mission statement.

Mission Statement: *Educating and inspiring each student to live, learn and lead with excellence*

Motto: *Big enough to challenge, small enough to care*

Question: Does this tell us “who we are”, “what we value”, “what we do”

Activity: Evaluate the Mission Statement

The following is a synopsis of the discussion and suggestions:

Team Stone Cold: Feel the term excellence needs tweaking – like the words empowering, curiosity, emerging

“Empowering all to emerge as exceptional life-long learners through curiosity and experience”

Team Missionaries: Feel important to include all stakeholders – staff, board members, community and students; Keep it short and sweet, original seems too wordy

“Inspiring life-long achievement”

Team Bill Schneider: “Together, educating, inspiring and empowering all students to live and lead with excellence”

Team Haawwk: Would like to include words like inclusivity, cultivating, learners; remove/replace the word student

Team Lakerade: Use phrases like empowering or preparing, remove the word inspiring; To live, learn, lead with excellence- replace excellence with another word, higher standard than excellence

Other comments/suggestions:

- Look at who we are currently, not sure that includes everyone in the school district
- Giving the student a phenomenal education
- Inspire, empower, cultivate learners, engaging
- Care deeply about the kids, caring is who we are
- What do we empower or inspire – achievement?

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- Find a word to replace excellence
- Instill integrity, become leaders, productive citizens, inspire those values

Phrasing suggestions:

- Caring community that
- Together
- Inspire the best
- Cultivate the best ...
- Be remarkable
- As a caring community, we inspire, empower, engage and cultivate all to be the best
- As a caring community, we inspire and empower all to live, learn and grow through curiosity and experience
- Through varied experience
- As a caring community, we inspire and empower all to live, learn and grow
- Start with "To"
- To inspire and empower students to be a member of a caring community
- Educating inspiring and empowering students for success (or their best)

It was suggested that the work be consolidate and brought back for discussion another time.

Mr. Furton reminded the attendees that they don't all have to love the revised mission statement equally but all should say they would defend it.

ADJOURNMENT

Curt Theune moved, supported by Bruce Callen, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Yes – Unanimous

Jennifer Nicles adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Date Board Secretary