



Wenatchee School District

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Wenatchee School District Board of Directors Workshop

Minutes of September 21, 2020
Virtual ZOOM Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors Workshop was called to order by Board President, Laura Jaecks, at 1:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Laura R. Jaecks, Board President (via remote access)
Martin Barron, Board Vice President (via remote access)
Dr. Michele Sandberg, Board Director (via remote access)
Julie Norton, Board Director (via remote access)
Maria Iñiguez, Board Director (via remote access)
Dr. Paul Gordon, Board Secretary

Also Present:

Staff members (via remote access)

Director Sandberg suggested that Board members review the WSSDA Legislative Assembly Handbook to examine some legislative priorities that have come up this year that were not included on the list of priorities from last year that was shared with the Board. Some of the new priorities are COVID-19 related and she noted that Board members may wish to reexamine their priority rankings.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Gordon reviewed the agenda and purpose for today's workshop, referencing a process that would be similar to work done previously by the Board in developing their Values. The focus today is for Board members to collaboratively generate ideas and themes connected to the five characteristics of a Vision. Over the course of several additional meetings, the Board will then set the Vision, Mission and the Strategic Priorities for the District. Once the Board has set the Strategic Priorities, the Cabinet will begin working to develop a draft plan to address those priorities. That plan will then be given to the Strategic Planning Team and shared with staff and the community for feedback. At the conclusion of their work, the Strategic Planning Team will recommend a Strategic Plan for adoption by the Board.

Diana Haglund, Communications Director, shared and explained the feedback loop that will guide the overall strategic planning process, noting that the Board would be integrally involved throughout. Dr. Gordon and Ms. Haglund addressed the value of having a smaller Strategic Planning Team consisting of around 12 members, and shared details of the application and selection process. The District and Board will encourage people to apply through various communication channels and the Superintendent will make the final selections, ensuring that we have a Team that is representative of District demographics, and is comprised of members from a variety of stakeholder groups including staff, parents, community members, and students, along with member(s) of the District administrative team. Participation will require a huge commitment. The Team will meet at least once a month; the timeline will be driven by the Board and the work that the Team is doing.

Dr. Gordon referenced materials he previously sent to Board members regarding visioning work, then asked them to begin their discussions around the five components of visioning listed below:

1. For Something
2. Inclusive
3. Service Oriented
4. Resilient
5. Idealistic

He asked Board members to share their thoughts around each component, adding that those thoughts will then be summarized and brought to the next workshop for further discussion, in working towards a Vision Statement. Board member thoughts are summarized as follows:

For Something

Developing a community where everyone can be successful
Innovation is widely experienced
Know the world around them
Opportunities to give back - Service oriented
Duty to create the citizen of tomorrow
Don't have to leave the community to have these experiences
Equipping/empowering with tools and skills
Critical thinking
Empathy
Respect
communication/soft skills
Survive and thrive
Creating citizens of the future
Advocate for equity
Thinking of their fellow man.
Balanced approach of high academic standards and teaching to each child's ability
Not a one-size-fits all approach —personalized

Inclusive

Respect, tolerant, open to differences.
Diversity comes in many different ways
Respect and appreciation for the different ways we are unique
Inclusivity extended beyond the walls of school -- schools should be models/leaders
Spillover effect of equity from schools to the community
Invite the community embrace our values (equity, accountability, academic excellence)
No cookie cutter approach
No expectation of conforming, embrace and respect differences
Safe place for all
Grit, growth mindset, resilience
Surround our students with support
Ability to face adversity and embrace failure
Should go broader and deeper than surface level -- Part of our DNA, who we are.
Cultural exploration and exposure
Active social justice/ fight / advocate for those experiencing injustice
Teaching how to be scholars - develop skills for critical conversations and thinking
Question the why and build on foundational skills (reading, writing, math)
Transfer of knowledge, use a skill in new and different ways
Active, not passive, approach

Service-oriented

Service-learning
Customer-service oriented
Treating our students and families as customers
Servant's heart/ Servant Leadership
Serve the community by creating good citizens who are able to contribute to the local economy.
We have a customer service obligation to our society.
Building social capital

Resilient

Grit/Resilience
Ability to preserve, regardless of background
Do the hard work in the face of adversity.
Grow and learn from failure - Growth mindset
Raising the bar and scaffolding support in an equitable way.

Equity will allow us to be resilient to serve all students, despite their obstacles.

Helping those furthest from educational justice

Raising up ALL of our students to reach their full potential

Humility

Honor differences, accept failures and create a safe space for failures

Challenge for all students (high and low)

Provide multiple opportunities to achieve expected results

Idealistic

100% of students graduate

The promise of a future

Read, write, and do math at grade level

Every kindergarten comes to school ready to learn

At the conclusion of discussion, Dr. Gordon acknowledged that the work towards developing a Strategic Plan is about our students, our families, our staff and how we bring guidance, support and a Vision to the District that moves us forward, doing better for all. He then thanked Board members for their thoughtful conversations.

The next workshop is scheduled for October 6th at 1:00 p.m. and will include a structure from today's meeting. Once the Board is in agreement on that structure, the process will move forward in engaging stakeholders as the Board continues to address other components of the strategic plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jaecks reviewed dates for upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

President

Date

Superintendent

Date