

**Community Engagement Meetings
Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan
Antioch SD 34
May 5, 2015**

4:00-5:30 meeting

Hillcrest Elementary School

10 attendees (high school student, parents, 3 staff, 2 senior citizens)

General Comments

- Thanks to the committee!

Mission

Good:

- Excellent, captures stakeholders: teachers, community, administration, parents, students
- "Personal excellence" implies individual variation.
- Non-limiting, inspires excellent characteristics, not just academically.
- "Empower all students" takes responsibility for their personal excellence, goes to character.

Concern:

- Define learning: lifelong? Continuous?
- Nothing about teaching.
- Purpose is to educate, but nothing about education.
- Can students understand "personal excellence?"

Suggested Mission:

To inspire a passion for learning *and provide an education* that empowers all students to achieve personal excellence. ("Provide an education" gives accountability)

Vision

Good

- Vision defines "personal excellence."

Concern

- Vision limited to students, yet bullets 1, 3, and 4 seems to pertain to adults.
- "Students demonstrate" is too limiting. Should pertain to all stakeholders.

Community Engagement Meetings
Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan
Antioch SD 34
May 5, 2015

4:00 meeting (continued)

Core Values/Commitments

Plus

- Have Core Values.
- Partnerships with community and family.
- #3 includes students as part of their own learning.
- Students learn differently and at own rates, providing resources for variety of student needs.
- Like all 7 Core Values/Commitments.
- Removes the ambiguity of Core Values by showing commitments.

Delta

- Core values: honesty, integrity, empathy, loyalty, etc. Not in Core Values. How create world citizens, beyond academics without identifying those attributes?

Goals

Good

- Goals all geared towards the perspective and components in Mission.

Concern

- #2: add "...implement a safe supportive learning environment..." to align with Core Values.
- Need something about multi-cultural, intellectual environment. Not just about academics.

Community Engagement Meetings Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan

Antioch SD 34

May 5, 2015

7:00-8:30 meeting

Hillcrest Elementary School

5 attendees: retired teacher moved to Antioch 5 years ago, parents (including former Antioch 34 teacher now teaching in another district), and architect with no children in school district)

General Comments

- The group was pleased that the district is putting together a Strategic Plan.
- Appreciate the time that everyone has put into this initiative.

Mission

Good:

- Like what you're saying.
- Like the word "empowers."
- Short.

Concern:

- Don't like "inspire." Would prefer "*instill*"
- Sounds like a dead end. "Personal excellence" sounds like an ending. When you get there, you're done. What is "personal excellence?" The definition should stand alone without needing to read the vision to define it.
- Need something about "lifelong learning." Students may have a diploma, but they're not done yet.

Vision

Good

- All good and important points.
- Addresses the whole child well.

Concern

- Confusing. Who does the Vision pertain to? Students? District? Should delete "personal excellence" and "students" because Vision should be for more than just students. There is a larger audience. Instead, "*District 34 is...*"
- Vision should be attainable in next five years, but isn't the district doing this now?
- Vision implies the future. Why is this not part of the present?
- These are beliefs/expectations, not a vision.
- First bullet point ("continuous improvement") is too broad.

Community Engagement Meetings
Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan
Antioch SD 34
May 5, 2015

7:00 meeting (continued)

Core Values/Commitments

Plus

- Accurately reflects what we want for our children.
- #1 and #6 are “huge.” Not doing this now.
- Great job of doing #7 now.

Delta

- Are these ranked? If not, should be bullet points and numbered.
- #3: don’t like the word “tracking” and what it implies.
- #7: “optimize” is not strong enough word.
- #7 needs to be more. Needs something about communication.
- Too “fluffy.” What do these mean? Need in simpler language; more common reading. All educator buzzwords.
- Should get back to basics: 3 R’s, music, well-rounded.

Goals

Concern

- #1: What does “learning development” mean?
- #2: Add “challenging” to “supportive.” Should read, “Implement a *challenging* and supportive environment...”
- #4: “Engage home and community “is confusing. Why is the pride only focused on performance results?
- Not much in goals about economic efficiency.
- #5: Needs to demonstrate transparency.
- #5: Nothing about communicating on how well the district is doing. Should read “...demonstrate *and communicate*...”