



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo - 2020-2021 Annual District Goals

TO: School Board

FROM: Superintendent Dr. Trisha Kocanda

October 20, 2020

Overview & Background

In May and June 2020, the School Board discussed recalibrating major initiatives in light of the pandemic. Direction was provided as it relates to: Facility Needs & Priorities, Financial Priorities & Planning, and Strategic Planning. The School Board agreed to identify streamlined annual goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Administration and Board focused its efforts in Summer 2020 on the 2020-2021 School Opening Plan to ensure schools could open doors to students and staff in an in-person Hybrid Learning model on August 27, 2020.

This memo presents how the District is addressing key initiatives in the remarkable 2020-2021 School Year. In each area, there are District goals and metrics. This focused approach affords the focus and attention necessary to support a completely redesigned, agile educational model.

2020-2021 Goals	Metrics
<p><u>Reaching ALL Learners</u></p> <p>1: Implement the In-Person Learning and Remote learning models flexibly, embedding consistency and opportunities for refinements and enhancements to ensure student growth and achievement.</p> <p>*Each month, the Board will review data, feedback, and suggestions for needed refinements to our learning model.</p>	<p>Student feedback (academic and social-emotional) with evidence of response. Products may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritized Curricular Units - Evidence of monitoring Social-emotional health and well-being - Academic Assessments (formative and summative) - Instructional schedule adjustments <p>Record of professional learning for staff and administration related to service delivery (Hybrid in-person, remote), technology, and equity-focused work. Participant reflections will be collected.</p> <p>Weekly Covid-19 Metric Review outcome - ensuring the educational model aligns with health and safety metrics.</p>
<p><u>Facility Needs & Priorities</u></p> <p>2a: Ensure facilities meet standards within health guidelines (CDC, IDPH) and Environmental guidelines (Ramboll) to safely implement in-person school as regional/local health metrics allow.</p> <p>2b: Accomplish Educational Master Facility Plan Year 2 critical projects and re-evaluate priorities and timeline for potential referendum with the community's involvement.</p>	<p>Documented evidence of implementation of health/safety facility standards, protocols, and improvements found in the School Year 2020-2021 Plan with the record of the percentage of school days able to be held in-person.</p> <p>Evidence of meeting timelines and financial targets (from planning, bidding, project management, and project completion) for the Year 2 prioritized facility projects.</p>

	Updated timeline and priorities within EMFP, embedding community involvement in referendum planning (earliest target April 2022).
<p><u>Financial Priorities & Planning</u></p> <p>3a: Make fiscally responsible investments to ensure the health, safety, and educational programming needs in the midst of a pandemic are upheld, and monitor the impact of COVID-19 expenditures and WEA contractual agreements on long-term financial goals of the District.</p>	Financial analysis and response plan that demonstrates responsible fiscal management aligned with the School Board’s financial philosophy and policy parameters.
<p><u>Strategic Planning</u></p> <p>4a: Develop and publish a 3-5 year Strategic Plan by Summer 2021.</p>	A published 3-5 year strategic plan, that includes the involvement of the community and is communicated broadly.

This section provides more background information for each goal area.

1. Reaching All Learners

Background: Since May 2020, the District has been planning for the 2020-2021 school year under pandemic conditions to ensure our students could continue to learn and grow. The District followed health/safety guidance from ISBE, IDPH, and CDC, as well as SEL guidance from CASEL, in all stages of planning and implementation. The District also prioritized in-person schooling and building a flexible service delivery model, allowing classes and schools to flex in/out of remote and in-person learning based on health conditions. In addition, given recent and evolving events in the country, there is an amplified sense of urgency to address issues of equity, especially as they relate to racial bias and injustice. We aim to prioritize professional learning opportunities that broaden our collective understanding of and racial bias and injustice as it relates to equitable practices. The District is using this year to provide professional learning to staff,

administration, and the School Board to build understanding, capacity, and a direction for future equity-based work, folding it into a broader commitment to equity in areas of inclusive practice, ability, gender, faith and race.

2. Facility Needs & Priorities

Background: While facility needs remain urgent, the School Board postponed referendum planning and targeting a community vote in March 2022 versus April 2021. [The 3-year prioritized facility plan](#), addressing required health/life safety, lead mitigation in the water, and urgent ADA needs at Crow Island, is being implemented in [summer 2020](#), 2021, and 2022. The total investment in the 3-year plan is estimated at \$14.1M (as of 5/2020).

3. Financial Priorities & Planning:

Background: The District has maintained detailed records of pandemic-related costs since March 2020. The ongoing costs have been recorded and shared at Board meetings and embedded in the FY21 Budgeting process. In addition, the WEA collective bargaining agreement expires in June 2021. This contractual agreement drives staffing and associated costs.

4. Strategic Planning:

Background: In March 2020, the [School Board postponed the collaborative Strategic Planning process that began in spring 2020 with our community](#). In June, the Board set a goal to resume the comprehensive process in January 2021 with partner, Battelle for Kids. As an interim step, the core group of Portrait Design team members will periodically meet this fall to refine the Profile of a Graduate.

Next Steps:

- Embed School Board feedback to finalize 2020-2021 Annual Goals.
- Approve Annual Goals at October 20, 2020 meeting
- Report monthly updates on progress with year-end summary report.