

Vision 2013 District Goals 2008-2009

Report to Board of Education June 22, 2009

Vision 2013 – Goal Area: Student Achievement

Goal #1 of 4: Increase student achievement by establishing high expectations for students and staff members in the areas of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Purpose of Goal:

- Increase student achievement, resulting in increased individual and group test scores (example: MEAP, MME, ACT, MAP, etc.)
- Develop well-rounded students
- Continually “raise the bar” for student performance at every level.

Superintendent Plan of Action:

Superintendent will develop criteria and plans toward accomplishment of the following:

- Create a curriculum review cycle by working with the District Curriculum Committee to accomplish this task

The Superintendent and Principals met with the District Curriculum Advisory Team throughout the school year to discuss curriculum alignment throughout the district. A curriculum review cycle was developed and presented to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee in February, 2009. The review cycle document will provide the district with specific curriculum target areas for each year. Ideally, the review cycle would drive the development of the district budget in the area of curriculum purchasing. Unfortunately, due to limited funds, it is likely at this time that the review cycle will be used primarily to review best practices and teaching strategies related to that subject area.

- Show evidence of MAP/Rubicon Atlas use in the development of classroom lesson plans and student achievement activities

Each principal spent significant time during professional development days working on Rubicon Atlas curriculum development within each subject area. Significant progress has been made in this area and the principals have provided the superintendent with evidence that the Rubicon Atlas program is being utilized as our primary tool for curriculum mapping. Teachers at the ES and MS are continuing to use MAP testing results as an aid to lesson plan development. Suggested strategy for 2009-2010: Periodic collection of teacher lesson plans showing classroom lesson plan design that is specifically linked to student MAP (or other testing program) scores.

- Show evidence of a decrease in drop-out rate, including evidence of tracking HS students who leave the district.

Because of the small size of our graduating classes, our drop-out rate can be affected by even one student. During 2009-2010 the HS implemented the e2020 online program to assist students with credit recovery. The program was implemented in the spring of 2009 and appears to be increasing student achievement, which we expect will lead to a decrease in drop-out rate. Investigatory work continues, but it appears the State has used identical numbers for our district for the past two years of reports. The HS principal and Special Education Director will continue to work with the MDE to attempt to determine “who” the drop-out students are that are being counted against us in our scores. Without that information, our progress in this area has been slowed.

We are continuing to record the status of students who leave our district. The implementation of Power Schools in 2009-2010 has improved our ability to code students correctly who leave the district. This appears to be a problem in that more than one person in past years entered the data that we are working with in current and future years. With fewer office personnel it has become more and more difficult to follow the path of data entry. Suggested strategy for 2009-2010: Assign one person at the HS the responsibility of all data entry and tracking of students who leave our district, which should improve our ability to monitor this goal area.

- Work with principals to train teaching staff to develop, implement and maintain active web pages – with the goal of all teaching staff having

consistently maintained web pages up and running during the 2008-2009 school year

Throughout the school year all principals have worked with the Director of Technology to train staff to develop, implement and maintain active web pages. As the school year progressed more and more staff member web pages came on line – many as early as last fall. As of the 2009-2010 school year it will be an expectation that all teachers will have and maintain active web pages.

- Work with principals and Director of Technology to insure the Power Schools program is implemented, by providing training and support as needed

The Power Schools program has been implemented and is being used by our staff at all grade levels. Implementation at the ES differs due to inherent differences in how ES student report cards differ from MS and HS report cards. Power Schools is used in all buildings for attendance functions and student data collection. The parent component of Power Schools has been extremely well received.

- Create a process/system within each building that allows staff member's time to watch each other teach with the goal of improving their own teaching skills

Through the work of the District Curriculum Advisory Committee a process was developed that allows teachers to observe each other in their classrooms. The opportunity to observe best practices in other classrooms within our own district has been an excellent source of professional development for our staff. The opportunity to observe each other has been well received by our teachers and we expect to continue this practice in 2009-2010.

- Create a plan with the District Curriculum Committee that allows for evening professional development meetings as an option to increasing staff development opportunities

The ES staff volunteered to try evening professional development activities on two separate occasions this past school year – one session focused on best practices to improve student writing across the curriculum and the other

focused on web page training. This allowed for professional development to occur outside of the classroom day, keeping teachers in the classrooms more often and at less cost to the district (sub pay vs. curriculum work stipend).

- Create a plan with the principals that allows staff members to visit other schools with educational programs that have resulted in an increase student achievement and an increase in test scores

All 3 schools took advantage of the opportunity to visit another schools with strong educational programs. Much was gained from the opportunity to talk to other district professionals regarding educational programming opportunities.

Indicators of Progress:

Documentation of above activities taking place. Periodic reports to Board on progress in above areas.

Reports were made throughout the year to the Board Curriculum Committee and to the full Board of Education through monthly administrative reports and special presentations.

Board Support:

- Create a Board Curriculum Committee to track progress on the above activities
- Ask questions, show interest, etc. in the above activities
- Attend Board mini-retreats with Administrators and Directors that focus on specific areas of the above target areas
- Support budget development for technology assistance with Power Schools implementation and web page development
- Support budget development for curriculum and staff development activities and needs

Vision 2013 District Goals 2008-2009

Vision 2013 – Goal Area: Learning Environment

Goal #2 of 4: Create a safe, inviting and nurturing environment for all students and staff members that encourages individuals to take educational risks.

Purpose of Goal:

- Increase student achievement
- Develop well rounded students
- Demonstrate capacity amongst the students for giving back to the community
- Encourage and allow staff members to take risks

Superintendent Plan of Action:

Superintendent will develop criteria and plans toward accomplishment of the following:

- Continue Crisis Team activities and meetings

The Crisis Team met throughout the year to strengthen our response in emergency situations. The team discussed and practiced various scenarios, worked with both the fire and police departments, labeled main doors both inside and out and addressed a variety of safety situations within the district. District administrators attended an active shooter professional development workshop.

- Continue quarterly Interagency meetings

The Interagency Team continues to meet on a quarterly basis with the addition of both the ES and MS principals this year.

- Improve Honor's Assemblies – Show that we celebrate student achievement by making these occasions “special” through well organized, appropriately presented events

Our Honor's Assemblies have been well received this year. Students have been encouraged to dress up; programs have focused on making the occasion special by being well organized, focused and student centered.

- Work with the High School to develop a plan to award Service Cords to HS students for community service activities

The HS has developed a procedure to award service cords to students performing community service that will begin with the 2009-2010 school year.

- Continue to mentor building principals

The Superintendent continues to meet with building principals regularly both as a group and as individuals. Principals are encouraged to belong to their professional organizations and to be well informed in regards to educational issues state-wide. WLPS is fortunate to have excellent principals in all three buildings.

- Develop and put in writing well-defined disciplinary practices at each building – report to Board

Each building allocated time this year to revisit and strengthen disciplinary practices. Well-defined practices have been put in writing and are ready to be presented to the Board.

- When appropriate, have students make presentations to the Board. Find a way to have students explain their activities to the Board (example: invite several students to report on “rake and run” at a Board meeting)

Students at all levels have been invited to present to the Board of Education this year. Examples include: Preschool students sang for the Board of Education, ES students spoke about the Ecology Club, MS students presented the Board with a performance from one of their productions and

HS students from the ECA program spoke to the Board at length about their experiences with the program.

- Have employees “taking risks” report on their progress to the Board, both good and bad

While “taking risks” is difficult for many, we have had discussions with staff members in regards to exploring this concept. Our MS physical education teacher voluntarily made a presentation to the Board of Education that included Board participation, even when the structure of the class was being questioned by a parent. Our ES staff decided to become a “green school” and achieved Green School status in the spring of 2009. Suggested strategy for 2009-2010: Continue to encourage staff members to “take risks” on behalf of student achievement.

Indicators of Progress:

Documentation of above activities taking place. Periodic reports to Board on progress in above areas.

Reports were made periodically to the Board through Board Memos and monthly administrative reports.

Board Support:

- Schedule periodic reports on above activities
- Support student presentations to the Board
- Support staff members when calculated, educational risks create failure
- Reward employees with EPE’s, ABCD’s, etc.
- Attend student events
- Create mini-grants to support risk-taking activities among staff members
- Support the above activities through the budget development process as needed

Vision 2013 District Goals 2008-2009

Vision 2013 – Goal Area: Community Involvement

Goal #3 of 4:

Share positive aspects of the school district with others. Increase positive support of the district by improving the positive perception of the district to others.

Purpose of Goal:

Increase the perception of the school district within the community by emphasizing the positive things that occur in Whitmore Lake Public Schools which will ultimately increase student enrollment within the schools.

Superintendent Plan of Action:

Superintendent will develop criteria and plans toward accomplishment of the following:

- Continue to support and emphasize District Communications Committee goals as established

The District Communications Committee continued to work on the goal of increasing the positive perception of the district within the community. Reports from parents of students leaving the district do not show any dissatisfaction with the district as a reason for leaving.

- Work with principals to establish methods to communicate with parents in whatever way works best for the parent

This is an ongoing area for improvement. With all parents, it is always our goal to work with parents in any way that establishes a consistent mode of communication. All buildings worked toward 100% parent-teacher conference achievement this year, with the ES at 100% and the MS and HS slightly behind. Suggested Strategy for 2009-2010: Work with all buildings so that 100% parent-teacher conference rate is achieved, with appropriate documentation.

- Reconnect/Develop relationships with Township elected officials

With the elections in November 2009 new relationships have been established with Township officials. An Open House for local businesses to show our appreciation for their efforts on behalf of our students was held in February 2009 and was well attended by various members of the community including some Township officials. The Superintendent and Township Supervisor continue to meet approximately every 6 weeks to keep lines of communication open and to look for ways to collaborate. A storm water

drainage collaboration was investigated and a fuel proposal is currently pending.

- Develop community survey to gauge interest in a future bond issue

A draft of a community survey has been developed through the Board Marketing Committee and will be available online to the community in August 2009.

- Study use of Channel 19 – Can images be improved, can utilization be improved?

Channel 19 will be managed by our HS video productions class beginning in the fall of 2009.

- Develop plans with principals to notify parents of a one grade or more drop in student achievement before report cards.
- Develop plans with principals to notify parents of student D's, E's

The Power Schools program is being used to provide parents with the above information in a timely manner. Parents have access to their child's current grades at all times.

Indicators of Progress:

Documentation of above activities taking place. Periodic reports to Board on progress in above areas.

Periodic reports were made to the Board throughout the year through weekly Board Memos, Superintendent Reports to the Board of Education at meetings and through monthly administrative reports.

Board Support:

- Budget resources as needed toward the above activities
- Direct parents to proper employee when dealing with student grades or student issues

- Actively support the goals and activities of the District Communications Committee

Vision 2013 District Goals 2008-2009

Vision 2013 – Goal Area: Financial Resources

Goal #4 of 4: Develop a balanced budget that provides for educational opportunities and staff development while maintaining and/or growing district fund equity.

Purpose of Goal:

- Long term stability of district resources
- Stable and/or increased educational opportunities for students

Superintendent Plan of Action:

Superintendent will work with the Business Manager to develop criteria and plans toward accomplishment of the following:

- Allocate district resources toward increasing student achievement

With decreasing resources available to the district it has been difficult to allocate additional resources toward student achievement. With ARRA funding we will be able to provide more professional development and continue to pay for MAP testing of students.

- Maintain a balanced budget

With reduced spending during the 2008-2009 school year and budget reductions for the 2009-2010 school year the district is slowly using fund equity to operate the district. The business office will continue to review all grant funds so that we receive all funds due to the district.

- Increased fund equity

While this will continue as an ongoing goal, lack of funding from the State of Michigan has made it very difficult to maintain current levels of programming with fewer funds.

- Actively consider consolidation of services as an option wherever possible

The district has worked with Northfield Township (fuel, storm water drainage), the Dexter (transportation) and Chelsea (mechanic services) Schools as well as WISD (403b, accounts payable) toward continued consolidation of services during the 2008-2009 school year. We anticipate continuing to work with these districts during 2009-2010.

Indicators of Progress:

- District resources allocated toward increasing student achievement

Even with anticipated budget reductions for 2009-2010 the district continues to maintain a focus on student achievement. ARRA funds will be used as much as possible during 2009-2010 to help support this goal.

- District resources allocated so that a balanced budget is maintained

Monthly revenue and expenditure reports have been expanded to provide the Board Finance Committee with additional information regarding the district budget.

- Work to align district resources toward increasing fund equity

It is unlikely the district will be able to add to fund equity at the end of fiscal year 2008-2009.

- Expanded opportunities for consolidation

As mentioned above, opportunities for consolidation continue with Northfield Township and Chelsea Schools. We anticipate working with Dexter Schools in 2009-2010 for the purposes of transportation supervision.

Board Support:

- Support budget development in the above areas
- Become well informed on budget development and allocation of resources, as needed.