

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

February 25, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Room 120

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Mr. Michael Durso (chair); Ms. Shirley Brandman (committee member); Mrs. Patricia O'Neill (committee member); Mrs. Rebecca Smondrowski, Board member; Ms. Laura Steinberg, staff assistant, Office of the Board of Education; and Ms. Kathy Yorro (recorder).

The following Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff was present: Dr. Joshua Starr, superintendent of schools; Dr. Kimberly Statham, deputy superintendent for teaching, learning, and programs; Mr. Brian Edwards, chief of staff, Office of the Board of Education; Ms. Robin Confino, executive director to the chief operating officer; Ms. Samantha Cohen, intern, Office of the Deputy Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Programs.

Approval of Minutes (January 24, 2013)

The committee unanimously approved the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of January 24, 2013.

Status Update on Renovation of Strategic Plan

Dr. Statham presented an update on the strategic plan renovation. She provided a handout and explained the beginning work with the Network Team. A Kickoff was held on February 20, 2013, where Dr. Starr laid out the vision for their work, including developing a framework by the end of April, and how it ties to the Board work on the guiding tenets. Dr. Statham indicated that there was a lot of energy coming from the group and that there will be three subgroups focused on academics, social emotional, and creative problem solving. The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2013, to be held at the Carver Educational Services Center at 7:00 p.m. where the team will discuss what staff, students, families, and communities need to learn and be able to do to succeed in the 21st century. Staff is working with those community members who were not selected to serve on the Network Team. Dr. Statham stated that by the end of April the team will have a dashboard ready for the Board to consider and react to. She also indicated that all of the Network Team meetings were open and Board members were welcome to attend. Committee members asked about representation on the Network Team. Staff indicated that the team consists of 60 percent community members and 40 percent staff.

Dr. Starr indicated that there would be further discussion regarding the framework at the Board's March 4, 2013, retreat, foreshadowing that it will likely be a one pager. The goal

is for it to convey clearly what is included in the plan with further details provided through indicators

Dr. Statham closed the discussion by stating that this is a fast-paced process and that she is reasonably pleased with the progress at this point.

Ms. Steinberg informed the staff that the committee has meetings scheduled in March, April, and May in order for staff to provide further feedback on the progress of the strategic plan renovation. Staff indicated that the timeline would provide for the full Board's approval in June 2013.

Guiding Tenets

Ms. Steinberg opened the discussion on the committee's work on developing a preliminary draft of the Board's mission, vision, and possible purpose statement for discussion and review at the Board's retreat on March 4. She provided a handout on what a vision and mission should include (based on the language discussed with the Board at an earlier retreat). The committee reviewed that language, along with the language included in the existing vision and mission statements and sample language for a revised mission and vision statement provided by Dr. Starr.

Dr. Starr explained that the statements he had provided were built to differentiate the school system from others. He explained that the vision statement was about a big goal – “do the best.” Montgomery County should be the best public education in the country. He discussed how the mission statement actually changes with every generation.

Comments from committee members, the superintendent, and staff regarding the mission and vision statements included:

- Like the sample purpose statement provided by Dr. Starr.
- Don't like language such as “world class” – that is just descriptive language.
- Need to state that we are focusing on “all students”, not just “graduates.”
- Values are a theory of action that we have to test.
- Mission should be modified as time goes on.
- Need to create an accountability factor.
- Sample change to the mission statement is too wordy—need to be able to memorize the statement.
- Statement should encompass the whole child and the three competencies.
- Like “thrive” language.
- Will the Board include “Goals” in the Guiding Tenets? If so, that would be a place to include the competencies.
- Goals have to be measured—would become a dashboard.
- *Our Call to Action* document included five goals. The goals would become the three competencies.
- “Well-being might be better language rather than “social emotional” wording.
- “Well-being likens to “thriving.”
- An important aspect is the measurability.
- A mission and vision statement should be inspiring.

After considerable dialogue, the committee approved the following draft statements for the full Board's review and discussion at the March 4 retreat:

Vision Statement: Provide the greatest public education for all students.

Mission Statement: Every student will have the academic and critical thinking skills and well being to be college and career ready.

Purpose Statement: Prepare students to thrive in their future.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.