

Shenandoah Community School District Board of Directors
Shenandoah Administration Board Room
October 23, 2017 - 5:00 p.m.

Board Retreat – No Pending Action

Board Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
3. Mission Statement: Read by Director Kip Anderson

The Shenandoah Community School District, in partnership with families and the community, will provide each student an educational environment that maximizes his or her potential to become responsible, successful citizens and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

4. Develop Board Operating Principles
5. Review the District Priorities, Goals and Direction
6. Financial Overview & Resources
7. IASB Convention Plans
8. Future Work Sessions
9. Adjournment

Notes for the October 23rd Board Retreat Agenda

10/18/17

You will find the following topics listed on the board retreat agenda. I have included some additional information for your consideration and thought before the meeting.

Develop Board Operating Principles

Board operating principles are developed by boards to guide and direct how the school board and superintendent collaboratively work together for the greater good of the district and achieve district goals. I have included some examples.

Setting board operating principles can help us answer some questions such as:

What types of communication can and should we have?

What types of information helps you as a board member?

How might we work together to resolve community concerns that are brought directly to board members?

What does the chain of command look like?

What is the role of the board and what is the role of the administration?

How will we advocate at the local, regional and state levels?

Review the District Priorities, Goals and Direction

The board developed a theory of action in 2015. This has served as a guide for the work of the district. I have attached a copy of it for your review. I have also included the goals for the district that we are working toward. You have received some information about these areas, and I will continue to update you accordingly.

Question to consider

What type of relationship do we want or need to maintain with area schools in relationship to sharing programs, activities and administration?

We currently share a business manager with South Page. Mrs. Ruzek and I have discussed it may be time to revisit this agreement. It is financially advantageous to continue, but there are some workflow considerations. We share many activities with Essex but this spring the board voted to end the current arrangement after one year or come to a different agreement. We share automotive technology and health occupations with area schools. We have also had some discussion about whether or not we should be working more closely with Clarinda.

Financial Overview & Resources

Earlier in October, I sent the board: a financial glossary of school finance terms; a powerpoint from IASB on school finance principles; and a one-page overview of fiscal facts about the district from FY 16. The FY 17 document is not yet published. Hopefully, these were helpful to you. We can also go over the current reports you receive in your board packet and where we are at in relationship to our needs.

Considerations

DLR would like to arrange a time to meet with the board to go through the plan and changes that have been made since the last work session. How does the district's financial status impact what we can do with the facility plan? How much are we financially willing to extend ourselves to make some of the needed changes?

IASB Convention November 15-17

We established the board's legislative priorities a few months back, but we need to designate a delegate for the business meeting. We will also need to make travel arrangements for those who are planning to attend.

Additional Information about the conference is located here:

http://www.ia-sb.org/Main/School_Board_U/Annual_Convention/Convention_Home.aspx

Future Work Sessions

We need to set some dates for work sessions related to the facility study, some policy revision, and other topics that are relevant to our work together.

Some options include:

November 6, 9 or 20

December 4, 7, 18 or 19

Mission Statement

The Shenandoah Community School District, in partnership with families and the community, will provide each student an educational environment that maximizes his or her potential to become responsible, successful citizens and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Shenandoah Schools, in partnership with the community that we provide:

- Students the tools to become responsible, successful citizens and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.
- A safe and caring environment that ensures the dignity of all.
- Opportunities that stretch student and staff capabilities.
- School staff that are focused and visionary, collaborative and empowered to make knowledgeable decisions.

Theory of Action

If...

- We build a positive school climate, a culture of pride and accountability within the system;
- We build strong student, parent, and community relationships and focus on effective communication with all stakeholders;
- We further develop the capacity of our staff to perform at high levels;
- We hire and recruit committed, dedicated, reliable and accountable professionals to support our system; and
- We design, support and implement programs that will advance our students to compete in a global economy;
- We routinely evaluate programs and commit to making necessary improvements or eliminating ineffective practices; and
- We create and implement a multiyear facility plan that is supported by a sustainable finance plan

Then...

- We will accomplish our goal of becoming the Southwest Iowa academic school of choice.

District Wide Areas of Focus and Priorities

Full Technology Integration

- It is a clear priority of the district to immerse student and staff in a technology-rich learning environment (climate and culture). Several upgrades were made this summer, and additional Chromebooks were purchased for the lower elementary grades. The new software will allow students to access their machines in a more efficient manner.

Standards Based Grading

- Standards-Based Grading has been a long term practice for our district and remains a very important part of our work. This is an area where full implementation is expected

Teacher Advance Program (TAP)

- We are entering our second full year of implementation of the TAP model. We will continue to support teachers with implementation by having cluster meetings, conducting observations, and providing feedback. We will be introducing additional instructional strategies (KAGAN) that is designed to increase student engagement that are directly aligned with the TAP rubric.

STEM Initiatives

- We are committed to continuing to expand our work in this area. The district has invested in very strong instructional resources (STEMscopes) for science and has added new coursework at the high school to bolster this work.

Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS)

- While we are in the second year of implementation of PBIS at the Elementary, the Middle School and High School are at the initial stages of introducing PBIS. This is a very strong research based model of modeling and shaping student behaviors.

Goals

Develop and direct the work of the district staff toward reaching the following goals:

- Research and establish a teacher evaluation system that meets state expectations and district determined criteria to implement in the 2018-2019 school year.
- Develop a system that promotes, enhances, and sustains a positive safe school by developing a common school discipline model K-12.
- Create a financial plan to support necessary renovations at the high school.
- Bolster the efforts to include the district advisory group in planning and decision making.
- Work to establish a stronger communication system that informs all stakeholders of procedures, policies, enhancements and concerns that have an impact on students, parents, staff and the community as a whole.