



Oak Park Elementary School District 97 News

Vision Planning Process

On Tuesday, December 1, Superintendent Carol Kelley delivered her 100-Day Report to the District 97 Board of Education. In this report, she addressed what she observed during her first 100 days as superintendent, the feedback she collected from students, staff members, parents/guardians and community members, the district's strengths and potential, and her priorities for the rest of the 2015-16 school year. Among her priorities is to establish and implement a vision for the district that is clear and has a specific and sustainable focus. By accomplishing this, the district will be able to support the long-term success of its schools and more effectively meet the needs of its students.

The district began working on its new vision during a retreat on Saturday, January 30 that was attended by 50 representatives from its key stakeholder groups (e.g., students, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators and board members). These individuals spent several hours that day exploring the future of student learning. By the end of the session, they had created the following "six-word vision statements" that represent their aspirations for the district.

1. Equitably empowering engaged collaborative resilient innovators
2. Developing visionaries evoking and sustaining effective change
3. Empowering all stakeholders to inspire visionary (moonshot) global collaboration
4. Equitably empower all learners to be empathetic resilient innovators
5. Community of engaged learners empowered to persevere and succeed
6. Equitably empowering all learners to be relentless innovative thinkers
7. A passion for equity and excellence
8. One transformative community empowering learners to be empathetic resilient leaders

After the vision retreat, these statements were presented to the community via an online engagement tool called Mentimeter. Community members were asked to read each statement and determine which one resonated the most with them and why. Dr. Kelley's Superintendent Advisory Committee will use the feedback that was collected through March 1 to generate one "six-word story" that communicates a shared, clear vision statement.

Below is the proposed timeline for the district's vision planning process through the 2016-17 school year, as well as potential activities that are tentatively scheduled to take place each month. Updates on this process will be communicated through a variety of means, including the district's website (www.op97.org).

March

The vision statement created by the Superintendent's Advisory Committee will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. After it has been approved, the statement will serve as the primary topic of conversation for several "Listen and Learn"

community engagement events that will be held during the month. These events will give the district a chance to compare its “current reality” with its shared vision for its schools.

April

The Superintendent’s Advisory Committee will assess and analyze the feedback collected during the “Listen and Learn” sessions in March. Through this process, the committee will identify two to three strategic priorities that will be aimed at addressing the gap the district’s stakeholders believe exists between the district’s vision and current reality.

May

The strategic priorities will be presented to the Board of Education for approval during one of its meetings in May. The board will also determine the interim and ultimate indicators for each priority area.

June-August

The district’s administrative leadership team will attend a planning retreat. During this retreat, the members of the team will participate in leadership training. They will also begin working on the action steps the district will need to complete in order to achieve the interim indicators designated by the board in May. This work will continue through the start of the 2016-17 school year.

September

Teachers will be selected to serve on the district’s leadership team (DLT).

October-June

The district will host a kick-off event in October to mark the official introduction and implementation of its new vision. The district will then undertake a variety of community engagement activities related to its new vision and corresponding strategic priorities. The DLT will monitor and adjust the district’s visioning plan as needed.



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Access the district’s family of websites, which feature information about the district’s schools, academic progress, finances, accomplishments, history, current news and upcoming events by visiting www.op97.org.