

INFORMATION ITEM

Date: September 21, 2020

To: Members, Board of Education

From: Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.

Subject: Response to the Community Review Committee (CRC) Report

BACKGROUND

For more than four decades, the Community Review Committee (CRC) has united stakeholders around an expansive set of initiatives and supported transformative growth of District 39’s mission. The Community Review Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Education, draws participation from District 39 parents, community members, teachers, and administrators. Each spring, this committee generates a report on a topic of community interest, resulting in strategic recommendations supported by research. Following a June report by the administration detailing the previous year’s progress with the strategic plan goals/outcomes, the Superintendent and administrative team reviews the CRC’s report. Then in August/September, the Superintendent presents a formal response regarding implementation of CRC recommendations.

During the Board of Education meeting held on June 15, 2020, the CRC’s report titled “Strengthening Parent Partnerships¹” was presented. The findings and recommendations focused primarily on how to ensure that all District 39 parents and teachers engage productively and build partnerships that support learning and foster students’ academic success.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RESPONSE TO THE CRC

The Superintendent reviewed and presented the strategic recommendations to District 39’s administrative team.

As a result, District 39 has accepted the following CRC recommendations:

1. District 39 should ensure parent input is utilized in the development of parent educational event topics and timing.
2. District 39 should conduct a review of district-wide communication practices and methods.
3. District 39 should evaluate and look to improve and increase two-way dialogue between parents, teachers, and administrators.

¹ Community Review Committee Report: <https://bit.ly/3c7spPh>

The Superintendent and administration support these recommendations and acknowledges that each contributes to learning more about how to strengthen partnerships with parents. In addition, the recommendations made by the Community Review Committee have been included as a section under a new initiative this year. District 39 embedded these recommendations in the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan which will be presented to the Board during tonight's Board of Education meeting.

2020 - 2021 COMMUNITY REVIEW COMMITTEE ROLE

During 2019-2020, District 39 began the process of developing and improving the strategic planning process. After conducting a search for a strategic planning firm, the district contracted with Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) to serve as the facilitators as we explore and identify our greatest strengths as a district as well as our opportunities to grow. Upon the completion of District 39 Strategic Planning design, it would identify a three (3) to five (5) year plan with district-wide initiatives. Unfortunately, the work with CEC was paused as schools closed in March.

This year, when able, the district will begin to define a vision and identify long-term goals. We look forward to designing a five-year plan that will guide our pursuit of excellence as we support student growth, achievement, staff development, facility improvements and maintenance in fiscally responsible ways.

Typically, the Community Review Committee (CRC) is comprised of district staff, administrators, parent/families, and members of the community at large. The members serve in an advisory capacity to the board by researching specific topics that will lead to improvements in the district. However, this year, the CRC role will temporarily shift to an advisory group to directly support the district's strategic planning process design. The district staff members will not join this advisory group but rather serve in different capacities. The CRC membership will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and two parent/community representatives from each school along with the Superintendent and/or another member of the administration.

CONCLUSION

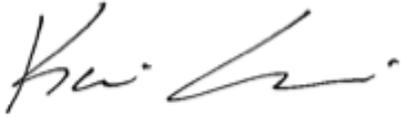
The Superintendent commends the 2019-2020 Community Review Committee members for the work and research required to provide the findings and recommendations in the "Strengthening Parent Partnerships" report². These strategic recommendations will assist District 39 in delivering its mission:

District 39's mission is to nurture, guide, and challenge students to become creative thinkers, collaborators, and socially responsible, compassionate, and productive citizens of a global society.

² Ibid

As always, the administration values and appreciates CRC's contributions to not only the strategic planning process but to the continuous improvement efforts to remain current in best practices. District 39 continues to support the work of the committee and looks forward to future partnerships.

Respectfully submitted for presentation to the Board of Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kari Cremascoli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D., Superintendent