

Our Path to First Choice No. 28

Everyone,

Here is Path Note No. 28.

Our Path Topic

This week's Path Update is to highlight the direction the WASD School Board has set. As we work our way down Our Path to First Choice, it is important to look at the future to determine the direction we head.

During a recent Board Retreat—a learning meeting held at Clayton Avenue, the Board was asked a very simple question. A WASD child born today, what skills do we need to prepare him/her with in order to be successful when the graduate in 2036? You have been exposed to this question before. What do you believe 2036 graduates need to know to be success in their lives?

The Board came up with several interesting and appropriate skills. First, to be able to think critically and be able to prioritize. A very good skill. It reflects what some experts say students will need to be able to do (but not much different from today). Students will need to be able to communicate. They need to be able to speak, listen, write and read. Again, a good one, but nothing new. Adaptability/flexibility is another skill the Board felt is important. We need to help students be able to adapt to change and flexible enough to make adjustments with whatever they need to be able to do in the future. Technology is changing so quickly, so students need that ability to make the change.

Another area the Board had thoughts about was the social skills and standards of value. This is referring to Personal and Interpersonal skills, accepting failure and developing a resilience to challenges and hurdles in life. These are something today's kids need, too. Interestingly, the Board wants to see history taught with fidelity. We need to make sure that it is taught with the utmost integrity and true to the research as possible. Finally, the Board felt students need to be more creative and innovative. With the ever-changing world, students will need to create their own jobs and value in this world. As things become more and more competitive, the creative and innovative edge will be needed by a student.

Another question the Board was asked to address was: "What do we want people to say about the WASD in the next 3 to 5 years?" An interesting question, indeed. Here is what they said as listed by stakeholder.

- Community—"WASD students get an excellent education that prepares them for success".
- Parents—"This is where I want my child to go to school".
- Staff—"I am proud that I decided to work at WASD".
- Alumni—"I was well-prepared leaving WASD for my next step".
- Students—"I'm glad I am a student at WASD".

Lastly, the final question asked of the Board was: "What are WASD's most important needs over the next 3 to 5 years? Here is the list.

- Pre-Kindergarten for all who need it.
- More high school electives.
- Students interning, job shadowing, etc.
- Community partnerships, mentoring
- A District that cares (Measure through surveys, less complaints).
- Keeping up with Technology Education.
- Eliminating bullying (Peer education, surveys, teacher feedback, stop cliques, counselors with students, educate bullies and victims).
- Teach for success...not the test.
- Assess school security and adapt for changes.
- Every student graduates with a plan.
- Opportunities to try something new.
- Online learning opportunities at school.
- Collaboration between Board, administration, staff, support staff, and teachers (number of contacts, events, etc.).
- Board to be positive and responsive (staff and community surveys and elections).
- Produce moral, ethical students (discipline reports).
- Student respect for adults, staff, and fellow students (climate survey, staff and parent surveys).
- Stakeholder Voice needed.

An interesting list. Those comments within parenthesis are how one could measure the success of such a goal. Those without parenthesis are much easier to measure.

These various tenets of our WASD School Board's vision will provide much to First Choice. Next week, perhaps we can continue this look at the vision and how First Choice will align.

Review for You

- Last week, we reviewed the question about the significance of the year 2036. What do you believe students will need to know and be skilled at to be successful?

Congratulations

Congratulations to Nathan Wynkoop. He has qualified for the state-level competition slated for Friday, April 6th in Harrisburg. One champion will advance from each state to the Championship which will be held in Washington D.C. May 20-23. Let's wish Nathan luck as he moves to the state round. Great job, Tawnya Finney...Nathan's teacher!

Events

- Reminder—March 30th there is no school due to the Good Friday holiday.
- Shrek the Musical starts on March 16th. Get your tickets now.

Piece of the Puzzle

- Debbie Jacobs and Dr. Sterner Hine are our Pieces of the Puzzle this week.

Review Answers

- 2036 is a long time away. However, it is incumbent of us as educators and school employees to think about what kids will need to know to be successful in their lives from 2036 on. The school board had a retreat in which that were asked that question, and also asked to provide what they thought students should know. Here is what they came up with.

Final Thoughts

- *If you can dream it, you can do it.*—Walt Disney
- *Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, and magic and power in it. Begin it now.*—Goethe
- *The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.*—Michelangelo
- *You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to. You lead by going to that place and making a case.*—Ken Kesey
- *Management has a lot to do with answers. Leadership is a function of questions. And the first question for a leader always is: 'Who do we intend to be?' Not 'What are we going to do?' but 'Who do we intend to be?'*—Max DePree
- *Vision without action is a daydream. Action without a vision is a nightmare.*—Japanese Proverb
- *Vision animates, inspires, transforms purpose into action.*—Warren Bennis
- *The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious.*—John Scully

Have a great rest of the week. Winter is SLOWLY coming to an end. Take care!

Tod