

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Glenview - Northbrook, Illinois

To: District 225 Board of Education

From: Mike Riggle

Re: Long-range Planning and District Initiatives

Date: August 6, 2015

At our meeting on Monday, August 10, I would like to have a preliminary discussion with the Board regarding long-range planning and district initiatives. Normally, a list of district initiatives is presented to the Board for discussion that is based on input from the Board and administration. Following approval, the district initiatives then become the focused work for the administration and help shape the agenda for our board meetings. Our district initiatives are advertised to the public and our building administrative teams incorporate them into their improvement plans and activities for the year.

We are in a unique situation this year due to a change in leadership at both high schools. There is a need when this occurs to spend time going over all of the areas of district planning to help orient them as well as their administrative teams for the work to be completed at the district level. This allows them to better shape school improvement initiatives and better plan for the use of allocated resources. It is important that district initiatives and building initiatives be in close alignment and complement each other properly. This is best accomplished through transparent communication and collaborative planning. At the present time, we have long-range plans that have been developed in some areas, while in others we have some identified and agreed upon initiatives, but not a solidified long-range plan. We are at an opportune time for sharing and further development of long-range plans that will serve in combination as a vision for the district. This would involve participation by both staff and members of the school community.

Systematic development of district initiatives over the last few years has divided district work into the base categories of business, curriculum and instruction, human resources, public relations and communications, student wellness and technology. The following is a brief synopsis of where we are in each with respect to long-range planning and district initiatives:

Business

Further work will need to be done to solidify the district financial plan for the next 3 years. This is work to be completed by the board and administration that will involve the development of a long-range facilities plan as well as strategies for the reduction of expenditures depending on changes that may come to current funding sources.

This is the last year for Mrs. Siena as the assistant superintendent for business. We will be advertising her position and seeking to replace two other members of her department who will also retire.

Curriculum and Instruction

The concept of student engagement has driven efforts in the district for nearly five years. The validity and support for this concept needs to be explored. The Chromebook 1-to-1 Initiative and IPI Walkthroughs are two examples of efforts that are related to student engagement. There are also changes to the graduation requirements and other curriculum needs that need to be addressed in a proactive long-range plan.

Human Resources

The effort to incorporate employee benefits is underway and will need to continue. There is also the continued implementation of systems application and services expansion through Skyward and related modules that will be continuing.

Public Relations and Communications

We are beginning year 2 of the board approved three-year plan for district communications. The focus for this year will be the website and further expansion into social media.

Student Wellness

Continued discussion is needed on concussions and its impact on students both short-term and long-term. The administration produced a three-year report by each high school that has not been discussed. The state has also issued new legislation that will require the implementation of an oversight committee at the district level.

Homework is in the second year of a multiple year effort. The recommendation by the administration last spring was for the development of a board policy and data collection to be conducted at the buildings. This is an area related to student stress, which was identified as an area of significant concern by at least one board member last spring.

Technology

The Board adopted a three-year technology plan last spring. That plan now needs to be shared, advertised and implemented. The administration is now working on the implementation plan that will be shared with staff and enacted this fall. There is need to make this plan more widely known to the school community.