

**LEWIS CENTRAL SIAC MEETING
FOLLOW-UP
February 16, 2016**



Summary of Meeting

Dave opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of facilitator Trent Grundmeyer from Drake University who would guide the district visioning process. The committee started by reviewing a long list of mission and vision statements from other schools, colleges, and other organizations. In groups, a list of preferences (in general) about mission statements was drafted. Next, the committee compared their preferences to the Lewis Central Community Schools current mission statement.

Current Mission Statement

“The mission of the Lewis Central Community School District, a partner with home and community, is to empower all learners to excel in a rapidly changing world by offering stimulating and diverse learning experiences that result in changed lives and commitment to help others.”

Committee members then were asked to write down the most important two things they wanted for all kids at Lewis Central. Their responses were posted and prioritized with four distinct areas emerging. These areas were (in no particular order):

- Opportunities for students
- Joy of learning
- High expectations/Excellence
- Productive citizens/Success in life

The committee compared these 4 areas to the districts current mission statement and decided to draft a shorter statement with the priorities that emerged. After discussion, compromise and input the succinct mission statement of “Inspiring Excellence” was agreed on to move forward for feedback from both district and community stakeholders. The remainder of the meeting was spent on identify how to get both formal and informal feedback on the new draft mission statement.

Clarifying the Process (What’s the difference between a Mission, Vision and Values?)

A **Mission** statement describes who you are and what you do; however, more fundamentally, it defines the purpose of your organization as a whole. Unlike a Vision statement (which answers the question "What do we want for our future?"), a Mission statement addresses the question "Why do we exist?" When creating your Mission statement, it is helpful to begin your responses to that question with the infinitive "to" followed by an action verb such as "provide" or "foster".

A **Vision** statement describes your vision for the future if your organization is successful in its mission. Meant to inspire, the Vision statement provides a vivid portrayal of a bright future; however, its aspirations should be realistic and clear. When creating your Vision statement, it is helpful to begin your responses to the question "What do we want for our future?" with the preposition "for" as in "for all students to...".

Shared Values (Beliefs) are the core tenets shared by your stakeholders that drive your organization's culture and commitment. Unlike the Mission statement (which answers the question "Who are we?" by describing what you do), a Shared Values statement addresses the question "Who are we?" by examining what you believe. When creating your Shared Values statement, it is helpful to begin your responses to the question "What do we believe?" with the relative pronoun "that" followed by a declarative sentence as in "that all students can...".

Talking Points for Proposed Mission Statement... "Inspiring Excellence"

- A district mission statement conveys, "What we want for all students" or "Defines the purpose of our organization."
- The preferences from the SIAC Committee were:
 - Have a shorter mission statement
 - Consider defining what "all" meant in a statement (if relevant)
 - Consider the whole child when considering what the district wants for all kids.
- The new proposed mission statement was drafted through a prioritization process with feedback needed before it is solidified and shared.
- The proposed mission statement is "Inspiring Excellence."
- The district will be formally seeking feedback on this proposed mission statement and SIAC committee members will seek informal feedback for our next meeting.

Feedback on Mission Statement (Draft/Ideas)

- Mark will send out an update to the staff and community to solicit feedback. Need to consider an avenue to get feedback like a blog, survey or emails.
- Principals-Routine updates to your teachers and support staff is necessary. Feedback should be gathered from your building and shared with the SIAC Committee.
- School Board-Gets routine updates from representatives. The boards prioritization and understanding of goals is critical to the success of the model. District resources need to be focused on goal areas.
- District Newsletter should convey visioning work so that all community members and district stakeholders are updated. This should also include routine updates on social media outlets and the district website.

Next Steps

- All SIAC members are encouraged to gather informal feedback about the draft mission statement. Bring your feedback to our next meeting.
- Trent and the administrative team will work on soliciting formal feedback through district and community channels. This feedback will be shared on or before the next SIAC meeting with the group.
- The next SIAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 from 6:00-8:30 in the Educational Resource Center Board Room.