

## LEWIS CENTRAL SIAC MEETING FOLLOW-UP

March 14, 2017



### *Summary of Meeting*

Trent opened the meeting with a review of the last meeting and list of preferences the group came up with after reviewing the districts current mission statement and a list of others. 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.

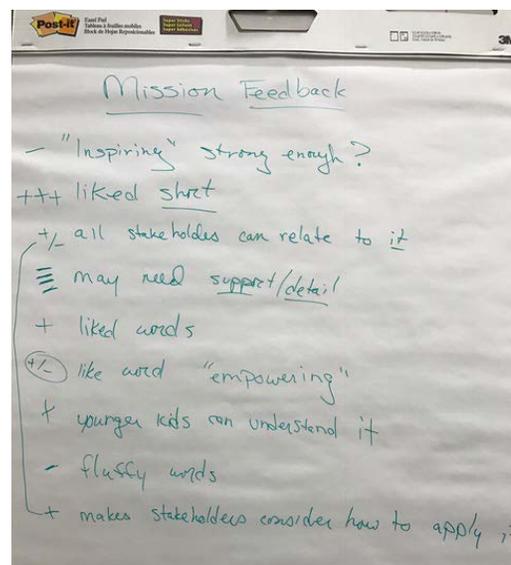
The committee was also reminded about those topic areas that surfaced from the last meeting around the most important things they wanted for all students at Lewis Central Schools, which were:

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

### 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.”*

Parents, teachers, administrators and community members organized groups. These groups were asked to share out the feedback they had received between meetings regarding the draft mission statement of “Inspiring Excellence.” Groups shared out feedback and themes were posted (picture to the right). The two major areas of feedback were around the length of the draft mission statement. Some people seemed to really like the brevity of the statement and others felt like it needed more detail. The other area of discussion was around the word “inspiring.” There was discussion about replacing “inspiring” with the word “empowering.” After some discussion and sharing out with different people felt like both words meant the group decided to stick with “inspiring” as part of the mission statement and review the statement as the process progressed. There seemed to be



overwhelmingly positive feedback from all groups that the draft mission statement allowed different stakeholders to relate to it and apply it to their particular role in the community or district.

The meeting agenda continued with the committee members reading different articles. The various articles were entitled, Rigor Redefined (Wagner, 2008), 70 Jobs for 2030 (Wagner 2011), The State of American Jobs (Pew Research Center, 2016) and Preparing Students for Their Future (Daggett, 2005). The video *The Vision of K-12 Students Today* was also showed during the meeting to ensure student voice was considering in the creating of a vision for the district.

Groups used Padlet to draft and refine vision statements based on prompts from the facilitator, references back to the articles and ideas from other groups.

### ***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 Vision Statements***

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- A district vision statement conveys, "What we want for our future" or "What it looks like if we achieve it."
- The proposed draft vision statements were drafted after reviewing various articles and considering what the priorities for the district were.
- Padlet was used for groups to post and refine key words and phrases that were transformed into vision statements.
- The district will be formally seeking feedback on the proposed vision statements and SIAC committee members will seek informal feedback for our next meeting.

### ***Vision Statement 1:***

Our vision is to engage learners as innovators, critical thinkers and problem-solvers; who are adaptable to change and effective collaborative communicators; who are passionate about their own learning and (either) contribute positively to their community (or) are devoted to a larger purpose within society.

### ***Vision Statement 2:***

The Lewis Central Community is committed to developing life long learners who possess the passion, tenacity, and adaptability to overcome the challenges of the future through innovation, problem solving, and collaboration to make a positive change for themselves and others.

### **Specific areas/questions for feedback regarding the draft vision statements:**

1. What is the preference in starting the vision statement with “Our vision is... (statement 1)” OR “The Lewis Central School District...(statement 2)?
2. Are the terms innovation, problem solving and collaboration liked in vision statement 2 or better as core values for the district?
3. What does “tenacity” mean to people in vision statement 2?
4. In vision statement 1 do people prefer “contribute positively to their community (or) are devoted to a larger purpose within society.”
5. Is there anything that people feel is lacking in our draft vision statements in regard to what they want for the future?

### ***Next Steps***

- All SIAC members are encouraged to gather informal feedback about the draft vision statements. 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, April 11 from 6:00-8:30 in the Central Office Board Room.