

## Goal Ideas Submitted By School Board Members for 2016-17

- Academics and critical thinking...our constituents want to make sure we are providing a well-rounded, three “R’s” grounded, competitive, "above average", (don't like that term) education that is challenging our students to meet their potential. Not sure how to phrase this as a goal...probably doesn't meet the s.m.a.r.t. goal criteria. We need to continue to have goal(s) focused on academics.
- We are providing a variety of educational pursuits including fine arts, sports, clubs. Do we set a goal of increasing student involvement in extracurricular activities? Keeping in mind that extracurricular activities are not just sports but encompass the entire array of interests, athletic, academic, social, etc.. Perhaps we are missing an opportunity to instill other key values such as...service, volunteerism and respect... by not having or recognizing student service. We've talked about a student service club that would be a means of recognizing the work of many students that are volunteering in and out of our building. Could be a great partnership with some non-profits in our community. Good for kids, community and our school.
- Life skills...again a common theme this year and as we looked at this goal in the past it seems that our school is at least providing opportunities to learn these skills and students are engaged in them. I wonder if this is brought up because our stakeholders don't know what we are doing in these areas? Do we have a means of measuring competency in this area? Do we set a goal of measuring student competency to determine if we are hitting the mark?
- Facilities...maintain the buildings, school pride, safe schools. I believe this boils down to being good stewards of the public's trust in us. I believe that a goal of developing a long term preventative and corrective maintenance plan for the district would be in order. It seems to me that our maintenance in the past has been more reactive than proactive. With the leadership we have in place now and the new means of funding our maintenance we should be able to be much more proactive than in the past. A goal around this would dovetail nicely into the world of financial integrity as well.
- Financial integrity...We need to develop a plan to responsibly fund all extracurricular activities in an effort to provide opportunities to participants without discrimination.
- Maintain the financial integrity of the school district. My top goal would be to continue the work we have done in the area of financial

integrity. We have committed to a long range view of finance and we have committed to a policy that directs us to a minimum of 8% reserve funds. I think we need to have a goal that shows the community that if they give us the money we are asking for in the levy, then we are going to use it responsibly. Not sure of the best words to use, but perhaps a goal that we would demonstrate sustained improvement in the financial performance of the school board as measured by budget adherence and level of reserve funds.

- Students will demonstrate proficiency of core academic standards I'd like to see a goal that points towards continued academic improvement. Last year's positive z score goal was a good start, but I think we were a little soft. I'd like to see us push ourselves. For example, I would think our minimum standard would be to score better than state averages in all areas of all tests in all grades.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively apply life skills. This is the most common thing I remember hearing at stakeholder meetings over the last couple of years. I am not sure what programs we have in place already, but I think there is opportunity here. In other words, I have no facts to support my opinion.
- My wife, Tressa, and I do financial coaching for families that want to learn how to get out of debt and get control of their finances. The most common feedback we get is why don't schools teach some of these basic concepts. There is also some very convincing data out now that more students are dropping out of college due to finances and debt than due to academics. Is there any way that we can impact and measure this. Even if it is simple survey data of our students and parents. (yes, I know how hard it is to get people to take surveys). Goal: Improve graduating students' ability to effectively apply life skills related to financially planning for post high school careers.
- I would also like to challenge the concept that we are re-writing goals every year. I think there may be some opportunity to write some longer term goals. For example.
  - Becker School District will improve financial reserves by a minimum of 1% per year from 2016 to 2021.
  - Becker School District will score better than state averages on all MCA and ACT scores for a period of three years starting 2016. *(Note from Dr. M. – The Becker School District and every grade level scored above the state average on the MCA for the 2014-15 school year in Math, Science, and Reading. Also, in 2015, Becker*

*students scored higher than the state average on ACT scores for all areas tested: English, Math, Reading, and Science).*