

A Letter from Board Member Craig Allen

Happy New Year from your Board of Trustees! It's that time for all of us to set resolutions and make big plans for the upcoming year. Keller ISD is no different as we continue to update and revise the district's Strategic Plan for continuous improvement. In October 2009, Dr. Veitenheimer convened a task force to review the district's current motto, mission, vision and values, as well as create the framework for a five-year plan. Over the course of several full-day planning sessions, a selected group of administrators, principals, teachers, students, parents, local business leaders and community members evaluated the district's current view on educational excellence, discussed opportunities for improvement, and set goals for where we'd like to see ourselves in the next five years. I was honored to be appointed as the Board Representative to this group, and I'd like to share a few observations with you.



The importance of planning. Keller ISD's growth over the years meant consistently making strategic decisions to accommodate that growth. Fortunately, there was a sound plan in place to help guide those decisions, making the process seamless and efficient. KISD continues to find itself in enviable positions thanks to proactive planning. We are a Recognized district by the Texas Education Agency, we are financially stable and we continue to manage our growth with an eye towards quality and innovation. This next Strategic Plan will guide the district through its final stages of growth and position us to continue to achieve educational excellence.

Broad representation leads to a comprehensive plan. I am fortunate to have participated in many strategic planning processes in my career and in professional associations, but KISD's was the best process I ever witnessed. We had an outstanding facilitator who did a great job of encouraging participation from everyone, resulting in numerous stimulating discussions, innovative ideas and new perspectives. Not only that, but at the same time it reinforced areas where the district is right on target as well. At the end of our time together, the task force completed a draft of the new strategic plan; one we all felt was a document that will help KISD to continue to be *intentionally exceptional*.

Next Steps. The current draft of the Strategic Plan is now in the hands of the Administration, where they are charged with reviewing the new plan, developing action items, determining evaluation and measurement factors, and finally approval. As a Board Member, I have a great deal of confidence in our teachers, principals and administration, and know they will take their charge with care and diligence.

Our new Strategic Plan is an outstanding road map for where Keller ISD wants to go and how we will get there. Ultimately, our success as a school district will depend on continued involvement from all members of the community, so let me encourage you to join in as we all benefit from Keller ISD, *an exceptional district in which to learn, work and live*.