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## Director of Student Services December Board Report

### Goal One – Student Learning

**Paraprofessional Appreciation** = Paraprofessionals continue to be an essential part of the instructional fabric within Elizabeth Ide, Prairieview, and Lakeview Schools. Each day, they partner closely with teachers and service providers to ensure that students with a wide range of learning, social-emotional, and behavioral needs receive the targeted support necessary to thrive. Their skill, patience, and commitment contribute significantly to student independence, engagement, and academic and social growth. Whether assisting with instructional tasks, reinforcing communication and coping strategies, or fostering positive peer interactions, our paraprofessionals consistently create opportunities for students to experience success. Their work strengthens not only individual student outcomes, but also the overall learning culture of our schools. We extend my sincere appreciation to our District 66 paraprofessionals and encourage everyone to acknowledge the meaningful impact they have on our students and school community.

### Goal Two – Whole Student Development

#### **Multilingual Parent Advisory Council (ML PAC) Update =**

District 66 proudly recognizes the continued collaboration and engagement of our Multilingual Parent Advisory Council, whose parent members representing a variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds came together with district staff for our first meeting on November 5th. During this meeting, parents shared valuable feedback on what is working well, such as welcoming practices for new students, access to translated materials, incorporation of cultural representation in curriculum, and opportunities for students to share their cultural identities, while also identifying meaningful areas for growth, including handwriting reinforcement, balancing technology use, increasing skill-building activities, and fostering social connections among students from similar backgrounds. Parents also emphasized the importance of reaching families who may be hesitant to participate due to language barriers and expressed enthusiasm for district-wide cultural celebrations and expanded communication modes. These conversations provide essential insight and play a key role in helping the district reflect on and improve our practices, instructional supports, and school climate for Multilingual Learners. We deeply appreciate the parents who participate in the ML PAC and the collaborative spirit they bring to helping District 66 continuously grow in cultural responsiveness and inclusivity.



### Goal Three – Readiness

**Helping Children Feel Calm, Confident, and Connected: Parent University Preview** = The Student Services Parent Advisory Council and District 66 are actively preparing for our upcoming Parent University on Wednesday, January 28, at Elizabeth Ide Elementary School, an event designed to provide families with practical tools, strategies, and resources to support their children's learning, well-being, and development. This year's theme, *Helping Children Feel Calm, Confident, and Connected*, includes a keynote presentation followed by three rotating parent sessions covering topics such as managing childhood anxiety, building executive functioning skills, fostering occupational engagement at home, supporting children's mental health, preparing students for the transition to high school, and promoting early learning readiness. The event also features a robust Community Vendor Fair with more than 20 partnering organizations invited, offering families access to local programs, enrichment opportunities, and support services. We are grateful to our Student Services staff and Parent Advisory Council members who are presenting and volunteering to make this event meaningful and impactful for families. Parent University continues to strengthen our home-school partnership and reflects our district's commitment to empowering families as active collaborators in student success.