



BOARD MEETING DATE
December 11, 2012

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Superintendent will outline a community process involving educators and community stakeholders that builds a clear, concise and shared understanding of our hope for Beaverton students and our collective responsibility for our schools.

This process will be grounded in our Five Year Strategic Plan and bring greater clarity and consistency to the overall direction of our schools. In addition, it will also support the School Board goals and Superintendent goals.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.

HOPE IN THE FUTURE

Beaverton School District Community Conversations

Concept

The Beaverton School District, an outstanding educational institution in the state, has been hampered with several years of dramatic funding challenges that have caused an erosion of trust and confidence in our community. It is our community responsibility to ensure forward momentum in our schools. There is opportunity in times of challenge; therefore, we should take advantage of our collective sense of urgency and channel this emotional energy into constructive and comprehensive dialogue. Beaverton has the potential to galvanize around our common goal, and to solidify our sense of purpose that focuses on what we want for all of our children. Our world is rapidly changing and so are our youth. We must be focused and united to prepare students for the national and global economy of the future.

Intent

The Beaverton School District places a high value on engagement and participation from our families and community. We recognize that to be successful, it takes more than great teachers and engaged students. High achievement is contingent on support from the community and stakeholders. Therefore, we will strategically gather thinkers and advocates from our community to engage in focused conversations to articulate a simple and compelling vision for our students, and our collective responsibilities for achieving results. Our District has an established five-year comprehensive Strategic Plan adopted by the School Board and a document known as the *Full Option Graduate*, which describes the skills and behaviors students should possess upon graduation.

This effort is not about starting over, but rather enhancing and elevating our goals and hopes so they resonate in the hearts and minds of our staff and community.

I recommend we explore the following focused questions to clearly articulate:

- **What do we want for all our students?** We should know in words and pictures the shared vision that we all can support and aim to attain.
- **What should define us?** Based on our Strategic Plan, we should simplify the pillars/principles that summarize what we want to be known for in the future.
- **What behaviors do we seek?** To focus our energy and meet our goals on these pillars/principles, we must require comprehensive (parents, students, staff, business, patrons, city and civic leaders) and consistent behaviors.
- **What is the necessary level of monetary support needed and what shall we do about it?** These conversations should correspond to our School Board Financial Plan.

Process

Through a series of facilitated meetings with a variety of stakeholder groups, these critical questions will be posed, and participants will provide feedback. This feedback will be summarized and strategically articulated, and serve as the driving communication strategy and collaboration for ongoing improvement efforts this year and into the future.

Stakeholder Groups

Driven by our value of diversity and equity, participants should accurately reflect our collective community and demonstrate an inclusive process. It will also be important that all member participants comprehend their roles. Members of each group should be prepared to keep conversations at a high-level, and will be asked to serve as ambassadors in their community circles and spheres of influence. These five categories represent a wide-reaching sample of the collective Beaverton community – Educators, Parents, Students, Business & Community, and Higher Education.



Community Conversations Job Description for Participants

Are you someone who is future-oriented and likes to work at a high level and on the big picture? Then the Beaverton School District seeks your involvement in a series of Community Conversations about what we want for all our kids. Here is a sample of the kinds of questions we will be exploring:

- What should define us as a school system?
- How can we focus our collective energy to create a world-class school system focused on student success?

During these times of challenge, Beaverton has the potential to galvanize around our common goal, and to solidify our sense of purpose that focuses on the big picture of the kind of education we want for all of our children. Our children need to be pre-pared to be national and global leaders in the economy of the future. There are so many untapped resources in the Beaverton community including human capital that can help us get there. And of course, we must also attend to the financial health of our District.

As a participant, you will be asked to commit to attend **three, two-hour facilitated conversations between January and June 2013**. Stakeholder groups include: parents/guardians, educators, students, business, community and higher education.

Driven by our expressed value for diversity and equity, participants should be reflective of our community, demonstrate inclusiveness and an ability to represent a wide perspective. Working in small groups, you will be asked to engage in a constructive and comprehensive dialogue about the future of the Beaverton School District. You will also be asked to serve as an ambassador in our community, sharing our progress in your community circle.

The feedback will be summarized and strategically articulated, and serve as the driving communication strategy and collaboration for ongoing improvement efforts this year and into the future.