

June 11, 2019

Re: Superintendent's School Board Report

Board Goal 1: Increase academic achievement across the district.

We are beginning the process of creating a strategic vision for the school district that is based upon the five school board goals. I have attached a copy of a vision that was developed by the inner cabinet leadership team. The inner cabinet leadership team consists of Assistant Superintendent, Andy Cantrell, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. English, Deputy Superintendent, Kim Britton, and Superintendent, Dr. Picou. The creation of this document was facilitated by Dr. Ezell. Our intention is to begin with this document and expand to the larger leadership team on June 20 at our leadership retreat. Our intention is to create a strategic plan that breathes life into the day to day focus of the school district. This work will be facilitated by Dr. Ezell.

Board Goal 2: Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools.

Funding that was committed by the school board this year for safety upgrades will be used to accomplish specific improvements as recommended by our safety audit. The amount committed is 2m. We are beginning with installing an electronic door swipe system to replace traditional locks. We are also installing parking lot obstructions to protect entrances, and increased security cameras. We are also going to add a security guard station at the high school. Ongoing training will be provided for our security personnel and coordination with the Tupelo Police Department.

Board Goal 3: Attract and retain all stakeholders.

Our first training with Project Lead the Way was a great success. Teachers who participated in the training are very excited about the potential of the program. We believe a comprehensive program in computer science, engineering and biomedical will attract stakeholders to TPSD. The Middle College is also in the final stages of development. We are going to begin recruiting students and corporate support for funding the tuition. We believe this program has the potential to attract and retain stakeholders and to contribute to college and career readiness for all students. I conducted strategic planning sessions with the art teachers and all music teachers. These two groups offered many valuable recommendations to elevate the TPSD art and music programs to a world class level. The recommendations provided by our art teachers and our music teachers will help us develop a world class fine arts program that attracts and retains stakeholders. The notes collected at both of these meetings will be provided at our board retreat.

Board Goal 4: Maintain sound financial stability.

Later in the month, you will be asked to establish committed funds for specific projects or needs in the district. We believe committed funding for specific needs will meet the equity requirements of ESSA and effectively fund the district with greater oversight from the school board. It is our intention to provide feedback throughout the 2019/2020 school year regarding the allocation and completion of all committed funds.

Board Goal 5: Ensure all graduates are career/college ready.

It is our intention to focus the District of Innovation application on this goal. This will also be a focus of our strategic planning event with principals on June 20. We are in the process of identifying a focus and plan to fulfill this board goal.

It has been a very good school year. There have been many accomplishments and reasons to celebrate. Our students demonstrated growth on our internal assessments, which is a result of the hard work of our teachers, principals, and support staff. I have spent this first year, learning the system and asking challenging questions. I am pleased to say that TPSD is a great school district with many wonderful, committed people all pulling in the same direction. Going forward, it is my intention to harness the Power of We! And establish a strategic direction that we can use into the future and continue providing exciting learning opportunities for the student of Tupelo.

Thank You.