

| PATHWAYS   |   | TECHNOLOGY   |   | <b>FACILITIES</b>   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| Goal #1<br>Inspire Learning  | Goal #2<br>Inspire Learning   | Goal #3<br>Unlock Potential  | Goal #4<br>Unlock Potential   | Goal #5<br>Empower Achievement  | Goal #6<br>Empower Achievement  |
| Articulate   | Support   | Challenge  | Success   | Involve   | Build   |
| Implement pathway<br>and framework for<br>PK-14 programming<br>to ensure all<br>students graduate<br>future-ready. | Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child. | Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement. | Maximize<br>achievement by<br>increasing digital<br>literacy utilizing 21 <sup>st</sup><br>century digital tools. | Enhance engagement<br>opportunities through<br>focused strategic<br>partnerships. | Construct physical learning<br>environments using fiscally<br>responsible and sustainable<br>practices. |

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## **Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)**

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives   | Measures of Success  |
|---|--|
| Develop a framework for students to experience and successfully pursue post-secondary career offerings.       | Begin baseline tracking and reporting of % college acceptance rates (2017-18) and graduation rates (2011-2017) in order to establish reliable benchmark targets and enhance program offerings. {Improve college acceptance and college graduation rates (post-secondary student success metrics)}  |
| Review policies to ensure the district's theory of action for teaching and learning is articulated.           | By summer 2017: Administration will work with Policy Committee to review, edit, and recommend policy changes, if necessary (Instructional Consistency).  |
| Curricular alignment to essential knowledge and skills supported by a coherent and aligned assessment system. | K-4: In 2017-18, in the area of literacy (reading, foundational, literature, and informational text and writing) we will document unwrapped standards, student "I can" statements, and identification of priority standards (on report card). Once priority standards are determined, we will being to work on developing assessments and rubrics that ensure priority standards are being learned by students.  Grades 5-7: In 2017-18, common assessments will be created for each unit of study in all subject areas. The creation of a middle level report card based on standards will be developed. Common assessments and the middle level report card will be used for reporting purposes in the 2017-18 school year.  Grades 10-12: By the fall of 2017, identification of priority standards will be documented (via PowerSchool) to ensure priority standards are being learned by students.  High School: By 2017-18 the Linn-Mar High School Program of Studies will be updated to include Innovation Center/Iowa BIG. This allows for a more aligned curriculum for core courses, AP coursework and Kirkwood offerings.  Special Education Programming: By the end of 2017-18, using Iowa's Specially Designed Instruction Framework, a core special education group will analyze the recommended key components and critical features to operationally define specially designed instruction in our district. |



### **Updates on Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)**

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

### **Update on Standards Based Grading at the Middle School Level:**

Oak Ridge and Excelsior middle schools just finished their parent-teacher conferences. Because of using standards based grading for the first time this year, administrators and staff were prepared and cognizant of wanting to keep the conference focus on student learning. They did not want conferences consumed with explaining PowerSchool or what standards based grading was all about. Both middle schools designated an area wherein teacher leaders and administration were available to answer questions from parents, and the locations of these rooms was heavily advertised to parents during the conference evenings. Not knowing what to expect, the outcome was pleasing.

Oak Ridge and Excelsior both reported that less than a dozen parents in each building visited these informational rooms. The parents that did visit had either clarifying questions or PowerSchool-specific questions. Only a couple of parents in each building requested any time with administration on the subject of standards based grading, and their questions focused more around the high school and GPAs or if their student was still going to be challenged to go beyond just meeting a standard. All of the parent interactions in both buildings ended positively.

The work to communicate to parents, students, and staff about standards based grading will continue throughout the school year. The communication that the report card offers parents in relation to student learning will also reflect the continued effort of Oak Ridge and Excelsior to have high expectations for all students.



**STEM Day:** Linn-Mar High School students recently participated in a STEM Day with a total of 34 professionals sharing their knowledge with the students. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and offers students real world lessons on applying these disciplines to everyday life and careers. Thanks to the high school Science Department and Workplace Learning Connection for organizing the event.

**FBLA Fall Leadership Conference:** High school students who participate in Future Business Leaders of America recently had the opportunity to attend the FBLA fall leadership conference in Des Moines. The conference was kicked off by keynote speaker, Colonel Timothy Glenn, who spoke about ethics in leadership. The event also allowed students to participate in several workshops that focused on leadership, team building, college prep, and membership recruitment. This year's conference leadership challenge at Camp Dodge allowed the attendees to meet with the owners of Zombie Burger.



**Iowa BIG Open House:** The Linn-Mar extension of Iowa BIG hosted an open house at their new location housed in the Kerndt Bank on Boyson Road on November 8th with close to 200 people in attendance! The open house allowed attendees to learn more about the initiative-based programs and offered the opportunity to talk to the Iowa BIG students and teachers. The evening was highlighted with an \$8,000 donation to the program from the Linn-Mar School Foundation.



### **Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support)**

Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.

#### Year 1:

| Year 1:  |  |
|--|--|
| Strategic Initiatives  | Measures of Success  |
| Individualized and data-driven instruction.                                      | During the 2017-18 school year, all schools will plan for individualized academic interventions (priority standards/content) for all students regardless of need based on an understanding of child development and learning theories within PLCs 100% of the time as measured by team notes. PLCs will develop and implement differentiated classroom instructional opportunities (in specified areas per grade level) for all students. Measure: The use of common formative assessments to differentiate instruction.  Explore opportunities to better communicate pathway opportunities for students through better articulation during instruction. |
| Each student enters school healthy and learns about/practices healthy lifestyle. | Develop a Health Curriculum Committee to review health education guidelines and determine district needs. Final recommendations will be made by June of 2017.  Work with Community Relations on a communications plan to engage parents prior to students entering school regarding wellness and wellbeing of children to be completed in spring 2017.   |
|  | Staff, students, and family members establish and maintain school and classroom behavioral expectations, rules, and routines that teach students how to manage their behavior and help students improve problem behavior.  Schools teach, model, and provide opportunities to practice social-emotional skills, including effective listening, conflict resolution, problem solving, personal reflection and responsibility, and ethical decision making.  |
| Each student learns in a physically and emotionally safe environment.            | Mental Health Needs: In 2017-18, continue partnerships and continue to explore additional family/staff education opportunities as they arise. Throughout the 2017-18 school year, Board of Education members will serve as PBIS "School Champions" and report school successes as part of regular board meetings in order to facilitate district-wide communication and support of the program.  In 2017-18, schools will report goals, benchmarks and outcome data regularly through the Board Book to the school board and community.  As a district, focus on making connections with kids. Progress will be tracked via Gallup Poll and Olweus.      |
|  | ALICE Trainings: begin classroom lessons, communication on training w/ staff, families, and community, active trainings to begin spring or early fall.   |



## **Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)**

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives   | Measures of Success  |
|---|--|
| Promote understanding of total compensation at Linn-Mar and recognize compensation as a competitive tool to drive organizational results. | Conduct a thorough job analysis for each certified and classified position over the 2017-18 school year.   |
| Provide ongoing professional development  | Create and implement a three-year flexible, professional development plan; thoughtfully allocating state categorical funding to support PD plan. This plan will be shared with the Board of Education in the winter of 2016-17.  |
| for teaching staff that supports core instruction, interventions and curriculum implementation.   | Throughout the 2016-17 school year, provide professional learning at each PDD on measuring the success of specific teaching strategies in an effort to identify and know how to utilize the most 'high impact' learning strategies. (Many resources can be used to do this including Hattie's Visible Learning and Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching). |
| Effective and efficient use of data.  | By March 2017 we will develop a foundational understanding of Smarter Balanced Assessments with staff, students, and community and be prepared to implement Smarter Balanced for the 2017-18 school year.  |
|   | Explore dashboard (performance metrics) possibilities for % of students in AP/honors/IB; % of students who show academic growth on NWEA, FAST, Iowa Assessment; % of students who achieve IEP Goals; and other relevant "predictive gateways" for academic success.  |
|   | Using relevant achievement gap information, identify opportunities to increase the number of students performing at or above grade level in math and reading.  |
|   | Expand early literacy within the early childhood programs by using creative curriculum assessment information to drive instruction.  |
|   | Provide substantive support to enhance math and reading skills PreK-5.   |
| Curriculum, instruction and assessment demonstrate high expectations for all students.  | During the 2016-17 school year, identify all level 3 and level 4 questions used on all common formative or summative assessments within each course at the high school level.  |
|   | During the 2016-17 school year we will closely monitor and update our stakeholders as appropriate, federal and state initiatives including Smarter Balanced, ESSA, ELI and CASA.   |
|   | By the end of 2016-17, develop a K-8 standards based report card.  |



# **Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)** *Continued*

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives  | Measures of Success  |
|--|--|
|  | Research well-being and insurance models/best practices and explore community partnerships (Ex. Blue Zones) to improve Linn-Mar and community health and well-being, reduce health care claim costs from five-year historical averages, and enhance productivity.  |
|  | Reduce employee workers compensation claims from five-<br>year average info.   |
| Becoming Deliberately Developmental about our staff as we shift from "Human Resources" to "Talent Management". | By spring 2017, develop integrated marketing and communications programs that position Linn-Mar as the district of choice for world class teaching, learning and student achievement. Develop and begin to execute and assess integrated strategic marketing and communications programs, both internal and external, to strengthen, promote and protect Linn-Mar's brand identity, relevance, accomplishments and excellence. |
|  | Explore opportunities to expand mentor programs for all employee groups and leverage their talent/knowledge to improve our overall performance.  |
|  | Work to create and maintain a predictable, respectful, compliant, labor relations environment, alignment and consistency with the overall employee relations strategy based on proactive and open communications.  |
|  | Research comprehensive and engaging performance management plans for classified and professional staff.  |
|  | Foster a positive, engaging, diverse and inclusive work environment while identifying and responding to the changing needs of the Linn-Mar community.  |
| Cultivate a high achieving performance culture.  | Revise recruitment strategy and branding program by late winter (2016-17).   |
|  | Always promote a school culture with the belief system of all students can learn.  |



## Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge) Continued

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives   | Measures of Success   |
|---|---|
|   | Make school building-level communication the major focus of the communication efforts.  |
|   | Provide training to district leaders to address all aspects of the employee life cycle.   |
|   | Begin to develop a leadership ladder (succession planning) throughout Linn-Mar in all employee groups with a focus on recruitment and retention.  |
| Strengthen leadership capability throughout Linn-Mar to promote high levels of performance and productivity and sustain excellence. | Identify employee skill gaps, provide opportunity for improvement/workout plan or coaching out (coach up or counsel out).   |
|   | School Board, district leaders, and building administrators continually seek to improve knowledge of upcoming trends in education and research on school improvement by having memberships to professional organizations, attending relevant conferences, and networking with other administrative professionals. |
|   | Board Policy Committee to develop and deploy board learning plan and work to strategically align all board committee work under the <u>Strategic Plan</u> .   |



### **Updates on Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)**

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

**School Improvement Advisory Committee:** On November 9th the SIAC committee met for the first time this year. Leisa Breitfelder, Executive Director of Student Services, was the guest speaker and shared special education data with the committee. Federal and state initiatives were discussed including Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Early Literacy Implementation (ELI) legislation, and upcoming state assessment plans. District initiatives, including Iowa BIG and Blended Learning at the high school, were also shared with the committee. Finally, the committee spent time discussing Linn-Mar's Differentiated Accountability designation for 2017-18, as well as the state's plan for Differentiated Accountability for 2018-19. The next SIAC meeting will be held on May 23rd.

**Elementary Homework Committee Update:** The committee met on November 13th to review group norms, clarify the purpose of the committee, define what consensus will look like in the process, review current board policy on homework, discuss greatest hopes and worst fears about homework, and decide on a protocol for submitting research articles about homework. The purpose of the committee is to answer the following question: "What should homework look like at the elementary level, and specifically at each grade level?" The next committee meeting is set for December 4th.

**Policy/Governance Committee:** The Policy/Governance Committee reviewed the remainder of the 500 policy series (504.1-505.10) during their November 3rd meeting as well as recommendations for changes to policies: 501.7 Foreign Exchange Students, 502.6 High School Academic Eligibility for Co/Extra-Curricular Activities, and 603.3-R1/603.3-R2 Excursions and Trips. The board will host the first reading of the committee's recommendations during the November 20th regular meeting. View exhibit 703.1 for the recommended changes.

**Iowa Association of School Boards Conference:** The School Board and several members of the Administrative Cabinet attended the IASB (<u>Iowa Association of School Boards</u>) Conference from November 15th-17th in Des Moines. A verbal report from the board will be given during the meeting on November 20th.



### **Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)**

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

### Year 1:

| Digital Content    Identify specific areas to provide district, building, and instructional support for technology integration and implementation.    Review, update and curate our PreK-12 digital curriculum to ensure rigorous and relevant.    Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LM 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course.    During 2016-17 explore PreK-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum (i.e. CommonSense Media).    2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decision   | Strategic Initiatives | Measures of Success   |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| support for technology integration and implementation.  Review, update and curate our PreK-12 digital curriculum to ensure rigorous and relevant.  Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LM 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course.  Digital Citizenship  Digital Citizenship  Digital Citizenship  Digital Citizenship  Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decision Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.  Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificar regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to   |                       | Explore and clarify LM working definitions related to digital learning (blended learning, digital content, etc.) to establish a shared vision.                        |
| rigorous and relevant.  Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LM 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course.  During 2016-17 explore PreK-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum (i.e. CommonSense Media).  2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decision Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.  Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificate regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to   |                       |   |
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| Digital Citizenship  CommonSense Media).  2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship  Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decision  Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.  Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificate regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to   |                       | Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LMHS 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course. |
| 2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenshi  Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decisio  Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.  Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificating online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to   | al Citizenship        |   |
| Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do no have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.  Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificating online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to  | ,                     | 2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship.   |
| Digital Equity  Digital Equity |                       | Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decisions.  |
| Digital Equity  technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.  By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a cult of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificate regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to  |                       | Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.   |
| of individualizing learning needs.  Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificated regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to   | al Equity             | technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general   |
| training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specificate regarding online instruction.  Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to  |                       | By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a culture of individualizing learning needs.   |
|  |                       | training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specifically   |
| Digital Pedagogy Improve online/nybrid courses.  | al Pedagogy           | Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to improve online/hybrid courses.  |
| Explore potential resources and processes for future curriculum.   |                       | Explore potential resources and processes for future curriculum.  |
| Utilize Technology Instructional Coaches (TICs) to provide coaching support for teachers integrating technology into their instruction.  |                       |   |
|  |                       | Use annual staff/student/parent/community survey data to determine effective use of school website for consistent district and building level communication.          |
| Digital Communication Explore possibilities for better alignment and integration of systems used by parents (i.e. PowerSchool, TouchBase and Total Access).  | al Communication      | Explore possibilities for better alignment and integration of systems used by parents (i.e. PowerSchool, TouchBase and Total Access).                                 |
| Promote current electronic communication services for staff to access relevant information regarding resources.  |                       | Promote current electronic communication services for staff to access relevant information regarding resources.   |



### **Updates on Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)**

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

**Huntley Innovation in Education:** Nine elementary and five middle school teachers, two elementary instructional coaches, two elementary and one middle school TIC, two elementary and one middle school principal, and two directors had the opportunity to attend professional development at Huntley on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The elementary staff split their day between a K-2 and 3-5 elementary buildings and the middle school staff spent their day at the high school.

### The elementary visit included:

- 1:1 Implementation (all students K-5) Using:
  - Peardeck
  - o myON
  - Screencastify
  - Front row
  - Read Its
  - PowerSchool Learning
- STEM Lab:
  - o Vex IQ Lab
- Classroom Observations In:
  - Guided Reading
  - Guided Math
  - o Collaboration Rooms

(Note: classrooms are paperless (no worksheets). All activities during rotations are done on the student's computer.)

- Flexible Seating
- Debriefing with Teachers and Students

### The high school visit included:

- Building Tour:
  - Collaboration learning spaces
  - Use of building for Blended Learning students
- Blended Learning Explanation
- 1:1 Implementation Explanation
- Student Panel Discussion
- Explanation of Blended Learning Course Development and Teacher Mindset



## **Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)**

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives | Measures of Success   |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       | Investigate and research district administration practices and processes to enable principals to focus more on instructional leadership.                    |
| Internal Partnerships | Promote opportunities for district employees to volunteer in classrooms.  |
|                       | Explore and clarify the purpose and structure of district leadership meetings to align with Strategic Plan.   |
|                       | Create conditions to provide transparent, accurate and accessible information through dashboards.   |
|                       | Broaden opportunities for local businesses and historically underutilized businesses to work with the district.   |
| External Partnerships | Explore opportunities for the city and local districts to share costs for shared services.  |
|                       | Develop/nurture relationships and work with community partners and media to define, promote, expand and market signature programs.                          |
|                       | Begin to establish a network of information ambassadors.  |
|                       | Enhance established partnerships with the business community, as well as nationwide, to broaden recruitment, wellness, volunteer and diversity initiatives. |
|                       | Promote external partners to join district committees and district staff participate in outside committee groups.   |



### **Updates on Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)**

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

**ImagiNEXT:** Mrs. Jill Ackerman, President of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, has asked the Board of Education to participate in the Chamber's ImagiNEXT visioning process. Through ImagiNEXT, the Chamber hopes to gather suggestions from the community on issues and projects they feel the City should focus on in coming years. The board looks forward to being a part of the visioning process to not only support the City, but to grow opportunities for the Linn-Mar District, students, and families. Mrs. Ackerman will present to the board on December 20th at 5:00 PM. *Click here to view more information about ImagiNEXT*.

**Indian Creek Trail Project:** The City has reached out to the district regarding the <u>potential construction</u> of an Indian Creek Trail that would run near Linn-Mar boundaries. Administration will remain in close contact with the City as they continue their consideration of the project to ensure the safety of the students and Linn-Mar properties. Click here to view more information regarding the City's <u>Master Trails Plan and refer to page 61</u>.



## **Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)**

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

#### Year 1:

| Strategic Initiatives           | Measures of Success   |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | During the 2016-17 school year the Board of Education, with feedback from community patrons, will approve a long-term facility structure plan that benefits all Linn-Mar students.                            |
|                                 | Determine what the most appropriate and cutting edge learning environments look like at each of the grade level configurations and prioritize goals for the physical components for each of the environments. |
| Facilities Restructure          | Establish a communication campaign to foster support and approval of district restructure needs.  |
|                                 | Develop a funding plan to support 10-year restructure plan, including the outline of a possible bond campaign strategy.   |
|                                 | Engage architects, engineers, demographers and other applicable services to assist in the planning and implementation of the facility restructure plan.   |
|                                 | Identify an off-site facility for Linn-Mar extension of Iowa BIG.   |
|                                 | Occupy Westfield Elementary addition.   |
|                                 | Address priority needs to improve district facilities by actively maintaining 10-year facilities and preventative maintenance plan, including identifying energy-saving opportunities.                        |
| Facilities Preservation         | Develop a funding plan to support 10-year preventative maintenance schedule.  |
|                                 | Complete walkthroughs with principals, Crisis Committee members, and Operations & Maintenance to determine building needs in reference to safety and security.  |
|                                 | Work to optimize resources (buildings, personnel, programs, etc.) to ensure they are utilized efficiently and effectively.  |
| Operational Resource Allocation | Explore procedures to effectively evaluate programs from a financial aspect to ensure resources are being utilized to full potential.   |
|                                 | Continually review categorical funding streams to ensure resources are being properly spent and that all expenditures are properly allocated.   |



### **Updates on Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)**

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

**District to Focus on Elementary Renovations and 10-Year Facilities Plan:** The Board of Education has decided to focus on addressing the immediate needs of several schools in the district and postpone a new bond referendum until September 2018 <u>at the earliest</u>. The district will also take a comprehensive look at the 10-year facility plan and identify available funding streams for projects within that plan.

The decision came during the board's regular meeting on November 6th and following a recent meeting to analyze the results of the September 12th bond referendum outcome and feedback gathered from the community.

Superintendent Shepherd stated, "The results of the recent vote do not diminish our primary purpose of educating our students. We worked hard to develop a fiscally responsible plan that would help us address growth in our rapidly growing schools. Now the district must do what it can to ensure we provide the same high level of quality education with the existing resources we have available to us."

Shepherd also stated, "The board recognizes the district must take immediate action to address renovations needed at Indian Creek, Bowman Woods, and Wilkins elementary buildings in the upcoming year. The district's goal is that improvements to these buildings will be followed by renovations at Excelsior Middle School, occurring as early as 2019. These renovations help ensure that a safe and secure environment conducive to learning exists for all school children in the district."

The board will discuss the upcoming construction cycle, 10-year facility plan, and begin to set a timeline for the projects and outline the necessary steps to move forward during their December 11th regular meeting to be held in the boardroom of the Learning Resource Center at 5:00 PM.

### **SBRC Application Fall 2017:**

Based on our certified enrollment for October 2017, we qualify for:

- \$824,460.50 in modified supplemental amount for one-time funding due to our increased enrollment;
- \$179,275.20 for open enrolled out students that were not on our October 2016 count; and
- \$13,196.70 for ELL (English Language Learner) students that are served beyond 5 years.

The board agenda has a motion to approve the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) application for this modified supplemental amount. This will give the district the increased spending authority for these dollars. In the spring, when we certify the budget, is when the board actually determines whether or not to receive the funds through our cash reserve levy.



#### **Achievements and Honors:**



**Veterans Honored:** The staff and students of Wilkins Elementary took time to honor our American Veterans for their sacrifice and service on November 10th with a patriotic concert including: *The Star Spangled Banner, Pledge of Allegiance, I Love the Grand Old Flag* and more.

**FFA Students Take Top Honors in National Competition:** Chase Krug and Ekta Nanda placed 10th in the nation at the National FFA Agri-Science Fair in the Plant Science Division. Mirannda Schneider-Kettelkamp and Caitlin Hagen placed 11th in the nation at the National FFA Agri-Science Fair in the Social Sciences Division.

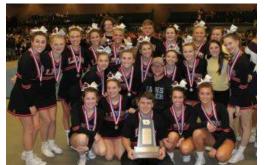
Student of the Week: Kirsten Loynachan is a senior at Linn-Mar High School. Kirsten said the following



about her academic interests: "Besides music, I am interested in French as well as anything in the STEM fields. I am, so far, enjoying my AP Calculus class and really enjoyed AP Physics and AP Biology." Throughout her time at Linn-Mar, Kirsten has been involved as a drum major with the Linn-Mar's Marching Lions, pianist in the Colton Center Jazz Ensemble, pianist for the 10th Street Edition Show Choir, instrumentalist in the pit orchestra, With Faith Contemporary Church Band pianist, International Thespian Society Member, accompanist for various events, and she is also a triathlete. During her time at Linn-Mar, Kirsten has received an academic letter with distinction, YMCA Core Values Swimming award, Iowa All-Star Swimmer award, Bassoonist in the Iowa All-State Orchestra for two years, and band for one year.

Letters of Intent Signing: Congratulations to the following student athletes for signing their college letters of intent: Ally Johnson (UNI Softball), Brogan Freese (Trinity Christian College Men's Volleyball), Carly Spies (UNI Volleyball), Elly Schuemann (DMACC Softball), Mekenna Diercks (Mt Mercy Bowling), ben Hediger (Coe Tennis), Katie Smith (Ellsworth





Community College Softball), and Payton Wensel (Iowa Track).

**Cheer News:** Congratulations to the Linn-Mar Competition Cheer squad for placing second in their division during the state competition. The squad is a co-ed team of 20 cheerleaders and they competed against more than 100 teams

from across the state. Great job!

### **State Volleyball:**

Congratulations to girls' volleyball for making it to the Class 5A Semifinals during the recent

State Volleyball Tournament and for being the first metro-area team to reach the big-school semifinals since 2011. Megan Renner was named to the All-Tournament team. Go Lions!





**Excelsior Kudos:** Congratulations to Excelsior Middle School for having set a new record for their building and the district by having 20 students accepted into the Opus Honor Choir for 2017.

Fighting Food Insecurity: The High School Student Council sponsored a fundraiser for the Hawkeye Area Community Assistance Program the week of November 13th. HACAP provides food and nutrition assistance to those in need throughout our community. The Student Council proposed a challenge among third block/fifth



period classes for students to donate at least \$1 to the fundraiser. If their goal is reached, over \$2,400 would be raised which would allow HACAP the ability to purchase approximately \$29,000 worth of food *(for every \$1 donated HACAP can purchase \$12 of food);* which is over eight tons! The class that collects the most money will win a pizza party, and the top four classrooms will participate in a dodgeball tournament.

**Education Support Professionals Day-Nov. 11th!** Linn-Mar honors and recognizes the contributions throughout the district by our education support professionals. Thank you for the difference you make in public education! These professionals are often the first people our students encounter on a daily basis. Our support professionals drive our school buses, help our children safely cross the street, provide nutritious meals, and keep our buildings clean and safe. Our ESPs are truly unsung heroes in public education and we thank them for their hard work and dedication to our students and schools. Thank you for all you do!

**Success Center News:** Congratulations to the students and staff of the Success Center for hosting a great spaghetti luncheon fundraiser on November 13th. Linn-Mar staff were able to place orders for pickup or delivery; including a gluten free option. Monies collected will go toward opening their new greeting card store that will be called, Successfully Yours. Way to go Success Center!

The Success Center is hosting an open house from 1:00-2:30 PM on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (1055 Linden Dr, Suite B...next to Pizza Ranch) and invites everyone to stop by for refreshments, to visit with the students, and to see what they are up to!

