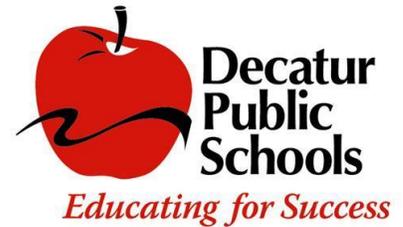


For Immediate Release

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Contact: Maria Robertson, Director of Community Engagement
217-362-3017; mrobertson@dps61.org



Strategic Planning for Decatur Public Schools

Decatur, IL – A Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of creating a strategic plan for Decatur Public Schools. School district staff along with Board of Education members, parents, local business leaders, elected officials and other community members began this process in August and have met five times to develop a draft of the strategic vision for the District. The strategic planning process is being facilitated by Dr. E. Lindsey Gunn, a consultant from The Cambrian Group. The strategic planning process examines the District’s current state, and provides a structure to determine and clarify the opportunities for future possibilities for DPS. By combining expertise within the District as well as the community, the strategic planning team created a vision that will set the direction for the District for the next five years.

At the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on September 26, 2017 held at MacArthur High School’s auditorium, members of the strategic planning team presented on the work that has been completed to date. The team created beliefs, a draft mission statement for the school district, established strategic objectives, determined strategies and placed parameters to support the strategic vision for education at DPS.

The next steps for the strategic planning process is to create a sub-committee for each strategy. These sub groups will be comprised of volunteers from the community and the school district to develop the action plans to achieve the proposed strategies. They will meet over the next six months to research and create the appropriate plans to attain the vision that has been created to this point.

The five strategies are:

- 1) We will ensure unique, innovative learning experiences for all students.
- 2) We will ensure a student-focused environment that expands learning beyond the traditional expectations to engage students.
- 3) We will establish a support network that will identify and address students’ physical, social/emotional, and mental health needs to allow each student to reach their full potential.
- 4) We will attract and retain talented and invested staff by ensuring they feel valued and supported.
- 5) We will create and foster mutually beneficial relationships throughout the community.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the strategy groups, please email Maria Robertson at mrobertson@dps61.org or by calling the Community Engagement office (217-362-3017) before October 15th. Your name, number, email address, and which strategy you would like to volunteer and work on is needed to assist the district in this important strategic planning process. Meeting dates and times will be communicated to volunteers.

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