

FOCUS 203

September 19-20, 2018

State of the District 2018

Task #1 Celebrations

September 19

- Implementation of birth to 5 years childhood education. The expansion and funding are helpful. Targeting the economically disadvantaged, High School opportunities, Blended learning, Blueprint and strategies are big wins
- Full Day Kindergarten, SEL focus (cont: implement), learning commons
- Focus on SEL, All day kindergarten, Higher priority on birth to 5 readiness, Digital 1:1, Blended learning, Increased involvement with community partners, Closing the achievement gap, Incubator, Framework Execution
- Test Scores, Financial Stewardship, Diversity embraced successfully
- ADK, Fulfilling mission, entrepreneurial focus, getting into schools, creativity, innovation, real world experience, online blended, flexibility, individually, finance advisory board, MTSS
- Differentiated experiences for students from Early Childhood to High School (EC, online/blended, SEL, safety, college and Career)
- High School Job Shadowing, College and Career Readiness, Early Screening (0-5)

September 20

- Meeting learners where they are: Blended Classrooms, Digital Learning Initiative, Early Childhood Focus, Birth-3rd Grade, Comprehensive/cohesive plan for future with community voice and flexibility, new learning commons
- Improvements in SEL focus, working towards: closing achievement gap, family engagement and summer learning
- Use of resources (financial, academic, etc) to collaboratively allow every student to reach his/her full potential. To address special situations with several specialists.
- SEL, career focus because life continues after school and college is also not for everyone. Universities are not the only ones to prepare for careers, it starts now. College and career counselling starting after 6th grade is exciting. Blended learning for self pacing, early childhood initiatives-committed to K readiness with partnerships, every child screened for milestones. Birth to K collaborations because schools can't do it all, special knowledge of community members is respected. Hiring first districts Director of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Full day kindergarten transition was successful. L/C change has created more enrichment, would like to see Digital Learning continued across disciplinary collaborations.
- Early childhood, getting students thinking of entrepreneurship aspects (not just order takers) ongoing use of "Focus" initiative overall leadership relevant, college readiness innovation from multicultural, blended learning

- The focus on closing achievement gaps, more focus on the different learning styles and needs of the children, schools are more responsive to parents and individual needs of students, STEM, INCubator
- Overall growth reaching the goal. Bringing new ideas to prepare and excite students and excel the students.

Task #2 Curiosity

September 19

- More opportunities to volunteer for alumni, parents and non-parents. What is the outreach? How are you recruiting the children for early childhood education? Dual language, where are we with that? Can we promote that more?
- How are we connecting with outside resources to communicate supplemental services? What skills do outside resources provide to meet/identify the needs of student intervention?
- What are the challenges in 203? What are some driving factors that shifted the demographics in 203? What comes after 2020? What are the emerging issues? Talent/resource acquisition and retention and mirroring the composition of the student body.
- Student achievement compared nationally. More information about birth to 3 services and assessments and outcomes resulting from services.
- Accessible facilities, measure ourselves against all schools across nation, not just lare unit. Career ready for jobs not yet created, balance SEL with academics/time, emphasize uniqueness instead of competitive, anxiety, pressure, parent education, 2020 commitments-academic/SEL, assess suite change, achievement gap, how measure/celebrate SEL cussecc, Birth -21, food, school day not longer.
- Deeper dive into the blueprint commitments/goals and what it looks like in the buildings. What roles will the community partners be given in the design of the new strategic blueprint?
- College preparedness

September 20

- How we plan to continue to maintain financial growth. Do we have a leadership/staff succession plan? How can our programs stay ahead of other choices? (Homeschool, private school)
- CTE development/prep and blended learning
- How will Social/Emotional needs be addressed and how is progress assessed? More information available on resources to increased self-directed learning skills.
- How is blended learning actually working? How are progress monitored and individual needs identified? Continuing ed for teachers to strategically implementing blended learning and differentiated learning-how is this happening? Parents as full partners in learning-how do we keep that going beyond early childhood? Business partnerships-range of community members. What topics are involved? Get younger

families more aware of these programs. Closing achievement gaps-how for individuals and for schools?

- Blended learning-plans to expand-open to which students/subjects? Business Inc--availability to all students?
- SEL, balance, mental health (Awareness-looking at student as a “whole” being, strategic plan), implementation required community contribution-(promote/support District mission) Current management of Social Media and strategies for accountability in conjunction with SEL/balance, mental health
- A version of Focus203 but per school. A forum for parents to voice concerns, (things that should stay the same), things that are working well, needs. I. E. Focus203MillStreet, Focus203Maplebrook, perhaps that could show areas that are coming across 203 schools or if a concern is isolated. How specifically is 203 responding to demographic changes.
- Hear more about Blended Learning. Where, when and how is it occurring?

What did you not hear presented at Focus 203 that you would like to more about? Why?

September 19

- Dual Language, working across diverse populations, SEL more expanded information, safety programs, Life skills 101
- Physical impact from digital learning, District failures/challenges, Suicide prevention program, Special Education programs, Demographics re: learning differences and faculty and staff
- Enhance awareness for parents and students about how community support can be woven into curriculum. Also better understanding how SEL is specifically delivered.
- District resources for physical and mental health. Post secondary outcomes, career and academic readiness.
- Breaking point with keep adding for students and teachers, anything taken away
- Goals of the new Executive Director of Diversity? How the goals will impact curriculum, will the goals include recruiting and hiring practices?
- Implementation of MTSS

September 20

- How District 203 is increasing/maintaining safety while keeping an open, collaborative environment., How to hear voices-not at the table, homeschoolers, working parents, low income families, etc), How are we closing the achievement gap?
- Social media, digital citizenship (at school and at home), stress management with social media, chromebook use (non homework related.)_
- The district’s projected areas of need.
- Dyslexia specific programs, plans and educations for staff, parents and students. Where are special education resources being placed? Is this part of plans for early childhood screenings? Checking in on digital learning initiatives-screen time at school and home.
- School day changes-impact on students. Behavior focus

- We'd like to hear about the students that don't meet the average 203 academic median and what their success are. Students who excel in clubs, activities, trades, etc. Students that struggle in academics but shine in other areas, a way to measure that so they are a part of the conversation.
- The presentation should be more level related, elementary, middle and high school. More information about acceleration law.

Task #3 Report Out

Celebration

September 19

- Early Childhood Education
- SEL Implementation
- Framework and Execution of Focus 2020 and the confidence it gives us going forward
- Online/blended learning-flexibility, individuality, goal setting, accessibility
- Differentiated experiences from EC to High School
- Job Shadowing for HS/College and Career Readiness, 6th grade, early screening

September 20

- Meeting learners where they are, blended classrooms, preschool focus, digital learning
- SEL
- Looking at the child as an individual. What do they need to be successful? SEL, career readiness, diversity
- Digital learning and Learning Commons Changes
- SEL ongoing use of "focus"
- Achievement Gaps
- Bringing new ideas to learning to excel and prepare

Still Curious

September 19

- Reaching out to the children (Early Childhood) how are you doing that?
- How we communicate available Early Childhood opportunities
- Talent acquisition/retention plan and match to demographic of students
- SEL/whole child, prepare students academically and socially for the world
- Deeper dive in the Blueprint goals and importance of SEL, including community partners
- College preparedness

September 20

- How does District 203 keep an edge over other choices (private options)
- CTE

- Closing the achievement gap, how for individuals and for schools? Is the district educating teachers and staff about the diversity and changing populations in the district? How does the district plan to utilize expertise in the district? Sharing and safe space for teachers to admit what they don't know and receive further training.
- High School opportunities for college readiness.
- On in reports and breakin it down appropriately
- Taking Focus 203 to Individual Schools (compiling that data/info)
- More about blended learning

Need More

September 19

- Skills on how to work across diverse populations
- District challenges/failures, impact)physical and mental jof Digital Learning
- How is DEL delivered and what is the curriculum?
- Goals of new Executive Director of Diversity and the impact of those goals on curriculum and recruiting and hiring practices, student benefits.
- Implementation of MTSS

September 20

- How do we keep an open/collaborative environment yet feeling comfortable with safety of our students.
- How to hear voices not here (homeschoolers, low income families, families with small children, working parents)
- Digital citizenship
- Training for teachers on Dyslexia. Information about digital learning, follow up screen time effects on learning and students as whole people.
- SEL how its impacted by school day changes and behavior.
- Educating parents (GPS for parents)
- Representation of students beyond academics, how do we measure students who do not do well on standardized tests.
- Presentation moe specific level related