

Strategic Planning  
Steering Committee  
Shelton Public Schools 2016-2020

Minutes of Meeting: 01-29-16

Attendance: Tom Minotti, Lorraine Rossner, Dan Ebert, Ann Gaydos, Joan Tichy, Dina Marks & Chris Clouet

1. Introduction of members: each provided individual profiles of their diverse experiences in education and other fields
2. The committee talked about needing to ensure that the work of strategic planning in the district be anchored by the concept- **Coherence** .(i.e., the work of the Board with Lighthouse, specifically- the *Seven Conditions* for a functioning district, the work of the Focus groups, and eventual plan itself should connect to all other initiatives and projects in the district --and not be “just another thing”); the group agreed that too many people do not realize there are many excellent things going on in the district. There was a consensus that we need to communicate about the district more effectively, beyond the standard methods. We must be committed to not being ‘static’. We agreed to use the classic S.W.O.T. model for reflecting on the work (‘Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats’).
3. The committee watched a short video clip from Studio 360 (see link below) about a design firm –Hyperakt- redesigning the classic iconography associated with schools and with teaching; the group used the video as a point of reference in a discussion about what a ‘new look’ Shelton school district might look like in the future. A question: What is the story we want to be able to tell about the Shelton school district in the

future? –was discussed. There was a strong feeling that we want to include ‘student voices’ in the process.

4. Structure of committee: The steering committee will exist in two forms –a smaller and larger unit:
  - a. Core Group- the smaller core unit will coordinate the work of the focus groups, establish a calendar of events and deadlines, and communicate with the Board, staff, parents and the wider community. The bigger unity of the steering committee will include the chairpersons of the Focus groups.
  - b. The Five Focus Groups-
    - a. Humanities (making connections across disciplines) Chairperson: Kristen Santilli
    - b. S.T.E.M. (including refining our K-12 scope & sequence for technology skills) Chairperson: Tina Henckl
    - c. Career Pathways (true College & Career Readiness, emphasis on mid-range achievers) Chairperson: Dr. Beth Smith
    - d. Innovation (how can we meet the needs of our students in our rapidly changing world?) Chairperson: Ken Saranich
    - e. Community (how can we serve and respond our diverse community?) Chairperson: TBD
5. Mission, Vision, Core Beliefs- Tom Minotti led a discussion about how the Board, working with CABE, developed the district mission statement, vision and core beliefs; the committee felt it was a good guiding document for our work.
6. The group watched a part of a Sir Ken Robinson video (see link below) about the “Changing Paradigms of Education”; his presentation generated a discussion about the dichotomy between traditional academic studies and work skills.

## 7. Imagining and Creating the Future

- a. Outcomes- ultimately, we intend to present a plan to the Board for approval next year
- b. Events/forums- we envision sponsoring multiple events, including a presentation of the film *“Most Likely to Succeed”*
- c. Surveys and other means will be used to gather input from staff, students, parents and community members
- d.

8. Overview of Articles- the group agreed to read an article, “Collective Impact”, from Stanford, and an article from Education Week on a district that made improvements with ‘scarce resources’.

NEXT MEETING : TBD the expanded larger steering committee will meet.

<http://www.studio360.org/2012/jan/20/teacher-redesign-revealed/>

[http://www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_changing\\_education\\_paradigms.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms.html)