

## Strategic Planning: the Next Steps 2016-17

Dear Members of the Steering Committee and Focus Groups,

As the long hot summer fades, notwithstanding a little tropical turbulence, we begin the school year with energy and enthusiasm.

Our work together on strategic planning for the district now shifts gear. By January the Board has requested a formal report. (Not a finished product, but a detailed update indicating progress is being made)

Beginning last January we started the process by establishing a Steering Committee and Five Focus Groups. During the Spring and Summer each of the Focus Groups convened one or more meetings to move the work forward. That period of time was essentially the “prequel”. Now the work begins.

Jonathan Costa has visited with us twice- first with the Steering Committee and then over the summer with the full administrative team. As you would expect we concentrated on Focus & Coherence (i.e., the alignment of classroom work, central office work –in other words all of the work in the district –teachers and students, principals, curriculum specialists, social workers, coaches, clerical support, custodians ... you get the idea, aligning the many moving pieces into a coherent, mission-driven effort)

On **September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at SIS**, we will host a community showing of the highly regarded film “**Most Likely to Succeed**” based on the work of Harvard’s Tony Wagner. The purpose is

to use the film's themes about what is required to prepare students for their 21<sup>st</sup> Century lives as a kick-off for community conversations about our collective hopes and dreams for our children. And...what we intend to do to truly prepare them.

Soon, we will be proposing a mid-September meeting of the expanded Core Steering Committee and Focus Group Leaders and a calendar of meetings for the year.

Please renew your thinking about developing a coherent set of milestones (rites of passage) for our students.

Examples: When do we introduce coding? When do students make a presentation combining their words and digital tools? When (and how) do we guide them to understanding their connection to the earth?

When we spoke about 'the Ten Things' it isn't that we should strive towards ten goals. That would be too much to focus on.

But, underpinning our goals (or goal?) should be a set of expectations for our 21<sup>st</sup> Century children (and future adults); let's say it's ten things.

Examples: How do we teach and assess problem-solving? How we teach collaboration? How do we measure social-emotional wellbeing?

As we move ever further into this Digital Age and develop an understanding about 'machines that think' we have some big challenges to meet.

We can do it!

I look forward to this journey of thought and exploration with you.

As always, thank you for your commitment and wanting to be involved.

Regards,

Chris

Some resources for you to view and reflect on:

- <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/deco7/vol65/num04/Making-Strategic-Planning-Work.aspx>

<http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/cms/lib/WA01001454/Centricity/Domain/45/KSDBlueprintMay2016.pdf>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/05/opinion/a-life-of-meaning-reason-not-required.html?emc=eta1&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/05/opinion/a-life-of-meaning-reason-not-required.html?emc=eta1&_r=0)

[https://ai100.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/ai\\_100\\_report\\_0831fnl.pdf](https://ai100.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/ai_100_report_0831fnl.pdf)