

**Almont Community Schools**

**Data-Based Strategic Planning Retreat**

**February 24, 2018**

**Board of Education Minutes**

Call to Order - 8:30am

ACS Board of Education - Roll Call -

Present - Jennifer O'Neil (vice president), John Brzyzowski (treasurer), John Miles (secretary), Mike Sullivan, Jennifer Mitchell, Steve Manko, Jon Owens (president)

Facilitator - Dr. Rod Green - MASB Consultant

ACS Administration - Dr. Bill Kalmar - ACS Superintendent, Jennifer Szlachta - OP Principal, Kim VonHiltmayer - AMS Principal, Tim Woelkers - AHS Principal

ACS Administrator of Finance - Barbara Potter

ACS Tech Director - Jack Bostian

ACS Building & Grounds Maintenance Director - Bob Jones

ACS Staff - OP Teachers: Collen Macciomei, Janelle Krist, Cindy Jones, Julie Saintonge, & OP paraprofessional: Michele Cain / AMS Teachers: Kelly Petrovich, Lori Arnissi, Heather Murphy, Erik Johnson / AHS Teachers: Mark Sosnowski, Dave Voyt, Mary Meeker, Kris Rohrbeck, & AHS Media Tech Specialist: Mary Love

Parents & Community Members - Paul Bowman, Dallas Walton, Tom Rinke, Jennifer Johnson, Mandy Schapman

Students - Jillian Nichols, Elizabeth Bennett, Tyler Eldridge, Josh Hellebuyck

Additions and Deletions - None

Opening Remarks & Introductions of Attendees

Discussion of the meeting's purpose and desired outcomes

## Discussion of the “State of Education”...

- What is disappearing...? “Life Skills” courses, established curriculum, textbooks & paper, traditional class structure, technological communications vs. “face-to-face”, state funding, conversations, respect for education as a profession. School district borders
- What is established...? Support in the community for the value of education, technology, student achievement, state standards and state assessments
- What is emerging...? Competition for students, technology, personal curriculum, virtual education, dual enrollment, school safety and security, student driven education, legislative mandates (whether funded or not)
- What is on the horizon...? A movement back to skilled trades “hands on” education, school staffing and teacher shortages, STEM & STEAM education, state budget shortfalls, “Anytime / Anywhere” education, more active, interactive, and engaged student learning, increased “2-way” student centered education between teachers and students, standards based grading.

## Dr. Bill Kalmar - A quick review of the ACS 2017 - 2018 ACS Board of Education Goals

- Goal Statement #1 - ACS shall continue to be fiscally responsible
- Goal Statement #2 - ACS shall continue to analyze, evaluate, and revise curriculum to meet the needs of students.
- Goal Statement #3 - ACS shall communicate effectively with all Almont Community Stakeholders
- Goal Statement #4 - ACS shall continue to develop and incorporate technology initiatives

## **Review & Discussion of the ACS Vision, Mission, & Beliefs:**

**VISION** - Every student will own their future through academic and personal success.

**MISSION** - We are committed to prepare and empower EVERY student to be successful in our changing world.

**BELIEFS** - At ACS, WE BELIEVE....

- 1) that Everyone deserves to be treated with care, dignity, and respect.
- 2) that Every student has a right to a safe and caring learning environment.
- 3) that Each student is a unique individual that learns and grows in different ways.
- 4) in Offering a variety of programs to develop the whole child.
- 5) that a successful school district is built on collaboration.

Review of District Data

“Work” on the Data....

Orchard Primary / Elementary Test Scores (2 or 3 or 4 or 5 points to focus on)...

- 1) Consistency of 3rd & 4th grade above the state average in reading & math
- 2) 5th grade as the transition between elementary & middle school
- 3) 1st year of online testing remained high, but lacks explanation of aptitude for content vs. technology
- 4) Inter-building staff communication and collaboration - specifically 4th (O.P.) grade teachers and 5th (AMS) teachers.
- 5) Negative correlation between testing and Spring Break...???

Almont Middle School Test Scores (2 or 3 points to focus on)...

- 1) Higher math scores support the continued PD for math teachers

- 2) ELA at AMS is significantly under-supported financially (newer resources are not available, therefore teachers “build” their own curriculum) and higher than optimum teacher:student ratios continues to impact ELA instruction in a negative way.
- 3) The movement of technology for testing could also be correlated to test scores as students adapt to the newer technological testing from pencil and paper testing.

Almost High School Test Scores (2 or 3 or 4 or 5 points to focus on)...

- 1) Exceeded the state test score averages (except Frankenmuth)
- 2) What does a district like Frankenmuth do that could help us as well...?
- 3) Test scores consistently trend up
- 4) College readiness continues to trend up
- 5) Lowest spending / highest test scoring is a positive reflection of our educational values in the community

Summary of Results from the Community Survey...

- Refer to the “Survey Results Document”, “word clouds”, etc...
  - Use this data to determine the Main Goal Areas.... (4 or 5...?) - cross reference with our 2017-2018 Board Goals....?
  - Develop 5 MAIN GOAL Areas and collaboratively identify strategies....
  - Survey attendees to determine commonalities in priorities...
- 1) Academics (Programs, Students Achievement, Curriculum, Culture, & Learning Environment)
    - a) Review, Align, & Organize Curriculum - 22
    - b) Smaller Class Sizes - 20

- c) Analyze Dual Enrollment - 12
- d) CTE Enrollment - 13
- e) Offer Life Skills Classes - 5
- f) Continue Technology improvements - 12
- g) Data Review (Curriculum Adjustment, Instruction, Support, & Intervention) - 4
- h) Improve Test Scores - 7
- i) New Elective Offerings - 2
- j) Class Resources & Textbooks - 7

## 2) Communication

- a) Using Social Media EFFECTIVELY - 29
- b) Develop a Communication Plan - 16
- c) Improve Communications Between Buildings - 11
- d) SOTACS - 6
- e) Keep Communication Positive - 7
- f) Eliminating Unnecessary or Excessive Alerts - 6
- g) Educate Parents through Communication - 6
- h) Utilizing ALL Forms of Media (Digital & Print) - 2
- i) Showcase District Success & Opportunities / Marketing - 7

## 3) Finance

- a) Team Budget Approach & Meeting - 18
- b) Increase Fund Balance - 31
- c) Create / Maintain a Balanced Budget - 5
- d) Develop a Maintenance Schedule - 1
- e) Analyze the Allocation of Funds - 7
- f) Increase Grant Applications & Awards - 18

## 4) Operations

- a) Increase Administration - 27
- b) Increase Counseling Staff - 16
- c) "Right Size" the District - 16
- d) Staffing Needs - 14

- e) Initiate a Teacher Cadet Program - 15
- f) EVERYONE Commits to Efficiency - 3
- g) Succession Retirement Plan - 3

5) Facilities

- a) Improve Student Safety & Security - 18
- b) Develop & Prioritize a Maintenance & Facilities Plan - 25
- c) Analysis of Building Utilization - 10
- d) Develop a Preventative Maintenance & Facility Plan - 13
- e) Sinking Fund \$\$\$ Utilization - 11
- f) Additional Maintenance Support - 8
- g) Address Crowding at Orchard Primary - 5

As a collective group, write and revise 5 Main Goal Statements.... (5 groups of attendees created, wrote, and revised the Goal Statements in a “round-robin” format.

**The completed 5 Main Goal Statements are....**

**ACADEMICS** - “ We will provide an exemplary education for every student “

**COMMUNICATION** - “ We will optimize all internal and external communication “

**FINANCE** - “ We will improve and stabilize the finances of the district “

**OPERATIONS** - “ We will improve operational efficiency in the district “

**FACILITIES** - “ We will improve district facilities “

Motion to adjourn the meeting - moved by J. Miles, supported by S. Manko.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.