

DOVER SHERBORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VALERIE G. SPRIGGS
Superintendent of Schools
spriggsv@doversherborn.org

157 Farm Street, Dover, Massachusetts 02030
(508) 785-0036 FAX (508)-785-2239

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Dear Members of the Strategic Planning Conference;

The Dover, Sherborn, and Regional School Committee Members unanimously voted to approve the Mission, Core Beliefs, Vision, and Goals written by the Strategic Planning Committee from the thoughts and ideas you generated during the October 2009 Conference.

This is an exciting step toward the important work of establishing action plans for each goal. The action plan will establish what is to be done, how it is to be done, when it is to be done, and who will be steward the actions to achieve the goal.

Five interested volunteers are being recruited to serve as facilitators for each one of the goals. An orientation meeting is scheduled for February 23rd from 3-4:30pm. If you are interested and able to offer your expertise, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you.

The following are the Mission, Core Beliefs, Vision, and Goals:

Mission: *To inspire, challenge and support all students as they discover and pursue their full potential.*

Beliefs:

We believe that...

- *Every student is capable of learning and achieving* at high levels given proper support.
- *Every student needs to be recognized as a unique, multi-faceted individual* who deserves to be inspired, challenged and supported in his/her learning and achievement.
- *Students, faculty and staff thrive in a safe, nurturing environment* of respect, high expectations, integrity and compassion.
- *Student learning and achievement are the shared responsibility* between students, teachers, families and the wider community.

- *Dover-Sherborn Public schools must be responsive to the changing world* and how those changes influence the educational, social, cultural needs of our students.
- *Clear educational direction, priorities and expectations are a key ingredient* to fostering high levels of teaching and learning.
- In partnership with our communities and parents *we must help our students to develop the values and qualities that will enable them to become engaged and effective members of society.*
- Dover Sherborn School System should *provide an environment for students where learning is challenging, rewarding and fun.*

Vision 2015:

We will distinguish ourselves through innovative teaching and learning experiences that inspire all students to pursue their individual passion for learning and excellence while we continue to be a nationally recognized, high-performing school system.

Strategic Goals:

1. Academic excellence:

We will identify nationally recognized, high performing schools and school districts; research their educational programs and strategies; and incorporate our learnings, where appropriate, into our educational programs and strategies to further advance the learning and achievement of our students by September, 2013.

2. Application and integration of technology into teaching and learning

We will develop and implement a dynamic and ongoing process to create and sustain an innovative plan to use technology to maximize the teaching and learning experience throughout our school system by September, 2011.

3. Embrace diversity, well rounded students, and character development

We will incorporate into our educational curriculum significant learning opportunities that promote core values and skills that provide our students with the abilities to develop relationships with, and work with people who have different racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds by September, 2014.

4. Efficiency and effectiveness of the school system

A committee with representation from our communities and schools will be appointed to investigate the educational and financial benefits and drawbacks of restructuring our schools. This committee will be charged with reporting its findings and recommendations back to the communities by June, 2011.

5. *Outstanding teaching*

We will continue to create a culture throughout our school system of outstanding teaching and services driven by high expectations; focused hiring practices; dynamic mentoring and support programs; an ongoing investment in innovative professional development; and mechanisms and time for K-12 collaboration amongst teachers by September, 2013.

The committee members' work was thoughtfully done and they always remained focused on the October Conference work. A sincere Thank You to the committee members who gave of their time and contributed generously to the work at hand. The members of the committee were *Karen Barody, parent, Cheryl Chase, Educator; Gretchen Donahue, Educator; Clare Graham, School Committee; Susan Hanlon, School Committee; Veronica Kenney, Principal; Denise Lonergan, Headmaster; Beverly Madden, School Committee; Frederick Randall, Headmaster; Ford Spalding, Community; Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent; James Stuart, School Committee; Ellen Williamson, School Committee.*

I hope you will share a sense of pride and ownership in the Mission, Core Beliefs, Vision, and Goals.

Sincerely,

Valerie G. Spriggs
Superintendent