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Community

Summer 2016 Update

Your Elementary District At A Glance

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District 103 is committed to the highest standards of educational excellence and continuous improvement. The support of our community allows us to provide exceptional learning opportunities to all of our elementary students.

Our vision is:

To be "Leaders in Learning"

Our mission is:

To provide innovative learning experiences which empower each student to excel and make a difference in a diverse and interconnected world.

Our core values are:

- Academic Excellence**
- Meeting Individual Student Needs**
- Social Responsibility**
- Global Preparedness**
- Continuous Improvement**
- Safe & Healthy Environment**
- Long Term Perspective**
- Partnership Among All Stakeholders**

Our Strategic Plan:

Vision 2020 is the strategic planning framework through which the district supports its schools to ensure the academic success of each student. The 5-year strategic plan, developed by our stakeholders and approved by the Board of Education on February 17, 2015, guides the work of the District in these focus areas:

- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**
- Culture and Climate**
- Facilities**
- Transportation and Student Schedules**
- Financial Sustainability**

The Vision 2020 strategic plan is accessible on the webpage at www.d103.org/strategicplanning. We publicly report progress on each of the Vision 2020 strategic goals on our webpage portal at www.d103.org/Vision2020progress. The next section provides the most recent highlights.

Strategic Plan Progress Highlights

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For each of the five strategic focus areas, Vision 2020 identifies a related vision statement and outlines specific goals and action steps. These goals are prioritized by the Board of Education and are part of the District's goals for the school years of 2015-2016 through 2019-2020. Major accomplishments during the 2015-2016 school year are highlighted below. For additional details and in-depth review of our progress on all Vision 2020 goals, please visit www.d103.org/Vision2020progress.

Focus Area: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- **Implementing an expanded enrichment learning model across the District:** Called REACH, this model deepens and extends grade level curricular objectives based on student needs and uses differentiated instruction as a framework for effective teaching.
- **Implementing an expanded 1:1 Teaching & Learning Initiative:** iPads are used for learning activities as well as assessment across grades 3-8 with an extension of the program for grades 1 & 2 in 2016-2017. Teachers are integrating the Haiku Learning Management System into classroom workflows along with GoogleApps for Education. These efforts bring learning opportunities for students that were not previously possible and raise the bar for learning. The social emotional learning curriculum also supports students in their development as successful digital citizens.

Focus Area: Culture and Climate

- **Comprehensive review of school starting/ending times:** The District included research on optimal school start times, determined the impacts and explored options for bus scheduling around several scenarios. The District also identified the impacts on after school programs and involved staff and parents through a community engagement process. District 103 will not change its start and ending times for the 2016-2017 school year primarily due to financial implications impacting the budget. However, altering the starting times for our junior high students is an important step to provide them the opportunity for the recommended amount of sleep. The goal is to make a recommendation in the fall of 2016 to implement a time change for the 2017-2018 school year.

(see back of page for more)

Vision 2020 Progress Reporting *(continued)*

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Focus Area: Culture and Climate *(continued)*

- **Created class size guidelines.** The District researched best practices for class sizes and established ranges that consider physical space and effective teaching strategies. The District concluded that guidelines of class sizes in the 20's, with flexibility depending on the needs of the classroom, provide for appropriate levels of support to continue the excellent education our community expects and our students deserve.

Focus Area: Facilities

- **District 103 has been working with an architect, Wight & Co., to identify the best ways to optimize our current space and plan for our space needs.** The District wants to optimize student learning through flexible, sustainable spaces that support 21st Century teaching and learning. The community engagement process for facility planning began in May 2015 and included parents, staff and community members. In September 2015, the Board of Education approved moving forward with the next phase of facility improvement planning: **(1) Additions to Half Day School and Laura B. Sprague School; and (2) Moving grade 5 from Daniel Wright Junior High School to Half Day School.** The timeline for these facility improvements is: **complete building additions and renovations, summer 2017; 5th grade attends Half Day School, beginning in the fall of 2017.**

Focus Area: Transportation & Student Schedules

- **Beginning in September 2015, the District reviewed its transportation procedures and service levels to increase the efficiency of our bus routes.** A volunteer committee was formed and developed new practices for bus routes. Guidelines were provided to the parent community for review and comment before they were finalized. The Board of Education approved the new guidelines on February 16, 2016. The District will now begin developing new routes based on the new guidelines and best practice for implementation in September 2016.

Focus Area: Financial Stability

- **A budget plan was developed to fund the identified costs of the improvements identified in the Facilities Focus Area (above): 1. Additions to Half Day School and Laura B. Sprague School; and 2. Moving grade 5 from Daniel Wright Junior High School to Half Day School.** The budget plan was reviewed during the Community Engagement process in August 2015. District reserves and financing options identified \$13.3 million available without additional funds needing to be generated through referendum. The initial budget plan was revised in October 2015, in order to lower the long-term financing cost and reduce the impact on operating funds. Following is the budget plan:
\$4.4 million in Working Cash Bonds
\$5.9 million in Debt Certificates
\$3.0 million from Cash Reserves

On a continuing basis, our evaluations of both new programs and expansion of existing programs consider budgetary implications with the underlying priority to comply with Board Policy to maintain year-end fund balances no less than 20% of the annual expenditures in each fund.

Residency Verification

District 103 is conducting a residency verification for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents of students who will register a returning student or enroll a new student are required to prove residency. Further information can be found on our webpage at www.d103.org/residency.

Note: Residency verification helps safeguard the investment our constituents make in School District 103.

Board of Education Serving District 103

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Agendas and minutes of Board of Education meetings are posted on the District 103 website at www.d103.org/board. Guidelines for community participation at Board meetings, along with Board of Education policies and goals, are also posted on the District website. We invite constituents to share thoughts on district-wide issues by speaking with us at school events, sending us an e-mail message to board@d103.org, or attending a Board meeting.

Stay Connected with District 103!

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Locate our *Annual Report* with insight to the finances of the district for Fiscal Year 2016, and comparative metrics with 2015 student assessment data: www.d103.org/AnnualReport. Academically, District 103's student achievement levels are at the top of the state.

We invite you to stay informed about District 103 programs and services by visiting our District and school webpages:

District 103	www.d103.org
Daniel Wright	www.dw.d103.org
Half Day	www.hd.d103.org
Sprague	www.sp.d103.org

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Contact District 103 anytime by e-mail: Ask103@d103.org

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2015 District and School Report Cards: <http://www.d103.org>

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