

Meridian School District #505
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held at Irene Reither Elementary School
Feb. 3, 2022

Welcome and Introductions

Abeo School Change was represented by Christine Hoyos and Kevin Shrum.

Abeo shared a little about themselves and the work they do and then shared why this group has been brought together. Abeo expressed the need to be real and authentic and make community centered decisions.

Inclusive Opener

Abeo led the group in an inclusive opener focusing on social/emotional learning (SEL) and getting to know one another/building relationships to establish community. Committee members wrote down their connection or role at Meridian School District, what they love about the Meridian community, what's their passion outside of school/work and what their future hope is for the students and community. The groups then shared with each other at their table and then each person did a short introduction of themselves.

Understanding the Purpose of Strategic Planning

Abeo then discussed the purpose of strategic planning. The committee members spent time reading a blog, Future-Focused Strategic Planning for Schools: The "What" and the "Why" Need a "How." Abeo then asked the group to review the purpose of the Strategic Plan Development Committee charter and to compare that with the article.

Questions and themes shared:

- How can we incorporate the district's mission statement?
- What is a new strategic plan and how capable are we of change?
- What can we accomplish? What is the impact?
- There are a lot of words that need to be defined, i.e.: excel, success – a lot of these words are key, but they need to be measurable.
- What does inclusive practices mean? Facilities or curriculum? Instructional strategies?
- Opportunity – what does that mean?
- What is the appropriate level of support?
- We are the bridge to get to our goals.
- Future-focused strategic plan – all these visions live within each other and connect to it.

Code of Cooperation

Together the group reviewed the committee code of cooperation. Abeo renamed these community agreements. The committee gave feedback and shared questions such as how do we

collaborate as a community? How do we bring life to our learning and work? The committee suggested adding assume positive intent and extend grace to the community agreements.

Identifying Meridian School District's Values

Abeo led the group in a collaborative dialogue about MSD's values. They asked each committee member to write down "What is important at Meridian School District?" Then they asked committee members to rank their top five values. Each table then shared the values they had written down and then organized them into common themes. The groups then shared these common themes out to the rest of the committee.

Some common themes included: everyone belongs and is valued, positive culture, collaboration, equity/inclusion, innovative teaching, and community.

Abeo collected the cards. They shared that they would review them and bring them back to the next meeting to share with the committee.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 3.