

Our Path to First Choice No.13
2018/19

Everyone,

It is the first full week of November, and our schools will be recognizing military veterans for their service to the United States. Enjoy the rest of your week.

Our Path Topic

Over the next year, WASD will be working on its Comprehensive Plan (CP). The CP is a plan required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). It is a plan for being more strategic by establishing goals and objectives. It is to be completed for PDE every three years.

Indeed, it is very comprehensive. The process will begin this winter. However, there has been some upfront trainings and webinars already this year. Dr. Sterner-Hine will be leading the process.

The CP process is designed to include school district stakeholders in the planning. Not just administrators and teachers, but parents, community members and others. It will include areas such as curriculum, professional development, technology, facilities, and a few other areas.

Unfortunately, due to its comprehensiveness, many school districts do not follow the CP. There are many reasons as time and money that prevent the plan's follow-through. Nevertheless, PDE does require each school district complete one, and it is good organizational practice to have one.

For the past two years, WASD has had a strategic plan (SP). It is very much the same thing, but less comprehensive. It is a doable document of objectives and measures. It is more of an annual plan than a comprehensive one that is in place for three years.

WASD's challenge will be to align the two plans. If not, there will be conflict between objectives. Balancing and articulating the two plans will take some thought. Being on Our Path to First Choice, alignment is critical.

As we move forward in this project, we will try to keep you informed of our progress.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Attached are: **None this week.**
- Policy committee met on November 5th to review several policies.
- The Board's next meeting is November 13 at 7 PM in the WASHS Auditorium.

Survey Results

- Attached are the results of the Summer Schedule Survey for the four 10-hour days implemented last summer.

***Important to Know**

- November 12th is the observance of Veterans Day. No school for students. However, it is a day for professional development.
- November 21st is an early dismissal for students. It will also be an early dismissal for staff. All staff may leave after students are gone and your duties are complete.

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is the high school's Steve Pappas, Alli Kopco and Bobbi Link. Last week, a WASD bus had an accident at the corner of Sixth Street and Fairview Avenue. Thankfully, no serious injuries, but many students bumped their heads on seats, jammed thumbs, and other somewhat-minor injuries. Nevertheless, Steve, Alli and Debbie went directly to the scene to speak with each student about his/her health, talk to parents on the scene and make sure that students returned to school safely. The team followed process and procedures, and the situation was well handled. If you see Steve, Alli or Debbie, please congratulate them for being this week's Piece of the Puzzle.

*Review for You

Do you know the difference between a goal and an objective?

Events

- November 12th—No school for students. Professional Development for staff.
- November 21st is an early dismissal day. All staff may leave after the students have gone and one's duties are completed. No school November 22-27 (27th is a possible snow make-up day).

*Review Answer (Important to Know)

A goal is a very broad outcome. It is a primary outcome that uses a strategy as its approach for achieving a goal. An objective is a measurable process to achieve a strategy. A goal typically is long term. An objective is usually shorter term. A goal is much more generic while an objective is more specific.

Final Thoughts

- *You should set goals beyond your reach so you always have something to live for.*—Ted Turner
- *Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.* Tony Robbins
- *First have a definite, clear practical ideal; a goal, an objective. Second have the necessary means to achieve your ends; wisdom, money, materials, and methods. Third adjust all your means to that end.*—Aristotle
- *Stop setting goals. Goals are pure fantasy unless you have a specific plan to achieve them.*—Stephen F. Covey
- *Goal Setting: SMART Goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound.*
- *People with goals succeed because they know where they're going.*—Early Nightingale
- *Review your goals twice every day in order to be focused on achieving them.*—Les Brown

Have a great rest of the week!

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