

Our Path to First Choice No.20
2018/19

Everyone,

Winter has arrived! It is pretty cold this week. Maybe not as bad as last year at this time, but it is cold. Hopefully the Path Note this week will warm you up to a good toasty temperature.

Our Path Topic

This week's Path Note is just a quick overview of where the *First Choice* team is currently at in the process. The team is using a Google Doc to collect information from its team members and any of you willing to share with them (send to Mike Bercaw, Tom Hoffman, and Cathy Beatty). The information they are seeking is "what are we currently doing toward *First Choice* now?"

So far, they have gathered that we do have a Pre-kindergarten educational program that is just getting started in the district (Pre-Elementary). We have Franklin County Career and Technical School Field Trip, Project Team, and comprehensive kindergarten which are all contributing towards building the *First Choice* for our students. At the Middle Level, we have Adventures in Careers, Adventures in Learning, High School Credit for particular classes, and FBLA (field trips—i.e., Grove-Bowersox). Finally, we have Franklin County Career and Technical School option for students, Career Cruising (Career Counselor/College Counselor), Freshman Seminar, Child Development Class, ASVAB, Individualized Career Based Intro to Business, Big Chief's School Store, PSAT/SAT, FBLA, In-class discussions (ex. Careers in science), and Guest speakers and seminars (ex. Science, social studies dept).

There is much more that WASD is doing to lead to a student's *First Choice*. If you know of other activities or programs, please make sure that the *First Choice Team* receives the items. The team has dozens of representatives from elementary, middle and high school; including, members of the community and parents.

Once the team develops the list of what we are already doing, they will develop a *gap analysis* to determine what we do not offer, but need to include. In addition, the team will develop a system and processes that will provide each student the same opportunities as anyone. Right now, we have numerous great things happening, but not all students have the same opportunities. *First Choice* will have broad activities and programs in the elementary schools to provide career exposure to students. In the middle school, it will begin to divide into pathways for more hands-on opportunities and activities in order to help students begin to find a strength or interest in a particular pathway. By high school, we need to start narrowing down a student's path and choice. However, many students will not have a choice, so we must provide them with various opportunities to assist in making a career choice or general pathway.

During a student's senior year (unless he/she graduates early), he/she may choose to take college courses or other post-secondary educational opportunities, do an internship or more, participating in a job experience through one or more jobs in the community, or any other activity that will help the student meet the requirements of his/her *First Choice* by graduation.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meeting--January 22, 2019 at 7PM in the Clayton Avenue Board Room

You may check out District policies by going to this site: <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is Megan McGuire. Megan is this week's Piece of the Puzzle nomination because of her stepping up to keep Fairview Avenue Elementary School moving along in a time of need. She made the staff feel appreciated over Christmas break by sending Christmas cards to our family members with personalized, hand written messages on the back. She also helps to keep the staff in good spirits during the crazy month of December by planning fun activities each day. She truly helps to make Fairview a wonderful place to work. Congratulate Megan McGuire for being the Piece of the Puzzle this week. 'Way to go, Megan!!

Budget Information

The WASD budget process is in motion. Over the next six months, the Budget & Finance Committee and the full Board will be working to balance a budget, yet provide the programs and services needed for our students to receive a quality education. Each month Eric Holtzman will provide a Budget & Sense newsletter that will present information about our WASD budget and how it works. This is a result from last year's "Are We Making Progress" survey sent out to our entire staff. One major theme that came out of that survey was having more information about the workings of the district budget.

*Review for You

Why is it good for organizations to do surveys and use its results?

Events

- January 18th—In-service Day and No School for Students
- January 20th—High School Chamber Choir performs at Carnegie Hall. Good luck and congratulations!!
- January 21st—No school for staff and students

*Review Answer (Important to Know)

Good organizations use various tools to measure its effectiveness and look at how to improve. One tool is the use of surveys. Conducting surveys is an unbiased (or should be) approach to decision-making. We should not rely on "gut feelings" to make important decisions. We can collect unbiased survey data and develop decisions based on analyzed results.

Final Thoughts

- *Having a survey without bias is clearly the goal here. Surveys are tricky. You can load a question and I'd like to really avoid that. We'll make the questions as neutral as possible.*—Chris Mickelsen.
- *Surveys show that surveys never lie.*—Natalie Angier
- *Everyone takes surveys. Whoever makes a statement about human behavior has engaged in a survey of some sort.*—Andrew Greeley
- *Asked about the power of advertising in research surveys, most agree that it works, but not on them*—Eric Clark.

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Tod