

2015-16 School Board Goals

GOALS	ASSESSMENT	PROGRESS
Student Achievement - The Board will support new efforts to improve student achievement.		
1.	The Board will analyze the cost/benefits of the possible implementation of Full Day Kindergarten.	The board will make a determination on next steps in the process to analyze the cost/benefits of FDK by January, 2016. A decision will be made by March, 2016 relevant to fall, 2017 implementation.
<p>1-12-16: <i>FDK Committee has met to determine space availability, possible implementation schedule and enrollment projections. It also has summarized impact on community such as day care centers and private school programs. The costs analysis will be presented to the Property and Finance Committee in February.</i></p> <p>7-26-16: <i>FDK recommendation was approved by the school board on March 21 pending the passing of a state budget. The state budget was passed for 2015-16 and for 2016-17 which generated an additional \$369,000 in 15-16 and \$507,000 in 16-17. FDK will begin in fall, 2017.</i></p>		
1	The Board will support the implementation of Professional Learning Communities in all 16 schools.	<p>Post assessment survey by teachers shows a 20% increase in comfort with implementation of PLC's. Pre-assessment data indicated that 85% of teachers "I believe that my PLC teammates will assess and share results of new instructional approaches they try out in their classrooms." However only 45% believe "the school schedule promotes collective learning and shared practice among staff."</p>
<p>1-12-16: <i>Professional Learning Communities are up and running in all 16 buildings. Assessment data of the first year of implementation will be collected in May, 2016.</i></p> <p>7-26-16: <i>Overall, elementary and middle school teachers reported a greater level of agreement than high school teachers that participation in PLC significantly changed how they teach.</i></p>		

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3.	The Board will support initiatives to raise scores for all students while also closing the achievement gap between students of high performing groups and students of historically underperforming groups. Base line achievement gap data will be established due to a new version of PSSA being implemented.	Base line data determining the achievement gaps will be established by January, 2016 and will include a relative difference comparison to other districts.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>Final assessment data was verified in December due to a delay in receiving data from the Pa Department of Education. Baseline data should be completed by February, 2016.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>Baseline data was recently received from PDE and is in a verification time frame until mid-August. PDE did not include provide disaggregate ID's for all students. We have to calculate manually.</i></p>
4.	The Board will support multiple measures of student progress to improve overall School Performance Profiles.	The district will remain in the top 10% in the state on the District Performance Profile or other state or national assessments.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>November, 2015, the College Board announced that WCASD was one of 43 districts in Pennsylvania and one of 425 in the United States to be listed as an AP Scholar District for increasing the number of students taking AP courses while maintaining 80% pass rates on AP exams.</i> <i>January, 2016 - The Niche report listed WCASD as 29th in the state out of 500 school districts. Niche evaluates districts nation-wide in areas of academics, climate, student and parent satisfaction and quality of teaching staff.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>School Performance Profile reports are expected to be released in September, 2016. Initial PSSA and Keystone data indicates WCASD will remain in similar ranking to 2015 relative to state and county scores. Preliminary Keystone results for proficient and advanced are: Algebra = 92.4%; English = 93.7%; Biology = 89.8%. All scores are still preliminary until September.</i></p> <p><i>My College Options Survey of graduating seniors indicated that 40.5% of graduates plan to attend a STEM post HS program.</i></p>

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			<i>Newsweek listed all three WCADS high schools in the top 500 in America on its list of top high schools.</i>
5.	The Board will support a review of the weighted grades system at the high school and determine the best way to encourage students to take more courses in the arts.	The Board will take action on a weighted grades plan as outlined by the administration.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>November, 2016</i> - The Board approved three new AP courses for 2016-17. Unweighting of elective courses to calculate class rank was changed for the 2016-17 school year.</p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>The Leveling and Weighted Grades Committee met twice during the summer of 2016 to begin to address course leveling. The weighting of elective courses was officially changed for the 2016-17 school year.</i></p>
Board Engagement - The Board will be actively engaged with improving communications internally and externally.			
1.	Every board member will participate in an "Adopt-A-School" program and be assigned a group of schools to attend functions. District based organizations will also be included such as WCA Education Foundation and PTOC.	Each board member will attend at least one function at each of its assigned schools or groups.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>Building visits are being scheduled for January, February and March, 2016</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>All board members made visits to at least five school building during building tours conducted in February and March.</i></p>
2.	The Board will support the process of developing student surveys for feedback from students about their learning experiences.	Data will be collected on the feasibility of using student and parent surveys for input about teachers.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>Draft surveys were reviewed at the Board retreat in January. Surveys will be implemented in late spring.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>Student surveys were given in grades 5,8, 9 and 10. School Board will review results in summer, 2016.</i></p>
3.	The Board will engage parents, staff, and community with a legislative committee in support of board approved resolutions on upcoming or pending legislation.	Legislative committee will meet monthly to discuss pending legislation that will impact the school district.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u> <i>LAC met in September, October and is scheduled to meet on January 28, 2016.</i></p>

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			<p>7-26-16: LAC met in April and June to discuss Keystone exams and ESSA federal regulations. School Board adopted a resolution as a framework for state and national legislators to follow as guidelines are being developed to meet the new federal regulations. The resolution is being used as a framework for the work groups in Harrisburg.</p> <p>LAC was involved in a letter writing to change the Keystone exam requirement. The PDE report is due to the General Assembly in mid-August. It appears that the requirement will change which should lead to a reduction in keystone specialists needed to meet the graduation requirement.</p>
Accountability - The board will hold itself accountable for its role as a school board official by acting in an ethical and responsible manner.			
1.	The Board will engage new board members in the goal setting process.	The board will review its goals in January, 2016.	<p>1-12-16: Goals were reviewed at the Board retreat in January and a progress report completed.</p>
2.	The Board will continue to review Board Policies through respective committees to maintain an up-to-date policy manual.	Each board committee will review policies as needed throughout the year.	<p>1-12-16: Several polices have been updated at Pupil Services and Education Committee meetings to keep up with new regulations.</p> <p>7-26-16: Policies were reviewed as part of the Education, Pupil Services and Property and Finance Committees.</p>
Innovation - The Board will support innovative programs to foster student achievement.			
1.	The Board will support the use of technology to provide alternative ways to improve student learning.	<p>Student, staff and parent survey data on the use of technology will show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% satisfaction rate with 1:1 program • 80% satisfaction rate with blended learning classes 	<p>1-12-16: Surveys for 1:1 and blended learning will be conducted in February 2016</p> <p>Approximately 700 students are enrolled in ten blended classes.</p>

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			<p>15 blended courses will be offered in 2016.</p> <p>7-26-16: Staff survey data showed 92% satisfaction rate with use of computers for 1:1 program (Includes 27% neutral about it). Parent survey showed 96% satisfaction rate with use of 12:1 computers (Includes 7% neutral). 80% of parents believed blended was effective (Includes 20% neutral).</p>
2.	The Board will support dual enrollment opportunities for students.	Survey data will show an 80% satisfaction rate on dual enrollment classes.	<p>1-12-16: <i>December, 2015</i> -34 students completed Dual Enrollment classes at WCU. Second semester classes begin in January, 2016. Feedback not compiled yet. Six courses will be offered in the course planning guide for fall, 2016. Currently we are running four courses.</p> <p>7-26-16: Student survey indicated 100% of students rated their experience as either agree or strongly agreed that the experience was positive.</p>
3.	The Board will support the use of technology for professional development.	A new Learning Management System (LMS), Schoology, will be implemented for use in teaching blended classes and a place to share elementary curriculum documents on math and reading. Teacher survey data will show an 80% satisfaction rate on use of this LMS.	<p>1-12-16: LMS is in place for ten blended learning courses. All 4th and 5th grade teachers have access to curriculum</p> <p>7-26-16: The number of comments posted on Schoology was 85,571. The number of assignments and quizzes posted were 267,945. The number of files uploaded to Schoology was 214,266.</p>
4.	The Board will support the use of technology to provide information to the community.	Teachers will provide updates as items are graded to online parent portal. Parent survey will show an 80% satisfaction rate on use of Parent Portal.	<p>1-12-16: Principal updates to be conducted in January. Parent survey to be completed in May, 2016.</p>

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		<i>News and Notes</i> , electronic newsletter, will be distributed twice monthly.	<p><i>Electronic communications since July 1, 2015 include: 41 Facebook posts, 53 print articles, 83 articles posted to the homepage, ten E-Newsletters sent.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u></p> <p><i>Parent portal satisfaction survey showed that 68% (58% in 2015), of parents were satisfied with updates on parent portal.</i></p> <p><i>Electronic communication posts for the year included: 162 FB posts, 125 print articles, 172 posts to the home page and 22 e-Newsletters were completed.</i></p>
Fiscal Responsibility - The Board will pass a balanced budget without compromising the quality of education for students.			
1.	The Board will have a minimal tax increase while maintaining the quality of education.	A balanced budget is passed without adversely impacting the quality of education.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u></p> <p><i>December, 2015 – Board approved applying for exceptions to Act 1 Index because state has not passed a budget yet and state revenues are unknown for the 15-16 budget.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u></p> <p><i>The board passed a budget with a 2.7% tax increase that maintained existing programs.</i></p>
2.	The Board will fund its priorities in the Comprehensive Plan in the areas of technology, high school programming, closing achievement gaps and fiscal responsibility.	Budget will reflect funding in the priority areas.	<p><u>1-12-16:</u></p> <p><i>Curriculum proposals are being presented to the Board in January. Technology expenses are included in the preliminary budget.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>The 2016-17 budget included three additional tech support staff for the high school as the 1:1 program expands to three grade levels in 16-17.</i></p>

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3.	The board will seek alternative funding sources to offset expenses.	<p>Amazon Associates program will generate an increase in revenue from \$2,400 to \$5,000.</p> <p>Sponsorships for advertising will increase by \$10,000.</p> <p>The Board will support at least three grant applications.</p>	<p><u>1-12-16 /7-26-16</u> <i>Amazon Associates has generated \$3,795. An additional \$1500 was generated via the program in 2016.</i></p> <p><i>Currently seeking a sponsor for the Activity Calendar. One sponsor was secured for the 17-18 school year in the amount of \$2500.</i></p> <p><u>Grants Awarded: Totaling \$59,550</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (Mary C. Howse) - \$10,000</i> • <i>Smart Ideas Grant from PECO (Fern Hill) - \$8,800</i> • <i>CRESS Grant for Special Needs Children - \$15,000</i> • <i>Pa Liquor Control Board - \$25,000 – helps to pay for CTC expenses.</i> • <i>Pa association of School retirees - \$750 – (Fern Hill)- pays for a school assembly.</i> • <i>Rustin Science Olympiad created grant partnership with the Education Foundation to raise \$4,950 in 2016.</i> <p><u>Grants Not Awarded:</u> <i>Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant - \$52,000</i></p>
4.	The board will negotiate contracts that include long-term costs aligned to Act 1.	Contract will be settled with Act 1 controls established.	<p>1-12-16: <i>Act 93 and Non-bargaining groups will begin discussions in February/March.</i></p> <p><u>7-26-16:</u> <i>The board approved an agreement with administrators that ties raises to the Act 1 index (state’s version of Cost of Living), and increases costs sharing for healthcare, RX, dental and vision to 16%.</i></p>

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5.	The Board will analyze the most cost effective way to house the district office personnel and functions.	District office plan will be included in the Capital Plan.	<p>1-12-16: <i>Board has received cost to renovate District Office. Other less expensive options are being explored for alternate sites for the district office building.</i></p> <p>7-26-16: <i>The board approved the purchase of a similar size building at an estimated savings of \$1.5 million below renovation costs to Spellman Building. The board also approved the sale of the Spellman administration building to offset purchase price of newer building.</i></p>