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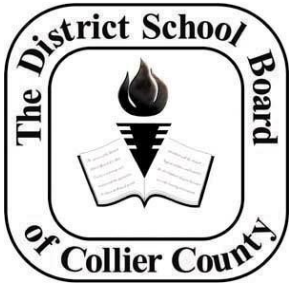
NEWS RELEASE – “SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS”

The District School Board of Collier County, along with Superintendent Dennis L. Thompson, recently launched a long-range strategic planning and community engagement process to guide district work for the next two to three years. The process will result in a vision with clear goals for the Collier County Schools and the associated operational plans to implement this vision. It is designed to give district staff and community members multiple opportunities to provide meaningful input.

Collaborative Communications Group (Collaborative) will serve as the lead facilitator and organizer to meet this objective, working closely with the School Board and Superintendent. Collaborative is a strategic consulting firm selected by the School Board through a competitive process and known to many in Collier County for its work with the Connect Now initiative. The Education Foundation of Collier County (The Education Foundation) will assist Collaborative with community engagement aspects of the strategic planning process.

The project has two major phases: (1) Vision and Goal Setting, and (2) Operational Planning. In Phase One, the district will create a core statement – a one- to two-page document articulating a clear vision, beliefs, and essential goals for the school district – that will drive all of its work. The School Board and a Planning Team of approximately 30 people, including district leaders, principals, teachers, parents, and community members, will create a draft document based in part on the concepts identified in the Connect Now statement. The draft will be shared with the broader community, with the resulting feedback incorporated into a final document to be completed by January 2010.

(More)



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Add One

In Phase Two, the strategic planning work will go in two directions: (1) defining internal operational plans, and (2) continuing broad community engagement to cultivate ownership of the vision. Separate operational planning teams will be organized around the key goals identified in Phase One. Participants will include members of the Planning Team and additional key team members from inside the district. The task of each team will be to construct the operational plans necessary to organize the work of the Collier County Schools for two years to keep it on track for meeting its vision.

As the operational planning continues, Collaborative will work with The Education Foundation and the Connect Now network to develop and support an ongoing outreach strategy to share the vision and goals from Phase One. The goal is to create awareness and ownership of the work, including asking others to consider how they can align their work with the school district’s vision. The key component of this work will be community meetings, which will be organized with the goal of ensuring diverse geographic and socioeconomic representation.

The School District of Collier County is committed to a transparent, inclusive strategic planning process and will provide a variety of opportunities for community input and participation throughout the next eight months.

To learn more about how to become involved, send an e-mail to info@collier.k12.fl.us, or call the school district Communication & Information Office at (239) 377-0180. Or visit the home page of the district’s Web site. Go to www.collierschools.com and look under What’s New.