

The Issaquah School Board was called to order on Monday evening, May 30th, at 6:05 p.m. by President Jan Woldseth to conduct a special work/study session on ENDS prioritization. With President Woldseth were Board members Connie Fletcher, Brian Deagle, Suzanne Weaver, Mike Winkler and Superintendent Janet Barry. Also at the work table were administrators Mike Gallagher and Lynn Brogan and Dr. Steve Rasmussen, who will assume the superintendency on July 1st.

The Board explained the need for a common understanding on how to measure and monitor policies, the scope of monitoring reports, and whether to continue or modify current monitoring practice.

President Woldseth explained the basic question as: What do we hope comes out of the E-1 Mission Statement: *Our students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment.*

The Board discussed the need to prioritize the ENDS statements, and agreed no further prioritization is necessary; the statements reflect the desired ENDS for all students to reach upon graduation. Points made included:

- The Board doesn't want any of the established ENDS to "drop off the table."
- Having common definitions would be helpful: i.e., program, priority, etc.
- If a policy is no longer effective, or accomplishing what the Board wants, it should be eliminated.
- There is still interest in a comprehensive program review, but no scope/definition was defined.
- The ENDS were created and celebrated for "floating above" program.
- No further prioritization is necessary.
- The District must "live with what we've got" and take "the resource thing" off the table – do it all to the greatest degree possible.
- There is a need to make the ENDS statements operational – what does the Board want the statement to mean in the Issaquah School District?
- When cost-shifting occurs, perhaps a sub-committee of the Board should work with the administration to be sure the shifting is in the direction the Board desires.
- The Board decides where the District wants to go; the superintendent decides how to get us there.
- The Board's intent with Policy Governance is to drive the organization toward student achievement.
- The Board is the link to the community's needs and values and should be involved in discussions about program – "the meaty issues."
- There are some aspects of running the District the Board wants to maintain control of, and it was agreed that the Board can maintain that control in any area it wishes.
- Achievement is an on-going process, continuing each year – it is not really progress toward any single goal, because the goal is not static. The administrators present spoke to the progress made in the past 3-5 years since the introduction of Policy Governance.
- Math/Science is the current focus and should remain so as the central "connector."
- Some type of ENDS discussion should begin being built into all board meeting agendas – even if it is a brief report under Works in Progress – it is important to make these ENDS real to the community.
- The District needs to be more deliberate about applying program decisions to ENDS results.
- If the Board doesn't prioritize where resources go, the administration will do so.
- Resources are not only dollars, but are also time, staff, materials.
- There are some areas of the ENDS where the District is already accomplishing the ENDS – these areas need to be identified.

- The ENDS statements are a “living document,” subject to constant evaluation for change.
- Math/Science will remain the primary focus for 2007-08.
- It was agreed that the words “goals” and “emphasis” are preferred to “priority,” as being more clear and with fewer attached assumptions.
- Reports throughout the year on the application of the Microsoft Grant for mathematics will be presented.

Dr. Rasmussen agreed to return to the Board in October with 1) main areas of focus identified, 2) resources identified for each area (all resources – time/staff/\$\$), and 3) a realistic schedule for the year. If possible, the timeline/schedule will be drafted in August, with other data presented in October. Dr. Rasmussen also agreed to incorporate an ENDS discussion into each board meeting agenda.

The Board also agreed:

- Interpretation of the ENDS would be a great conversation at board meetings.
- It is necessary to interpret each statement, determine a monitoring process for each one, and learn “how far along” the District already is on each one.

Bottom line(s) identified:

- Board development around Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs)
- More visibility of ENDS statement – display – community reality
- Bring ENDS work into regular board meetings
- A retreat work/study for Board with Dr. Rasmussen needs to be scheduled.
- Dr. Rasmussen requested the Board let him know what information would be helpful to the Board for him to provide as they work together.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.