

# FOCUS NEWSLETTER



## Strategic Planning Process

By the end of January, over 450 voices were heard during listening sessions that included students, parents, community and staff members. Two more community listening sessions are planned for March.

"Most of the time during the community sessions is spent in small groups, with a facilitator helping participants work through four specific questions," said Linn Exline, superintendent of schools. In under ten minutes, she welcomes everyone at the beginning of the sessions and gives a brief overview of the process. Then, they break into small groups where a volunteer facilitator records all the input given around these four questions:

- What are the characteristics of a successful high school graduate?
- What is USD 305 doing well?
- What are some areas where USD 305 can continue to grow?
- What is the best way to communicate with you?

### **COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**March 3 5:30-6:45**

Oakdale Elementary M/P Room

**March 21 10:00-11:15**

South HS Commons

*Free childcare is available*

"All of the feedback will be placed onto our website for public review," explained Exline. The process is designed to be open and transparent. She added, "Our schools belong to all of us. The feedback that will help chart the district's priorities will be available to everyone."

A form with the four questions is available online. It can be accessed on the district website or with the QR codes on this page so that all can participate, even if they are unable to attend a listening session.

Feedback from the listening sessions will be posted on the district website by late spring. It will be used by the Board of Education to set long-range goals. During the summer and fall 2020, action planning will begin with implementation starting in the spring of 2021. Progress will be reported in the fall of 2021.

Based on information collected, expectations for high school graduates are high. Characteristics range from thinking and information-finding skills to timeliness and the need to regulate oneself and work with others. Community members' preferences to receive school information ranged from the Salina Public Schools mobile app, texting and social media to one-on-one conversations.



Exline stressed, "Because this will help form recommendations for future direction of the district, it's critical that we gain input from across the community. We need to hear from everyone."

**Fill out a 4 question survey**



English

**Complete una encuesta de 4 preguntas**



Español

USD 305 Salina Public Schools  
1511 Gypsum Ave.  
Salina, KS 67401

NON- PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SALINA, KANSAS  
PERMIT 173

John Smith or current resident  
1234 Somewhere  
Salina, KS 67401



## Equity Council Update

Now in its second year of operation, the district Equity Council's accomplishments include surveys, articles, implicit bias tests, data review and more.

During last school year the council recommended a perception survey for district staff and secondary students. Distributed in early 2019, more than 83,000 responses were collected with 3,312 surveys completed. The student surveys underscored the importance of relationships, particularly personal connections between students and staff. Staff surveys indicated a need to know more about equity and diversity and how to contribute to a positive experience for all students and staff. The council combined this with information about implicit bias to produce six training sessions that are currently in use in all USD 305 schools.

This year, the council added two additional meetings to help support the momentum the group has built. The February meeting will be used as a listening session for the district's strategic planning so the council's input will be included.

