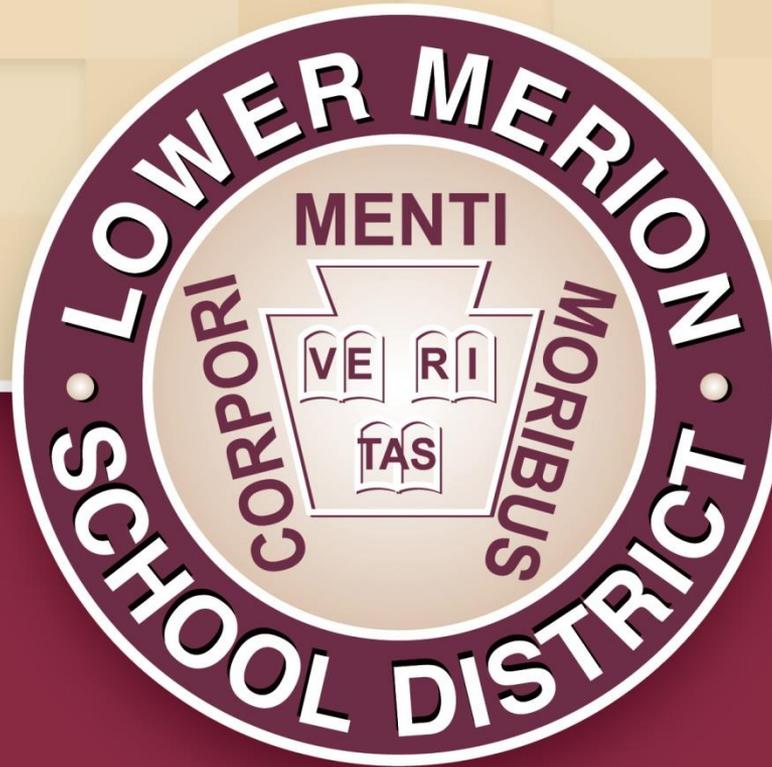


Education Committee and Supplementary Regular Meeting



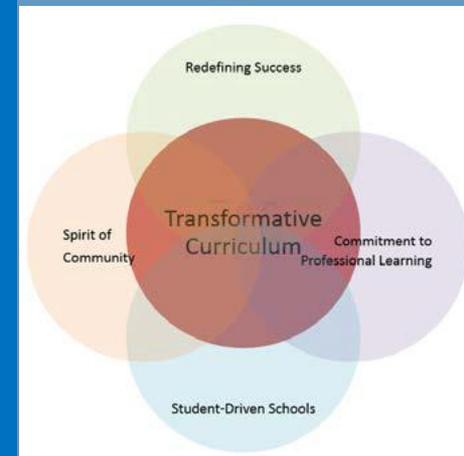
JANUARY 9, 2017

LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

January 9, 2017

ALL FORWARD
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR
LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Plan: Process and Product

ALL FORWARD

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR
LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Process: The Strategic Plan drives our thinking, influences our planning, and shapes our decision-making.

Product: Several ideas, projects, and products have emerged from the plan. Some are complete, some are developing, and others are yet to come.

Featured Product: The Unit Upgrade Project

- A transformative curriculum, rooted in teacher-created Transformative Goals, drive the curriculum and its upgrade. Upgrading is an ongoing process.
- Our entire teaching staff focused on the learning experiences they aspire to deliver to students by engaging in “unit upgrades” – taking a unit that they teach and making it better by aligning it with the Transformative Goals.
- Work continues around reviewing, providing feedback, and sharing the work products, contributing to a collaborative culture of job-embedded professional learning.



Featured Product: Transformative Goals

Transformative Goals

Personal: Within and beyond the school walls, learners independently seek to:

- Explore and develop personal interests, inquiries, and passions.
- Craft communication through choices informed by audience and purpose, strategic uses of evidence, and command of language.
- Set learning goal(s) that are pursued and evaluated until the goal(s) are realized or new ideas emerge.

Cultural: Within and beyond the school walls, learners independently seek to:

- Navigate diverse sources and perspectives to reach discerning and thoughtful understandings.
- Advocate for self and others by drawing on compassion and courage to speak up for what is right and just.
- Share stories, ideas, and points of view while engaging others to think interdependently and act collectively.

Global: Within and beyond the school walls, learners independently seek to:

- Use processes (e.g., design thinking, creative problem solving, and systems thinking) to develop solutions and understand that failure is an integral part of the learning process.
- Investigate challenging contemporary global and local issues by pursuing questions or lines of thinking.
- Make informed choices that support the physical, social, and emotional health and well-being of self, community, and society.

Research & Development



- **Mindfulness**
- **School Start Time**
- **Elementary Recess Time**

Research & Development



Mindfulness

Description: With an increasing knowledge and practice of mindfulness in classrooms and schools, Lower Merion School District formed this Taskforce to study published research on mindfulness and, ultimately, to construct a white paper for presentation to the Leadership Committee of the Strategic Planning Committee. The task force has met several times between June and December of 2016, has conducted surveys, and examined research, all with the goal of recommending a plan for the possible systematic inclusion of Mindfulness practices within the district.

Co-chaired by: Terry Quinlan, Rich Marta, Lisa Ruzzi

Research & Development



School Start Time

Description: A Research and Development Committee has been established to explore the potential impacts of changing school start times. The committee is charged with researching and summarizing information critical for discussing potential changes to the start times of schools in the Lower Merion School District. Members of the committee include representatives from across the District who will summarize existing research and conduct original research within and outside of our community to explore potential impacts on students, families, community members, personnel, operations, and finances of the District. The work will culminate with the presentation of a white paper in the form of an information brief summarizing key issues for the District to consider in any future discussions of school day schedules.

Chaired by: Kristina Ayers Paul

Research & Development



Elementary Recess

Description: The committee has been exploring the issue of recess and physical activity in the elementary schools. After examining current practice and reviewing related research, the committee will meet in January to gather and analyze this information and generate recommendations for the Superintendent of Schools and Board of School Directors. Recommendations for recess and physical activity in and around the elementary school day will be included.

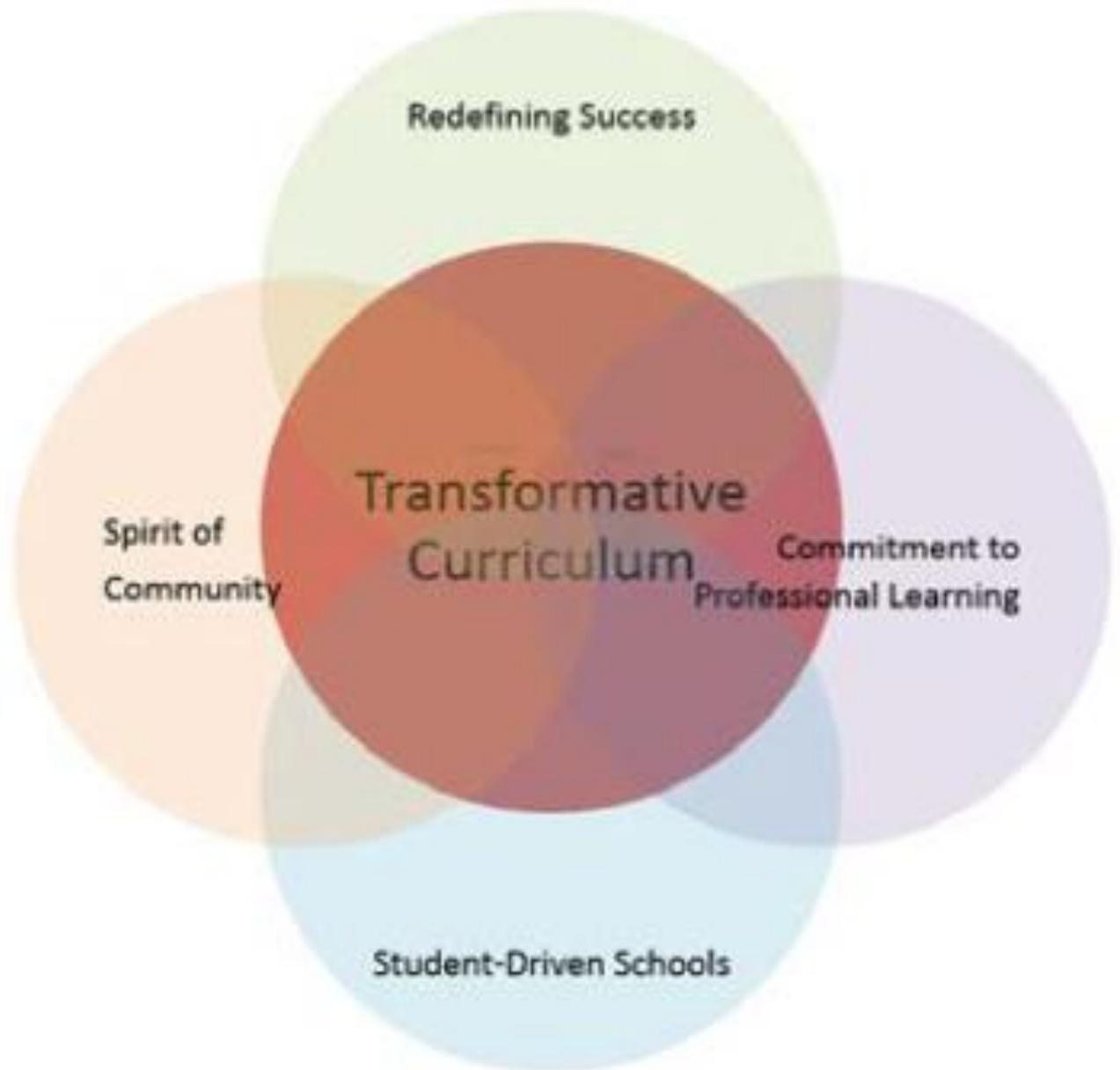
Chaired by: Mark Klein

ALL FORWARD
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR
LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pathway Teams

Update - Fall Semester 2016- 2017

Pathways



Transformative Curriculum

- Currently in place
 - Makerspaces in all elementary schools
 - New Computer Science Seminar course
 - New Communication Design course
- By May of 2017, provide update/recommendation on:
 - K-12 computer science curriculum enhancement
 - Increased capacity in assessment design
 - On-going development and support of makerspaces
 - Pathways for Learning at the high school
 - Interdisciplinary Programs at the high school.
 - K-12 portfolio system for student work
 - Protocol for examining curriculum that is driven by the transformative goals, including global and cultural competencies

Redefining Success

- Currently in Place:
 - Revised secondary grading scale as we examine grading practices more broadly
- By May of 2017, provide update/recommendation on:
 - Elementary Report Card upgrade - pilot for 17-18
 - The benefits of grade weighting, class rank, and valedictorian vs. the negative unintended consequences
 - The benefits (or drawbacks) of requiring that all classes be included in the calculation of a student's GPA
 - Development of a student portfolio to assess student performance.
 - Secondary skills- based grade reporting

Student-Driven Schools

- Currently In Place:
 - Focus Groups K-12 finalized, results to Go Team
 - Schedule for AP in-class assessments (2nd semester)
 - Middle school genius hour (6th grade)
- By May of 2017, provide update/recommendation on:
 - PE waivers for interscholastic athletes
 - Middle School aligned schedule with increased student input in programming.
 - Quarterly learning plans at the elementary level
 - Increased elementary recess and/or activity time
 - Elementary Report Card (w/Redefining Success)

Professional Learning

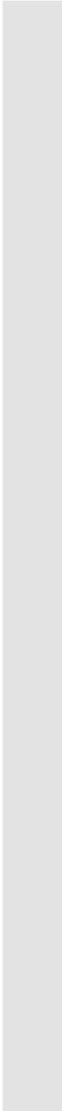
- Currently in Place:
 - Shifting toward systemic job-embedded professional learning
 - Holding EdCamps at the building and district level
 - Reading *Drive* by Daniel Pink
- By May of 2017, provide update/recommendation on:
 - A multi-year plan for Professional Learning
 - Professional Development on assessment creation, test construction, and reflection on assessments
 - Establishing a Lesson-study protocol
 - Adopting an Instructional Coaching model

Spirit of Community

- Currently in Place
 - Meetings with key communicators and constituent groups throughout the year (young alumni, university leadership, realtors, faith leaders)
 - Community Resource Network supporting curricular and co-curricular experiences and providing guidance on development/engagement initiatives
 - Enhanced communication among/between EFLM, ISC, Alumni Association, District
- By May of 2017, provide update/recommendations
 - Adopt shared system to manage community stakeholder data (Raiser's Edge) with features including: volunteer management, CRN engagement, alumni data research/engagement
 - Formalize Key Communicators network

Process and Next Steps

- Original Steering committee will reassemble in conjunction with Comprehensive Plan process
- Ongoing communications through public Board Updates, website, and presentations
- Next Public Update
 - March 8, 2017 – Curriculum Committee of the Board



Questions?