

To: Dr. Sparlin and Members of the Board
From: Faith Dahlquist
Date: September 12, 2022
Re: Follow up from Board Retreat on tweaking the mission statement

At the Board meeting on June 18th, there was a discussion around tweaking the current SD308 mission statement and core values.

The district's current mission statement reads:

In partnership with our families and communities, Community Unit School District 308 will educate all students to reach their highest potential.

The district executive leadership team met a few times since June 18th to draft a statement that the Board can use as a starting point for discussion at the July 11th Board meeting. The hope is that through that discussion, a final product will emerge.

Draft/Starting Point for Discussion on an updated Mission Statement:

Together, we empower, support, and **inspire, challenge, motivate, encourage (choose one or none)** all students to thrive along their unique educational journey.

Rationale for the changes:

1. The group believes that having the name of the district in the statement is redundant so that was taken out.
2. The group feels that it is important to highlight our value of student voice/choice so verbs like empower and unique were chosen over the word “educate” so that it was clear that students are involved in the process of educating and that diversity, equity, and inclusion are of high importance.
3. The group also wants to change “reach their highest potential” because that sounds like education is complete and the group wanted the mission statement to show that education is a journey not a destination.
4. The group chose “challenge” from the list of highlighted words to match our current list of core value statements but remain concerned that “challenge” has negative connotations for some people.

The district's current core values are:

To Respect: We honor differences and similarities in words and actions.

To Engage: We actively participate in work and opportunities to learn.

To Excel: We hold high expectations for all, are accountable for our commitments and results, and persevere through challenges.

To Improve: We continually challenge self and others to grow.

We are not suggesting changes to the core values.

Vision Statements:

Executive leadership team also met to paint a vision/picture of what we are creating in each of the four quadrants. Those statements as well as one for climate/culture are listed below.

Climate & Culture Statement:

The foundation of our district is built on a positive culture of trust.

Vision Statements:

 <u>Student Learning</u> We provide an educational foundation for all students grounded in best instructional practices focused on social emotional learning and academic achievement.	 <u>Support for Student Learning</u> We improve the safety and inclusivity of our diverse school environments by centering on equity and amplifying student voice.
 <u>Finance & Facilities</u> We equitably allocate resources for programs and facilities that proactively empower every student to succeed while maintaining fiscal sustainability.	 <u>Community Partnerships</u> We grow and strengthen the district by communicating, partnering, and celebrating with all stakeholders.

Mrs. Komitas will work on a design that incorporates the new mission statement and vision statement(s) once this is finalized. Below is a sample of the format, not of the words. The circle in the middle will likely be a puzzle piece that also interlocks with the four quadrants.