



LRSP Status Report – June 2011

3.08 Board Mega Issues SR 2011

Strategic Objective (SO):

3.08 District Trustees, school district education team, parents, members of the community and State Legislators will be invited to engage in a collaborative dialogue surrounding topics of educational importance (Mega Issues) to our community and their impact on the LRSP.

Department/School: Board

Leader: Board

Team Members:

Board Chair and Vice Chair

In a year, we hope to see the following progress on this strategic objective:

1. A finalized schedule of discussions, based on the concept of a Professional Learning Community, for each mega issue.
2. Discussion of at least three mega issues.
3. Trustees and school team use effective dialogue around Mega Issues to determine continued progress on LRSP Envisioned Future.

PROGRESS SUMMARY

Board leadership used agenda setting meetings to discuss possible mega issue topics to be placed on Board of Trustee agendas to create rich dialogue about topics on the 5-10 year planning horizon under the LRSP. The Trustees engaged in the meaningful dialogue on the selected topics leading to policy revision. The mega issues discussed were:

World Languages. This mega issue addressed 3 strategic objectives under the LRSP. The panel of experts (students, teachers, administrators and MSU faculty) presented the mega issue at the September 27, 2010 Board meeting. The rich dialogue provided an outline of the opportunities and challenges in assuring BPS curriculum and instruction are best-of-class and truly aligned with the goal to prepare students to succeed and positively contribute in a global community. Following the dialogue no revisions were recommended to the current world language options and the we continue to seek expansion of programming at no cost through venues like the Montana Digital Academy.

Career Pathways. This mega issue addressed 3 strategic objectives under the LRSP. The panel of experts, Marilyn King (BPS), Rob Watson (BHS), Ken Gibson (BHS), Mike Ruyle (BHS/BAP), Larry Bittner (BHS), Byrdeen Warwood (ABLE/Community Ed), Bob Heitala (Gallatin College Program), Rene Harris (OPI/MSU), presented college and career data for BHS students and outlined what college and career readiness looks like. The discussion took place at the February 28, 2011 Board of Trustee meeting. The dialogue will continue in the future by sharing our data with partner organizations and seek every opportunity to help students succeed in the 21st Century world of work.

Alternative to Expulsion (A2X) and Prevention Program. This mega issue addressed 6 strategic objectives under the LRSP. The panel of experts included community partners from the Adolescent Resource Center, Bozeman Police Department, Community Mediation Center, HRDC, Youth Probation, Thrive, MSU and BPS administrators. The discussion took place at the March 7, 2011 Board of Trustee meeting. Following the dialogue, BPS learned that grant funding through youth probation will allow this program to be fully implemented for the 2011-12 school year.

Professional Development -- Instructional Coaches and PLCs. This mega issue addressed 15 strategic objectives under the LRSP. The panel of experts (BEA President, Instructional Coaches, Curriculum Director, Principals and Asst. Supt. of Curriculum and Instruction) presented the mega issue at the March 28, 2011 Board meeting. The discussion provided research background into the instructional coaching model and professional learning communities strategies to provide professional development for our dynamic team in a manner that meets our ever-changing needs. Following the dialogue, BPS allocated budget to expand the Instructional Coaches in grades K-12 and to implement a personalized model of teacher professional development with set aside time in the school calendar to maximize the professional development to improve student learning.

Significant research into each of these areas has been conducted in order to provide the Board with the opportunity for rich dialogue with the panel on each topic. Mega issues look at the 5-10 year planning horizon and position our schools to seize the best opportunities for our students. Mega issue dialogue has led to policy revisions, contract negotiations and budget allocations that better meet the future needs of our students.