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November 30, 2021

Dear Stakeholders,

Here is the next installment of highlights in Wayne School District.

It always amazes me how fast each year flies by. It's hard to believe we just celebrated another Thanksgiving holiday, and that Christmas is just around the corner. I hope students, staff and parents had some time to relax and enjoy a short break from school.

As a follow up to last month's letter, I wanted to update you on where we are in the development of a district strategic plan. The school board met on November 9th with Aspen Florence (facilitator) in a meeting similar to what administrators had previously held. They looked at district data, talked about strengths and weaknesses, then identified board priorities to guide our work moving forward. Board priorities aligned very closely with the core values our administrative team identified previously. On the evening of the 9th, Aspen met with a focus group of parents. Their discussion was focused on things that are working well in the district as well as areas for improvement. The following morning another focus group of district employees met with the same purpose. There were great discussions with all groups and we will work to address concerns that were brought out as we develop our strategic plan. I want to personally thank all those involved in the focus groups for their willingness to spend a couple of hours to support our efforts to improve opportunities for students in Wayne County.

Not to leave out the student voice, our next steps involve convening student focus groups for the same purpose as the community and staff focus groups. We will meet with groups of elementary students, middle school students, and high school students on December 9th. Additionally, Aspen will be meeting again on December 8th with district administrators then in a work meeting with the school board that afternoon.

Our elementary schools in Wayne School District are true communities. As we are all aware, it takes a community to raise a child. Hanksville Elementary school enjoyed a community Thanksgiving Dinner this past month. Parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, staff and students participated in a school family gathering. The food was delicious and the conversation was warm. Loa Elementary is holding their amazing art night celebration on December 1st. The students have provided outstanding artwork and are supported by the staff, parents and community partners. Loa Elementary is a risk-taking, okay-to-make mistakes, growth environment. When a child walks through our doors, they are an important part of our community.

Until next time,

Randy