

October Message

Changes in our world are occurring at warp speed. Whatever form it takes, change is upon us. Insightful organizations will be ready. Park City School District is ready to be one of those insightful organizations!

Today's students must be able to quickly adapt to an increasingly chaotic, yet opportunity-filled, global environment. In this era of uncertainty—globalization, innovative thinking, rapid technology breakthroughs, and stunning emerging opportunities for student learning—students must learn new leadership skills that are critical to addressing future situations. In the book, *Leaders Make the Future*, Author Johansen notes that “most of our current leadership models are based on the present and past, not the future”...in the years ahead, there will be fewer problems that can be solved. Instead, our students will have dilemmas, which are basically unsolvable problems, and these will require a different set of leadership skills.” Organizations that ignore the trend toward greater diversity and inclusiveness will lack the skills to overcome these dilemmas.

I recently returned from Alexandria, Virginia where I serve on the Nominations Committee for ASCD. Personally, I serve on the committee to grow professionally at a national level to then bring back my learning to our district. In reviewing ASCD, it is an insightful organization and their new future forward statement “Revolutionizing the Way We Learn” is driven by the need for school organizations to renew relevance in the classroom, create new solutions to challenges facing 21st century learners, and to define the niche, or “Blue Ocean,” in our community and state. By adopting this statement for Park City School District, we are defining our niche by critically facing our challenges, openly embracing our diversity, and striving toward excellence.

In order to achieve these imperatives, we must revolutionize the way we lead, which, in turn, requires us to think and act in new ways. The current thrust of leadership and boardsmanship at Park City School District is centered on building leadership and stimulating value creation. The entire district's work is intense, experiential, and applied; rich in skill development; fully practical and oriented to student achievement and increased learning results.

The thrust into our future requires students, teachers, parents, and community members who are predisposed to imagine what does not yet exist; to move forward with intention and purpose; to create new reality and meaning; and to address practical challenges. It is my vision and personal goal to watch the education revolution evolve, while we are actively engaged and pushing forward to truly be the district of choice that provides an innovative and excellent education to all students that fosters achievement and success.

This implies thinking differently—collaborating in the face of uncertainty—thinking differently means encouraging divergence of thought, rather than seeking convergence, while at the same time remaining focused on the objective. Learning

differently—seeking out different viewpoints and experiences—immersion in a variety of perspectives and cultures is critical for the leaders of tomorrow.

As we meet the midpoint to our first quarter, I have completed part one in gathering data for the comprehensive needs assessment. The community and staff forums have provided the stepping stone in prioritizing our needs for our students and to focus our actions in alignment of curriculum, instruction, evaluation, and assessment. These trends will be shared as part two of the community and staff forums in the next three months. I look forward to spending the time with staff members, parents, and community members and leading our district in revolutionizing the way we educate our students to reach a higher level of excellence.