

October 2018 Superintendent Message continued...

The Strategic Plan has four goal areas:

- 1) **Pursuit of Instructional Excellence**
- 2) **Responding to the Needs of all Students**
- 3) **Emerging and Innovative Programs and Strategies**
- 4) **Cultivating and Promoting the PSD brand**

These four areas emerged from a lengthy list of ideas and extensive conversation among committee members.

The **pursuit of instructional excellence** is derived from extensive research that the single most important factor in whether or not students achieve are the skills of the teacher. To put it another way, the quality of instruction has a major effect on academic success. What this means for us as a district is we are obligated to provide high quality professional development and opportunities for our teachers to interact with one another. In Pendleton, we have created intentional time for our staff to work in groups every Monday morning, when students have late start. During these mornings, teachers work in PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) to develop strategies to help students succeed. Additionally, the district ensures that “in-service” days in August, October, January and March focus on topics and strategies that support our strategic plan.

Responding to the needs of all students is based on our belief that all children are valued and that all students can learn. Granted, we know our students learn in a variety of ways, that they learn at different rates and that their home environments can have positive or negative impacts on their ability to be successful in school. This is why we are making an intentional decision to embed the principles of “Conscious Discipline”, trauma informed practices and culturally responsive strategies into our daily work with students and amongst our staff.

The Pendleton School District values **innovative programs and strategies** and will continue to seek these. Whether that means utilizing the latest technology and software to educate students or embracing and embedding “best practices”, we challenge ourselves to use the latest and best tools to meet the student needs.

Finally, the **Pendleton School District brand** is more than words and logos. It is what we do every day with every student that will define us and project the public image of our schools. There are great things happening and success stories every day in the Pendleton School District. Our strategy moving forward is to develop systems to share the good work in our schools with our community on a regular basis.

In 2022 we will evaluate our strategic plan by looking at the four goal areas and asking ourselves, “do we have evidence that we are in a different and better place than we were in 2017?” Together we will do this, because together we can have a district that we are all proud of. We want every student and every staff member to say the Pendleton School District is “a place where I belong, where I can succeed.”