**Strategic Planning Meeting - November 7, 2013**

Individuals present: Lisa Kirker, Dulcie Lilly, Melissa Ploeckelman, Donna Krueger, Edward Haas, Dennis Wenzel, Marcia Diedrich, Brenda Medenwaldt, Mary Boor, Jeff Rosemeyer, Jim Hagen, Bill Tesmer, Jim Schmidt, Jesse Meddaugh, Seth Pinter, Jessie Polivka, Cassie Meyer, Connie Gurtner, Jena Elmhorst, Nick Hanson, Eric Elmhorst, Dennis Engel, Todd Schmidt, Larry Oehmichen, Cheryl Ploeckelman, Sam Hayes, Terri Wiersma, Michelle Stewart, Rick Weber, Cody Meyers, Doug Hogden, Steve Kolden, Mr. Paul Hardt.

Mr. Kolden welcomed individuals to the meeting.

Mr. Tesmer, Board President presented an update of the District and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Individuals of the group then introduced themselves and stated what their specific top priorities are for the Colby School District.

Top Priorities:

* Technology
* More openness among stakeholder groups.
* Hear what other people have to offer.
* Help deal with constraints.
* Districts need balance, play
* Collaboration with businesses, college prep.
* Hear about others priorities.
* Spend money where we can save money.
* Public relations
* More Programs
* More Choices
* Sharing with Other Districts
* More Business classes.
* More extra-curriculars besides sports.
* Make a contribution.
* How we can work together – city and schools.
* Want District to be the best.
* Learn what communities want for future.
* Retain good people.
* Shrinking number of students attending parochial schools.
* Plans that actually go through.
* School the best it can be – continue great programs.
* Increase enrollment into District.
* Technology - 2
* Business programs, courses.
* Safe, comfortable, exciting place to go to school.
* More achievement in elementary school.
* Hidden curriculum – “get to school on time” “smile on their face”.
* Plan, on-going, used.

The group discussed forces challenging the School District of Colby:

* Revenue
* Mandates
* Curriculum Changes
* Technology
* Children are Different from 50 Years Ago
* Political Climate

Mr. Kolden explained the School District Report Card. Explained how student data should be reviewed.

The group broke into 6 small groups to brain storm these four components of SOAR (**S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, **R**esults):

**Strengths:**

High School good test scores and academics

Good facilities

Athletics

Extra-curricular activities

Student achievement

Strong staff

Good facilities

Distance learning and AP classes

School to work

Alternative education (Falcon)

Supportive community

PLC (Professional Learning Communities)

Reading growth on test scores

Condition of facilities

Teaching staff

Security of buildings

Alternative School

Bridging the Gap in graduation rates

We care about kids/students

Great facility/staff

Addition of Spanish Teacher

State scores improved

Growth in band and choir

Taxes are decreasing

Introduced Common Cores to District

Student achievement

Strong staff

Strong programs

Attendance

Programs like choir, band, sports, FFA

Great kids

Business support

**Opportunities:**

Intramurals

ELL Program

Distance Learning Programs

Language classes, college classes

Youth Options

Hands on Learning

ELL

AP

School-to-work

Technology

Improve attendance

Attract open enrollment dollars

Retain students $$

Collaborate with other districts to offer other courses

Extra-curriculars

Course Offerings

District center building

Sports – soccer, tennis hockey

Basic life skills classes

Little Stars Preschool

Clubs

Music

Study Team

RTI (Response to Intervention)

**Aspirations: Goals, Hopes, Dreams**

School consolidation/coop

Turn around open enrollment

Social atmosphere: bullying, etc.

Minimum dropout rates

Retain quality staff

Lower school choice

Retain quality graduates

Space needs at elementary

Technology students and products

PR

Improve relationship with court system and county government.

Better relationship with parents

More life skills

Same school year as other districts

Every building exceeds expectations on state report card

Going green District-wide

Test score improvement

Our state ranking

Improve attendance

RTI for ALL (more parent involvement)

Communication from school to community

**Results:**

School consolidation and coops

Happy teachers

Keep costs down

More technology for teachers and students

Better use of District Office

District wealth (stay in Colby)

Increase student achievement

Student satisfaction

Retention of 100% graduation rate

Facilities – CDEC and Little Stars

Better opportunities for students

District demographics – low income, foster families, single parent, etc.

Assessments

**More Data:**

Test Scores vs. socio economic status

Poverty level of district families

Economic status of the areas

State of Technology and possibilities

Attendance numbers for students who have high absences

Where are we with technology? How up-to-date are we? Are students learning what they should?

Open enrollment differences

How will the vouchers effect CSD?

Does Colby have a decline in participation in the athletics?

Elementary enrollment – space problems?

**Next meeting dates:**

**Thursday, November 21 @ 6 PM – Colby Middle School**

**Wednesday, December 11 @ 6 PM – Colby Middle School**