



STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Superintendent

Minutes from the January 25, 2022 Forum
"Points of Pride"

The evening of January 25, 2022 marked the kickoff of the U-KNIGHTED Vision '22 Strategic Planning Process. The meeting started with Superintendent, Mr. Matt Sheehan, sharing some history of the Sterling Regional High School District and information about the state of the district today. After an introduction to the strategic planning process and its benefits, participants got to work in groups of five to six members.

The focus of the evening's discussion was "Points of Pride" related to the school district - identifying the characteristics of the district around which students, staff members, families and communities show pride. After spending time brainstorming individually, participants shared their thoughts with those in their group and each group developed five consensus items that were reported to the rest of the participants.

Below, you will find a summary of the individual ideas and consensus items developed by each small workgroup.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22 beginning at 6pm in the Sterling High School Cafeteria. Please join us.

Consensus Ideas and Individual Ideas from each Group

GROUP U	<u>Consensus Items</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student involvement and participation in all extracurricular activities• Technology• Safety and Facilities• Pride• Teachers and Curriculum
	<u>Individual Ideas</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff communication - personal and group• Variety of clubs• Staff• Safety• ROTC Program• Strong sense of tradition• Diverse student body

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride in facilities • Resources well allocated • Supportive BOE trusts the leadership • Positive/family atmosphere amongst staff • Strong connection to community (staff and leadership) • Committed teaching staff, talented teachers • Variety of programs/activities to meet student needs • Focus on students • Alumni connections • Inclusive • Disiplien equal • Graduation rate • Staff - accessibility with students • Introduction of new curriculum • Teachnology - students and staff • Student involvement in variety of programs and clubs • Student involvement and participation (high numbers) for athletics, arts, clubs, ROTC • Facility/campus - pride taken in campus • Curriculum • BIU program • Vision for future • Teaching staff • Facilities • Sports programs • Technology • ROTC Program
<p>GROUP K</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of activities (ROTC, athletics, music, etc) • Good community relations (supportive both ways) • Quality of administration (safety, cleanliness, responsive) • Flexibility and variety of academics (*special education) • Success as a diverse population (socioeconomic, neurodiverse, racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation) <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly staff • Neurodiverse student population • Open communication • Efficient instruction (in-person and virtual) • Community oriented (vaccine clinics, fitness center, etc) • Various athletics & arts programs • Clean and welcoming environment • Safe • Vocational tracks • Special education program (moved here because of it) • Night community programs (parents, families, students) • Well-maintained building and grounds • Well-designed mascot and logos • Community - gym open to public 2x week • Safety • Three foreign languages • Facility - safe and clean • Technology - structure and individual

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff - professional • Alumni • Family atmosphere • Diversity - socio-economic • Academic - flexible and growth • Brand/School Spirit • Individuals - student and staff inclusive and supportive • Safety • ROTC • Academics/college prep • Athletics - variety • Special areas - music and the arts • Administration - leadership and energy, communication • Foreign languages • Sports • Friendliness • Respectful students • Welcoming • Interesting new courses • Support of community (taxpayers) • Diverse / students from multiple communities • Attractive campus
<p>GROUP N</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of community/Sterling Knight camaraderie • Curb appeal/Great facilities • Cutting edge/Forward thinking • Excellent staff • Diverse academic offerings with tangible outcomes • Class of '75 best class <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent staff • Seems “cutting edge” • Curb appeal • Prepare students for life after HS • Commit resources to both curricular and co-curricular activities • Loyal alumni • Diverse students and staff • Robotics and makerspace • Mental health awareness - students and staff • SEA Pride • Parent involvement in Project Graduation • Most people in district truly care, always try their best • Always someone to point to a resource for families and kids • Students, parents, teachers are heard • So many class offerings with real results and products • Admin allows opportunities for teachers to grow • High hopes - always a plan to do better • Sense of community and family • Diverse offerings in academic programs, activities, athletics • Facilities • Safe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive • Technology updated • Communication • Great teachers • Leadership desires growth and improvement • Administrators willing to work with home schooled students • Strong Sterling Knight camaraderie • Excellent facilities
<p>GROUP I</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics - diverse clubs • Tablets - access 24/7 - no COVID down time • Staff - continue communication w graduates, check-in and help • ROTC outreach to non-college candidates - expanding to trades • Melting pot - kids connect from other towns and stay connected • Budget and space for expanded programs <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade education • Athletics • Diverse clubs • Inclusion - all kids towns/melting pots • Tablet 1 on 1, COVID didn't impact education • Cost of new programs • ROTC • Post-graduate connections w teachers and friends • Improvements - trades, home ec, mechanical drawing • Students consider teachers mentors, stay in touch • Budget / new programs • Athletics, band, clubs • Melting pots multiple towns • Trades culinary • ROTC
<p>GROUP G</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of student choices • District is representative of community's diversity • Safety of school and district • Technical infrastructure • Facilities <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Oncourse • Broadcasts • Outside providers and partners • Caring counseling staff • Social media presence • Supportive BOE • 1:1 tablets • Diversity of student body • Weekly admin meetings • PLC time for teachers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride in being a Knight • Students have opportunities to be recognized and celebrated, BIV, Student of the Month, Senior Spotlight • Program offerings that other schools do not have • Communication between community and school • Advancement in technology • MD Program • Students respect to ward MD students • Offerings of extracurricular activities and sports • Excellent technology • Diverse student community • Knowledgeable and creative teaching • Broadcasting/Tech • Safety • Choice school • Diversity of district • Facility upkeep • Variety of extracurricular activities • Sense of community • Branding • Variety of curricular options • District management • Variety of student choices/options • District representative of community's diversity • Technical infrastructure • Facilities • Safety • Safety in the school • Ms Sukinc • Sports • Parents • Tech
<p>GROUP H</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff - authentic and invested • Sense of community • School choice options • Educational and extracurricular programs • Developing pride in community <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low teacher turnover • Technology • Community pride/acceptance • Grow your own • Athletics and clubs • Commitment to equity • Choice programs • Students from different towns all feel welcomed and become one Sterling community • Excellent college prep program for students • ROTC students helpful and visible in community • Preschool program for community • Lots of sports activities and well-behaved athletes • Educators who care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-maintained facilities • Orderly students at dismissal and going to and from school • Students of good character • The natural level of passion each staff member puts in each day • Continued technology improvements • The sense of family - graduates still pull together to support each other and current classes decades later • The graduation onto college/trade school rate • Number of activities, clubs, etc available to get the kids involved in the community • Communication • Great teachers • Diverse staff and students • They rocked remote learning • Programs offered • Excellent arts programs • School Choice
<p>GROUP T</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community investment and support • Facilities • Diversity and Inclusiveness • Wide range of opportunities/academic and co-curricular <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility upgrades/improvements • Communication capabilities (TV studio) • Tech advancements (1:1 - remote) • Alumni pride • Student productions/excelling (Peers) sports, art, video, law • Depth of investment • Facility • Co-Curricular activities • Excellent staff • Supportive community • Diverse population • Physical plant • The kids are great • Allowing for flexibility • Creative lessons from teachers • A sense of family • People truly care • Clubs that are offered and allowing students to start some • Admin listen to ideas • Mental health • 1:1 • The people, students staff, coaches • Opportunities to get involved, clubs (BIU, SADD, Gov, sports) • Events, Mr Sterling, Battle of the Bands • Different classes, early childhood, culinary, yoga, senior experience • Community involved in youth • Connections of the community • Inclusive environment • Diversity • Facilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic and Athletic achievements
<p>GROUP E</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders • Extra-curriculars (athletics, clubs, music, arts, etc.) • School climate (physical space, safety efforts, student support) • Technology and resources • District relationships <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Athletics • Innovative classes to prepare students for careers • Clubs and activities • Mental health initiatives • Students eager to learn • Technology • Manageable case load for counselors • Student support • No place for hate • Teachers/staff • Athletics • Technology 1:1 • Art show • Theater/Music • Upkeep and cleanliness of facility • Campus • Security • Commitment to safety • Support • Teachers • Communication - I always get a call or email back • Administration tries to get to know my students • Special Ed integrated • School spirit • Amazing faculty / staff / admin • Good resources to get into contact with teachers • Staff willing to engage with students • Great resources / activities • Faculty, staff, admin • Amazing students • Physical campus, landscaping in particular • Come together in times of crisis • Athletics and activities • Music and arts programs • Fantastic media center
<p>GROUP D</p>	<p><u>Consensus Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity (race/ethnicity, town/location, blue/white collar) • Safety (physical, mental health, COVID-19) • Breadth of Activities (Sports, clubs arts, dance, music) • Small facilitates connection / 1:1 attention • Space and location (cleanliness, aesthetics) • Service to community (informed via castle connection, alumni, children sports,

veterans, toy drive)

Individual Items

- Castle connection
- Small class sizes, teachers/staff know each other by name
- Sense of pride
- Acceptance/diversity
- Staff inservice to help staff support students who identify as non-binary
- Stopt (HIB) being aware of impact of social media
- School grounds, building, appearance
- Education - teacher interaction
- Sports (community) - trainer
- Guidance counselors always on call
- Teachers make the students feel like they are individual and special
- Group activities throughout the year keep kids involved and make school fun (door decorating)
- Guidance counselors hands-on and engaging
- Sports
- Teachers are very supportive and friendly, they have provided me opportunities
- Diversity among the amount of new and different clubs provided
- The way staff handles any difficult situations
- Education - keeping schools open in pandemic
- Safety
- Mental health programs
- Sports of all types
- Tutoring programs
- Helpful guidance counselors and teachers
- Toy drive

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