

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

May 2, 2011

PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES – ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Assessing the Current Reality of Education in the State of Wisconsin

- ***Social/Demographic Impact***
- Groups that will change our financial priorities-special education, lower socio-economics. We'll be experiencing a loss in education leadership. Be able to continue to offer students a variety of co-curricular that they can participate in
- Hispanic & Hmong students-WS primary middle class.
- Increase in obesity and related illnesses and how that will negatively impact cost/staffing requirements (nurses, etc.). Increase in pop size (3)
- Zoning will make a difference (2) - income and culturally. Free and reduced lunch has increased (3), under employee-hours cut. Cause an increase in needs/services.
- ELL population has remained low. Our industry doesn't draw in other nationalities
- Non-traditional families increasing.
- Cultural race- virtual schools. Obligation to teach English to non English speaking students. Virtual is a huge investment-personal and cost
- Continue to offer community events in our community. Facilities and activities that attract special-ed ability/illness

- ***Economic Impact***
- Reduction in revenue limit authority. Voucher schools/charter schools?
- 25% free reduced students. Don't have gang issues. We don't see, as affected by common trends in the county-we're family stable, 6% unemployment in lax county. Teachers leaving for other districts because they pay better
- Possible increase in special education requirements, which translates into higher cost to school districts. For the foreseeable future, the economy continues to decrease, bringing in less money to school. Vouchers and their impact. (2)
- WS is fairly diversified-unlike Janesville (2)
- Free/reduced has increase, but still lower than surrounding areas
- How to maintain quality work force-what is quality wage to attract and keep. Loss of aid to charter schools etc.

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- Loss of money from not investing virtual schools/distance learning. Affect the specialized classes popular one year not the next. School district climate
- The people going to continue to value education if paying more for it because increasingly difficult. Unemployment effect on referendums

- ***Political Impact***
- Conservative community-how do we build consensus in a divisive community
- “Boogey man”-uncertain times on both sides. Political Impact is affected by economic impact “Pitting good people against good people” Board/ Administration standpoint-how do you plan?
- Less support from state/local governments
- Polarized (2), Funding?, Very touchy topic
- Virtual schools-increase competitions. Negotiations-maintaining positive relations without collective bargaining. What is funding formula? Now and in future
- You are penalized for saving money
- There is no middle ground. Cause gridlock on decisions. Kids will not benefit from the master teacher of many years. Teacher contract

- ***Community Impact***
- Staff have less disposable income which will affect local businesses
- What tough choices will need to be made and how does that affect who we are as a community? Online/virtual schools and how they affect decisions? Build more schools or more virtual classrooms? Where do we invest the money? Do we work with other districts and create “specialty schools” in each district?
- School districts growth, which means additional strains on facilities and class sizes. Consolidation of communities (Bangor/W.S.)
- Growth (2)
- Continue to seek input. Need for continual, updated communication
- Facilities meeting needs of growing population. Aging of population-not having kids in district. Best if everything-but at what cost are we willing to pay
- New families-new expectations. Schools and curricular being able to compete.
- What challenges do we face when attracting new business? Realtors have an impact on home sales. Communities need to feel safe about raising family.

- ***Regional Climate Impact***
- Is there a change in the horizon in terms of political standing
- School district climate impact-11 retirees/other districts have many more (i.e lax=100) will out teacher leave for a district that pays more?

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- Consolidate specialized positions
- Loss of leadership with retirement (3)
- Consolidation of schools (2). Compare to Onalaska, La Crosse, and Holmen-shaping schools. Impact of events within schools
- Less emphasis on senior executive's projects and more on community service. Preparing our kids for the real world-common sense class
- Increase of "senior" age groups-will they continue to support schools with their tax dollar?