DISTRICT GOAL-PLANNING PROCESS

In exercising its legal decision-making responsibilities, the Thompson School District Board of Education recognizes the voice of the community as paramount in establishing district goals and the voice of the staff as paramount in developing curriculum and instructional delivery practices to achieve those goals. An effective planning process enhances the Board’s ability to assess student achievement and well-being and to make more effective personnel and budgeting decisions.

The purpose of both strategic and tactical planning is to promote continuous improvement as follows:

1. Establishing a clear focus for student achievement and well-being;
2. Assuring a common understanding of those things for which staff is accountable;
3. Clarifying how all stakeholder groups can gain access to school district personnel and processes;
4. Encouraging broad participation in the establishment of district goals as a means of building commitment to and sharing responsibility for student achievement and well-being;
5. Providing an ongoing process of data collection and analysis so that decisions are based on sound research and practice;
6. Modeling the type of reflection and problem solving in our organization that we expect from our students; and
7. Providing criteria to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of our budgeting process.

Toward this end, the district will engage in a reflective planning process as outlined in the Thompson School District Reflective Planning Manual (August 28, 2000). The Superintendent will ensure that the planning process is aligned with the district’s Accreditation Plan and the Year-end Report and that decision-making throughout the process follows the guidelines cited in Site-Based Shared Decision Making Sharing Responsibility for Success (July 11, 2001). The Superintendent will further ensure that the planning process results in a Strategic Plan that provides for the following:

1. Background information including a brief description of data analysis and procedures and definitions of terms;
2. Clear statement of goals/priorities and underlying principles;
3. Implementation strategies that address district coordination, participants, products/procedures, communication/feedback loop, and timelines for each task designed to accomplish district goals;
4. A method for articulating district and building efforts; and
5. Ongoing monitoring of the process and yearly updating of the plan as needed.

Adopted April 3, 2002