



LONG CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT #17

375 East Main Street P.O. Box 429
Long Creek, OR 97856
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Brian D. Gander – Superintendent

Lisa Swanton – School Board Chair

MEMOANDRUM

To: Long Creek School Board
From: Lisa Swanton, Committee Chair
Re: Report to the Long Creek School Board
Date: January 13, 2009

Vision and Mission Development Committee

Lisa Swanton – Chair – Board Member
Cindy Wilburn – Board Member
Dr. Brian Gander – Administrator
Richard Randleas – Community Member
Reiba Smith – Community Member

Myla Corley – Parent
Rusty Cave – Parent
Jasmine Cave – Parent
Stacie Witt – Parent

Various members of the Vision and Mission Development Committee meet three times between September and December and discussed a variety of topics. The committee, under Lisa's direction, started with a wide-ranging discussion about the nature of school and what school should be like and developed a set of guiding beliefs, they go as follows:

- Learning is a continuum – it should be approached differently by each student
- The process of learning is as important as what is learned
 - Hands-on learning practices can be just as important as rote practices
 - A pragmatic approach is just as important as learning the theoretical principles
- Social / Emotional growth – the elements of character development should reflect our cultural views.
 - Having a sense of where student see themselves “fitting” into our community, nation and the world is critical.
 - Character is not an old fashion value; life is both giving and receiving.
 - Kids should learn about character by developing self-respect and empathy
- Access to work class technology for all families.

Although there was no real vote for consensus regarding these beliefs, there was agreement that they were important to varying degrees.



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The belief statements gave way to discussions about the mission of schools. What is it that we expect the adults to focus upon? The mission areas separated out into five different themes. An over arching theme was “sustainability;” meaning all actions we take should be forced on sustainable outcomes. Practices we design as a process to solve district concerns should be inclusive and directed at sustaining the relationships of all community members. The four remaining themes created the focus areas of the district personnel and community members.

- ❖ *Community* – Emphasizing student service and membership to a community should be a focus of district planning and activities
- ❖ *Character* – individual integrity and social emotional growth should be a focus of district planning and activities. Students should learn service, empathy and involvement as traits that sustain our community, state, country and the world.
- ❖ *Diverse Learning Opportunities* – School planning and activities should develop and encourage instructional strategies, extracurricular activities, curricular activities and trip activities that expose student to a variety of learning situations and a variety of ideas.
- ❖ *Strong Foundation in Academic Knowledge* – there is a certain body of knowledge that is essential for ongoing academic success. The district should effectively plan the required teacher and student activities that assure this essential knowledge is what is taught annually and evaluated effectively.

These four missions led us to a vision for the Long Creek Schools that is phrased in the context that we see our mission leading towards. We see the future vision of Long Creek School’s is:

“To provide students with the knowledge, skills, and virtues to reach their full potential as responsible, productive citizens in a changing and diverse world.”

We as a committee recommend this vision statement and mission area themes for review by the school board and the community. We see the district’s presentation of this vision stressing three interconnected themes and hope to design a graphic that represents the interconnected of the three themes of *Individuality, Sustainability* and *Community*.

We will meet again on the 20th of January in the Long Creek Home Economics room at 10:00 a.m. to continue refining the mission statements.