

Goals and more discussed at school retreat

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Goals and other topics of specific interest were on the agenda for the Holyoke School District Re-1J annual summer retreat held Tuesday, July 2.

Technology, district accountability charges, Destination 2016, election 2013, board training and future work were covered in the four-hour retreat.

Future technology initiatives was the first topic. Superintendent Bret Miles provided information from the April board work session on technology, as well as an overview of what the technology committee would do this year.

It is planned to have a recommendation on a potential one-to-one device plan from the technology committee prior to budget work next year.

The plan will include a comprehensive look at areas necessary for a successful implementation including instruction, professional development, infrastructure, management software, personnel, initial and ongoing costs, parent training, success stories in other districts and, of course, studying several types of devices to ensure the best fit.

Final charges to the district accountability committee will be set at a regular business meeting. Two topics were of particular interest during retreat discussion.

One topic was new statewide graduation requirements. The other was a continuation of last year's study on the mill levy override. Last year, the committee reviewed expenditures of the mill levy override. The board expressed interest in the committee looking to the future needs of the district.

Each goal in the Destination 2016 strategic plan was reviewed and the board discussed areas for improvement and accomplishments. Teaching and classified staffs were complimented for their contributions toward the goals.

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The two-hour strategic plan discussion resulted in no changes to the goals at this time.

It was noted that there will be a board election on Nov. 5. Jeff Tharp is term-limited after eight years of service. Kim Killin and Kris Camblin plan to seek re-election.

The board also discussed Initiative 22, which will appear on the November ballot statewide. This tiered income tax increase will be targeted to K-12 schools in Colorado and would significantly increase the general fund budget in Holyoke.

Current spreadsheets show about a \$1 million increase. The board asked to be updated at meetings on the implications of Initiative 22 on the district, as well as on the community.

Ongoing board training was discussed. Considering that it is an election year, the board recommended to schedule the training in November, December or January.

There were no new projects nor initiatives identified at this time.

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