

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Education takes action on strategic plan recommendations

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 11, 2007 – At the school board meeting on Tuesday, December 11, the Minneapolis Board of Education adopted a set of nine recommendations that will increase overall student achievement, address the achievement gap among ethnic groups, and aim to prepare all students for college.

The nine recommendations, which will serve as the framework of the strategic plan, are grouped in three broad categories: Increase equity, expectations and achievement; focus resources; and strengthen relationships.

“I am proud of these recommendations and the process we undertook to develop them,” said Superintendent Bill Green. “Although some believe they are overly ambitious, I am confident we can achieve them with help from everyone who wants the children of Minneapolis to reach their highest potential.”

The strategic planning process began last May under the guidance of the school board and with a strategic advisory group composed of teachers, principals, parents, and representatives from business and civic organizations. The consulting firm McKinsey & Company donated its assistance to develop a common base of facts about the district’s performance and operations. They researched school district reform efforts from around the country and created the recommendations report based on their findings.

The school board set a goal to complete an implementation “roadmap” by spring 2008 that would track progress of implementation plans against the nine recommendations. The board also authorized the creation of an implementation advisory board to oversee the execution of the recommendations.

“We are seizing an unprecedented opportunity to set a new course for K-12 public education in Minneapolis, particularly with respect to eliminating the achievement gap” said Board Chair Pam Costain. “It will take time. It will be hard work. Not everyone will be happy. But our children will be better equipped for tomorrow’s world because of the action we took today. I realize however, that without clear and direct implementation, these recommendations will be meaningless.”

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