

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Shared Vision: Shickley Public Schools and Community Partners on New Strategic Plan

In partnership with the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB), Shickley Public Schools embarked on months of collaboration with district stakeholders to chart a course for the future.

Dr. Stan Essink, Superintendent of Shickley Public Schools said, “with leadership changes over the past several years and an evolving educational landscape, the Board of Education felt the time was right to lay the groundwork for a prosperous future.”

The Board of Education formally adopted this roadmap at their April meeting, signaling a proactive commitment to building upon the district's established successes. Board President Randy Noel stated, “The board of education is excited to be a part of this commitment to our school's success. The process of developing the strategic plan was invaluable – not only did it bring together different stakeholders, but it also fostered meaningful communication and collaboration. With this plan as our guide, we are well positioned to utilize our strengths and drive meaningful improvements to continue the success of our students and community.”

A testament to the Shickley community's unwavering dedication to its children's future, the process involved gathering input from all corners of the district, including comprehensive surveys of staff, students, and parents, as well as engaging stakeholders through community meetings. The data gleaned from these efforts formed the bedrock of the strategic plan, which will guide the district's growth and development over the next three to five years. The ultimate goal? To ensure that every Shickley Public Schools student is equipped with the essential tools and opportunities needed to thrive in an increasingly dynamic world. Merissa Zajic, Special Education Director stated, “This plan is more than goals on paper - it's a shared vision and a commitment to our students, families, and all stakeholders. It provides a roadmap to achieve our goals as a school and a community. I'm hopeful for the journey ahead and the positive outcomes it will bring for the students, staff, and the Shickley community.”

The Shickley Public Schools Strategic Plan identifies several key priorities that will serve as guiding principles for the district's efforts:

- **Personnel Effectiveness:** Recognizing that staff are its most valuable asset, Shickley Public Schools is committed to providing resources to support their growth and well-being while also fostering a strong sense of unity among all staff members.

- **District Culture and Climate:** Creating a welcoming and supportive environment where every student and staff member feels a genuine sense of belonging is paramount. This priority aims to ensure that each individual is personally connected to the school community, fostering a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment conducive to learning and growth.
- **Academic Learning and Success:** At the heart of the district's mission is the commitment to providing an education that prepares students for success beyond the classroom. This priority focuses on ensuring the student remains at the center of the learning experience.
- **District Resources:** Responsible stewardship of resources is crucial to sustaining safe and functional learning facilities and investing in highly effective staff to best support the needs of all students.

Dr. Essink expressed enthusiasm for the plan, stating, "We are excited to launch this Strategic Plan, which reflects our deep commitment to the success of every student in our district. This plan is truly a collective vision, born from the shared belief within our community that every child deserves the best possible education we can provide."

The district encourages parents, students, staff, and all community members to remain engaged in the plan's implementation. Active engagement from staff, parents, students, and the community is vital to meeting the needs of a school the size of Shickley.

To view the Shickley Public Schools Strategic Plan, please visit <https://www.shickleypublicschool.com/> or contact the school at 402-627-3375.

Shickley Public School is fortunate to have dedicated staff and strong community support. The strategic plan is a commitment to a bright future built on collaboration, commitment, and a shared vision for student success.