

February 11, 2018

As we move along in hopes of an early spring, we continue to highlight our student, staff and community successes in the Kiel Area School District. These co-curricular and academic successes can be found on our website ([www.kiel.k12.wi.us](http://www.kiel.k12.wi.us)), social media (Facebook, Twitter) and in the local newspaper.

A huge part of what has made the Kiel Area School District successful in the past is the fact that a vision, outlined through a Strategic Plan, has always been in place to ensure future successes! The current Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.kiel.k12.wi.us/district/strateticplan.cfm>. This plan has two main focus areas, both of which play a critical role in our current and future success. The first element of this plan is making sure that we communicate effectively with all members of our learning community through a variety of ways. The second part of this plan aims for all students to have the opportunity to personalize their learning. This means that students are able to learn at their own pace, have access to a variety of resources, have choices in their learning and are college and career ready.

Communication in any organization is essential for continued success. Along with strong partnerships with our local newspapers (Tri-County News, Herald Times Reporter, Sheboygan Press), the Kiel Area School District uses social media, our website and word of mouth to continue to “Tell Our Story” and communicate our positives as effectively as possible. We also aim to provide a high level of customer service through an “open door” policy that involves listening to our community members, staff and students.

A personalized approach to learning is also a major part of our strategic plan. This plan helps outline the vision that we want to sustain for the next decade! This approach allows all students to continue to grow within a curriculum that is rigorous and comprehensive and makes sure that students have access to essential technology in an ever changing world, as well as the work experiences needed to be successful in future careers.

The upcoming referendum will ask the taxpayers to allow the school district to continue to provide students with the needed resources and opportunities that are outlined in our strategic plan.

After we balance our budget (this plan will be presented to the board on March 7th), the Board of Education on April 3rd will be asking the taxpayers to approve two referendum questions. The first question on the ballot asks community members to support the school district financially over the next 10 years in hopes of sustaining and moving forward our strategic plan.

This added money will allow students to have the proper technology at their disposal, including 1:1 computing and the infrastructure needed to support it. It will also give us the chance to partner with our community to maintain and enhance our current programs such as Future Farmers of America, Technology Education, Manufacturing and other trades type opportunities and to take care of our existing facilities as outlined in our 5-year facilities plan.

Our strategic plan highlights the continuous growth of each child as well as providing our children with experiences that will last a lifetime. The second question asks the community to support renovation of our athletics complex as well as the construction of a new performing arts

center. Our musical arts programs continue to grow and our athletics and co-curricular teams and clubs continue to find success; this question allows for these opportunities to continue to happen by improving our existing facilities.

I am focusing on this particular topic because I believe it is important that the community has a general outline of our vision for the future. This article identifies just a part of what we can do together in the future to continue to support our children. A school district belongs to the community and together they work to provide opportunities for the students both now and in the future; the students, staff and I look forward to our continued partnership!