

PLANNING TEAM SETS PRELIMINARY COURSE FOR DISTRICT FUTURE

A 43-member strategic planning team has identified critical issues facing the Clark County School District over the next seven years and set forth strategies toward confronting those issues.

The committee also set goals for the district and reviewed its beliefs and mission statement. The committee, featuring a cross-section of community members, spent all day Friday, August 27, and Saturday, August 28, at the Las Vegas Hilton working on a plan that will determine the district's course through the start of the 21st century.

The committee's seven-year blueprint is preliminary. Superintendent Brian Cram and committee representatives will make a presentation to Board of School Trustees on September 14. Town hall meetings to solicit public input will be held later this fall before final action by the board this December. Meanwhile, action teams are being formed to determine specific steps toward meeting district objectives.

"This is a task with far-reaching consequences," said Judy Witt, president of the Board of Trustees and a committee member. "It will determine the direction of our district - our children - for the next seven years. With the public's help, we will have a plan that sets a great course for the future of education in our community."

CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR NAMED TO WHO'S WHO



TAURUS JACKSON

Taurus Jackson, a Chaparral High School junior, has been nominated to receive an honorary award from the Who's Who Among American High School Students. Taurus is a member of the Chaparral High School track team, participating in the 200, 100 yard dash, 4x1, 4x2 and 4x4 relays. Through the leadership and guidance of Asst. Principal Warrick, Taurus desires to set some new records. He also would like to pursue a degree in Architectural Engineering. This summer through the Nevada Business Services, Taurus was chosen to work in the Facilities Planning Division of Drafting Services for Clark County School District.

Strategic planning is a step-by-step process that includes a review of critical issues facing the district.

The committee identified growth, demographics, facilities, funding and distribution of resources, fundamental skills and subject mastery, curriculum issues, family/business/community involvement, employee training, and education, and governmental mandates and contractual agreements.

With those issues in mind, the committee proposed about a dozen strategies, including: implementing programs specifically to recognize student strengths and successes each year, implementing a capital

improvement program to meet student needs over the next seven years, developing a comprehensive program to prevent failure in grades one through five, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources to all students.

The committee also set preliminary goals: to produce competent graduates, that each graduate will be prepared to function as a contributing member of society, and that all students will demonstrate competency in the fundamental skills of reading, composition, math, science and social studies with assessment at specific grade levels or time periods.

In addition, the committee has proposed a new mission

statement: "The mission of the Clark County School District is to ensure that all students will gain and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and ethics necessary to succeed as contributing members of society."

Strategic planning is not new to the district and has proven effective in achieving goals. The committee's efforts build on a Comprehensive Master Plan that covered 1983-88 and a Five-Year Strategic Plan that covered 1988-93. The most recent plan resulted in many accomplishments, including new schools, renovations to existing schools, programs to help students graduate, and a workforce that more closely matches community diversity.



Dwight Dorman, left, and Hugh Jones, both members of the Clark County School District's Strategic Planning Team, discuss various issues as part of the process to outline the district's future for the next seven years. Dorman is a teacher at Western High School and Jones is a quality assurance specialist and graduate of Leadership Las Vegas.



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