

Mission Statement

Community High School District 117, being a community of learners with a vision of excellence, is committed to providing an educational experience that encourages all learners to develop to their fullest potential, to engage in life long learning, and to be responsible members of society.

Goals/Purposes – 2004-2009

1. **Student Achievement:** District 117 will offer a comprehensive, current curriculum that will challenge all learners. Its design will be based upon State Standards, and it will offer students the opportunity to maximize their potential. Upon graduation, students will be successfully prepared for the world of work and/or post-secondary education.
2. **Qualified Staff:** District 117 will recruit, mentor, and retain the highest quality staff possible. All employed staff will be “highly-qualified” based on State and Federal Standards.
3. **Facilities:** District 117 will maintain its facilities to promote student learning and safety, and it will keep the facilities as aesthetically pleasing to the community as possible. When necessary, the District will purchase land for future development.
4. **Technology:** District 117 recognizes that technology continues to evolve. Therefore, District 117 will employ a Technology Coordinator to guide the district in the formulation and implementation of a technology plan that will focus on student learning and administrative utilization.
5. **Community Communication:** District 117 will promote timely and accurate communication with the community.
6. **Fiscal Responsibility:** District 117 will operate the district in a fiscally sound manner. To ensure that goal, the Business Manager, Superintendent, and Board will continue to develop and analyze five-year financial projections.

Goal 1: Student Achievement

District 117 will offer a comprehensive, current curriculum that will challenge all learners. Its design will be based upon State Standards, and it will offer students the opportunity to maximize their potential. Upon graduation, students will be successfully prepared for the world of work and/or post-secondary education.

- a. The core curriculums at Lakes and Antioch High School will adhere to the concept of a “guaranteed and viable” curriculum with common assessments administered at the end of each semester. As such, all courses will be consistently structured so that all students engage in a similar curriculum for similar courses. During the 2004-05 school year, the following courses were revised based on that concept:
 - a. Algebra I (Honors and Regular)
 - b. Geometry (Honors and Regular)
 - c. English I, II, and III (Honors and Regular)
 - d. Biology (Honors and Regular)
 - e. Physical Science
 - f. American History

- b. Before the start of the 2005-06 school year, the following curriculums were revised:
 - a. Business Math
 - b. Adult Living
 - c. Life Resource Management
 - d. Apparel Construction and Design
 - e. PE/Health/Drivers Education: 9-12th Grades
 - f. Sophomore Advisory
- c. Before the start of the 2006-07 school year, the following curriculums will be revised:
 - a. Chemistry (Honors and Regular)
 - b. Physics (Honors and Regular)
 - c. Advanced Algebra II (Honors and Regular)
 - d. Pre-Calculus
 - e. Government
- d. On a regular basis, staff will closely monitor and revise existing curricula in order to incorporate into them new discoveries in science and technology, new developments in the social sciences and the arts, and new expectations in the global workforce.
- e. At the beginning of each school year, both high schools will construct a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that will identify their priorities and goals based on several data sources. Such data will include results from the Prairie State Achievement Exam, Advanced Placement Test Scores, NWEA test scores, PLAN scores, attendance rates, graduation rates, detention referrals, longitudinal data of graduates, etc. SIP's will be developed through the Achievement Committees at both high schools and presented to the Board at the start of each school year. The District Achievement Committee will review the SIP's to ensure a focus on student achievement remains a priority.
- f. The impact of the Advisory Program, the CRISS Training Program, and the Induction and Mentoring Program on student achievement will be analyzed. Modifications will be made to ensure the goals of the Programs are being met.
- g. Co-curricular programs will be examined, and principals will recommend improvements to the Superintendent on an annual basis. Athletic Directors will evaluate coaches based on their identified areas of responsibility. To facilitate improving District programs, the current Co-curriculum Handbook will be revised with input from the coaches and administration. The revised Handbook will be in place before the beginning of the 2006-07 school year.
- h. By 2008, the Substance Abuse Coordinator will construct a comprehensive Substance Abuse Program for the District. Using the federal grant which was recently awarded to the District, he will gather and analyze data from the various student drug screens to help construct this program. He will also solicit input from both high schools and community members through surveys, faculty meetings, and community committee meetings so that the program represents the particular needs of the community District 117 serves.
- i. Data reports from LCHS and ACHS will be made to the Board in June and in October. The data will be gathered from NWEA, ACT, and PS&E score reports.

Goal 2: Qualified Staff

District 117 will recruit, mentor, and retain the highest quality staff possible. To the greatest extent, all employed staff will be “highly-qualified” based on State and Federal Standards.

- a. During the 2005-06 school year, approximately 60 staff were added to both schools. Administrators in the district attended three job fairs to recruit staff, and they conducted multiple interviews with each candidate before offering a position to the candidate. The Superintendent met with each candidate also.
- b. During the 2005-06, all new staff attended a three-day orientation to help them become acclimated to the geographical area and to the expectations of the District. This orientation will remain mandatory for new staff, although some revisions may be made to it.
- c. During the 2005-06 school year, a formal Mentoring/Induction Program for new staff is being piloted. New teachers are teamed with successful veteran teachers to help them transition into District 117. The goal of this Program is to promote good teaching and retain good staff. At the conclusion of the 2005-06 school year, the Association and the Administration will analyze the Program to see if it met its goals. If it did and if both agree that the Program should be continued, the Superintendent will present and recommend its formal adoption to the Board.
- d. In preparation for the 2006-07 school year, administrators from both buildings will attend at least two job recruitment fairs, one in Lake County and one outside of Lake County.
- e. Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, the Superintendent will develop a three-year administrative program during which all full time administrators will become conversant in the latest research trends in secondary education.
- f. During the 2005-06 school year, the second phase of training all staff in the use of CRISS strategies occurred. (CRISS is a research-based training which stands for CReating Independence through Student-owned Strategies.) In addition to continuing to train all faculty, by the end of the 2005-06 school year, two administrators will become certified District trainers so that in-District training can continue to occur in the District. The goal is for the District to become what CRISS calls a Five Star School District. Descriptors of a Five Star School are as follows:
 - a. 100% of the teachers have participated in a 12-15 hour CRISS Level I workshop.
 - b. 100% of the administrators have participated in a CRISS Level I workshop.
 - c. At least one staff member has participated in a CRISS Level II workshop and has become a trainer.
 - d. Regularly scheduled follow-up is provided to all trained teachers through conferences, peer reviews, guidance, and trainer-modeling.
 - e. Students become conversant in CRISS strategies to aid their learning and improve their achievement.
- g. All staff will be evaluated based upon the Professional Growth Plan established in the District.

Goal 3: Facilities

District 117 will maintain its facilities to promote student learning and safety, and it will keep the facilities as aesthetically pleasing to the community as possible. When necessary, the District will purchase land for future development.

- a. District 117 completed the construction of Lakes High School prior to the 2004-05 school year. No new construction or renovation is anticipated at Lakes for the next five years.
- b. District 117 completed the construction of a new gym at Antioch High School in the spring of 2005. During the summer of 2005, Antioch High School's football stadium was renovated. New bleachers were constructed, new storage areas were constructed, and a new concession area was constructed. No new renovations to the stadium are anticipated for the next five years at Antioch High School.
- c. District 117 renovated the Commons Area of Antioch High School, converted classrooms to bathrooms, and replaced kitchen equipment during the summer of 2005. No new major renovations to Antioch High School are anticipated for the next five years.
- d. Maintenance to and improvements of the existing facilities include the following (see attached spreadsheet marked "Major Maintenance & Capital Repairs):
 - a. HOD and Horak Property Expense through 2007: \$1.85 Million
 - b. Roof Replacement at ACHS through 2010: \$220,000
 - c. Parking Lot Repairs at ACHS through 2010: \$200,000
 - d. Contingency Repair Costs: \$250,000 annually
- e. Based on existing and projected construction projects in the District and based on projected enrollment increases, the District recognizes that the purchase of land to accommodate future growth is a priority. As such, it has sold bonds to address that issue; and inherent to the bond sales is the legality of purchasing land within three years. Therefore, the District will look for and secure a land purchase for future growth within three years.

Goal 4: Technology

District 117 recognizes that technology continues to evolve. Therefore, District 117 will employ a Technology Coordinator to guide the District in the formulation and implementation of a technology plan that will focus on student learning and administrative utilization.

- a. The District will allocate resources to employ a Technology Coordinator and to maintain its existing system of technology. The district's budget to fund personnel and equipment averages approximately \$1,000,000 annually.
- b. The District will require the Technology Coordinator in concert with the Technology Committee to develop a three year Technology Plan for the District which will be reviewed annually. The plan will include costs of implementation, personnel involved, and timelines. The plan will focus on student learning and the use of technology so that administrators and teachers can use existing technology to improve student learning.

Goal 5: Community Communication

District 117 will promote timely and accurate communication with the community.

- a. The Central Office will publish the District Newsletter, **Headlines**, quarterly.
- b. Lakes High School and Antioch High School will publish regular newsletters which are sent home to all students in those schools respectively.
- c. Lakes High School and Antioch High School will continue to publish student newspapers regularly.
- d. Lakes High School and Antioch High School will maintain their web sites.
- e. Lakes High School and Antioch High School will continue to involve parents and students in policy formation through their parent advisory councils and through their respective booster organizations.
- f. The Central Administrative Office will post Board Minutes, Policy Manuals, Board Meeting Schedules, Board Agendas, the District's Budget, District Report Cards, and School Calendar on the District web site.
- g. The PASS system, which lists students' grades and assignments, will be used by staff so that parents and students can regularly check on the progress made during class.
- h. District 117 will continue to work collaboratively with municipalities and government agencies making up the District 117 community.

Goal 6: Fiscal Responsibility

District 117 will operate the District in a fiscally sound manner. Recognizing that financial planning makes assumptions, and to the extent that the assumptions are accurate the plans are reliable, the Business Manager and Superintendent will develop and analyze five-year financial projections and present these to the Board annually.

- a. The Budget Committee along with the Superintendent and Business Manager will develop and analyze the finances of the District. The Business Manager will present the budget to the Board in accordance with State law.
- b. The Business Manager will continue to work with respective community governments to ensure impact fees are paid in a timely manner.
- c. The Business Manager will ensure the budget is a balanced budget.
- d. The Business Manager will present projections of future budgets and fund balances, analyzing the impact of the Advisory Program, the Co-Curricular Program, and other ancillary programs on the Education Fund balance.