October 30, 2019

Dear Arlington Community:

During its annual summer retreat in August, 2019, the Arlington Board of Education and Central Administration discussed options for reviewing and potentially revising the Strategic Plan that was established in 2013. We felt that it was important to provide you with an update as to our thinking moving forward.

First, we are pleased to have witnessed our Mission Statement becoming a guiding affirmation for our district and well-known to students, staff and the community. We believe it continues to effectively express the overall intention of our efforts to provide an outstanding k-12 education for all students and prepare them for success after graduation.

Second, the existing Strategic Plan has led to numerous positive initiatives and areas of emphasis over the past six years. Examples include but are not limited to increased opportunities for project-based learning, the creation of STEAM labs at each elementary school, the reimagining of our school libraries as 21st century learning spaces, increased opportunities for student choice in reading, diversification of our classroom and school libraries, numerous opportunities for community service, a revised middle school computer curriculum, and maintenance of an extensive array of elective courses and extra-curricular activities. There have also been and continue to be numerous changes in the area of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

In addition to the programs noted above, the District has embarked on two significant initiatives in the areas of grading and equity. These two areas were identified as critical based on their alignment with our Mission and Core Values and their high leverage potential in support of our students’ academic and social-emotional wellbeing.

Due to the resources devoted to these important initiatives, we determined that now was not the appropriate time to engage in an extensive strategic planning process. We agreed that this question would be re-examined in the summer of 2020. In the interim, the Board and administration will continue to use the existing document as a guide for its work. Please visit the following link to review our prioritized district initiatives in greater detail.

Prioritized District Initiatives

Sincerely,

The Arlington Board of Education

Our mission is to empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community and lead passionate, purposeful lives.