

Odem-Edroy ISD is completing a Strategic Plan with the help of community members, parents and staff-Please join us as we work on topics for school improvement. Please see the committee meetings occurring March 29th and March 30th of this week. Anyone is welcome to serve on any and all committees. If you are interested, join us and we will add your name to the committee for receiving information to attend the final committee meetings forthcoming.

Overview of our first meeting:

Strategic Planning for Odem-Edroy ISD – Dr. Almendarez began the presentation by introducing his team members who would be assisting Odem-Edroy ISD with the implementation of a Strategic Plan for the district for the next five years. Team members for School Leadership Solutions include Dr. Linda Villarreal, Mr. Lynn Burton, and Mr. Doug Arnold. All were in attendance this evening with the exception of Mr. Arnold. Dr. Almendarez stated that there would be two or three more meetings which would last one hour or less. He stated that a video link would be sent to Dr. Gonzales who would then share with the members in attendance so that they can view prior to the first action team meeting.

Dr. Almendarez then presented a short powerpoint presentation addressing why a Strategic Plan is important. He stated that the district needs a roadmap in order to be more successful. Developing the Strategic Plan is not a difficult process but requires input and feedback which will improve communication across the board. Dr. Almendarez stressed the importance of having the needs being completely student centered. He then reviewed a couple of ground rules which included respecting everyone's opinion, being an active listener, and allowing one person to speak at a time. He emphasized that all comments are important, spelling doesn't count when jotting down ideas and no one should dominate the process which should be fun. He encouraged those present to invite other people and friends to the next action team meetings which would take place in March and April as determined by the Committee chairs. The goal is to present the final product to the School Board in May for their approval. Before concluding his presentation, Dr. Almendarez reviewed the four action team committees which would consist of the following and the representative from School Leadership Solutions who would work with each of the teams:

1. Personnel/Finances/Leadership (Mr. Doug Arnold)
2. Student Services-Transportation, Extra-curricular Activities, Food Services, Maintenance (Dr. Artie Almendarez)
3. Curriculum & Instruction-Instruction, Administration, Cutting Edge Technology, Social Media (Dr. Linda Villarreal)
4. Leadership-Administration, Teachers, Departmental, Parental/ Community Engagement (Mr. Lynn Burton)

Next, Dr. Villarreal reviewed information regarding planning for the first action team meeting. She stated that a notebook would be ready which would contain demographic information and data scores for OEISD. A written agenda would be prepared for the meeting with introductions to begin the meeting. Ground rules would be followed as discussed by Dr. Almendarez during his presentation. During the action team meetings, the purpose of the Strategic Plan would be reviewed along with the contents contained in the notebook. She emphasized that the Odem-Edroy Independent school district of 2022 would not look like the current district. She stated that the team would share/review the Strategic Plan template and would work towards a consensus of ideas that are most important. At the second meeting, the team would refine priority strategies with details, timelines, etc.

Mr. Lynn Burton was the next presenter as he informed all in attendance that Strategic Plans have been around since the 1960's in the business field. It wasn't until 1987 that Strategic Plans were implemented in education. Mr. Burton stated that the Strategic Plan will be a component of the district and campus improvement plans which require detail and action at their individual levels. He then reviewed the possible topic areas and the strategic plan template that would be used to develop the Strategic Plan for the district.

To conclude, Dr. Almendarez stressed the need for outside lenses to be part of the process including naysayers. He encouraged those in attendance to invite someone to the next meeting. A sign in sheet was provided for those in attendance to sign up to be part of one of the four committees. Several committees met briefly at the conclusion of the board meeting to schedule their upcoming action team meeting at the end of the month.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS- Upcoming

Thursday, March 30th-Curriculum and Instruction- Dr. Linda Villarreal

5:30PM-6:30PM-Odem High School Library-Main Area

Wednesday, April 5th- Personnel, Finances and Leadership- Chair Doug Arnold

5:30PM-6:30PM- Odem High School Library- Main Area

Wednesday, April 6th- Parental /Community Engagement-Leadership: Chair Lynn Burton

6:00PM-7:00PM Odem High School Library Media Lab

Thursday, April 6th- Student Services, Maintenance/ Transportation, Food Services & Extra Curricular- Chair Dr. Almendarez-

5:30PM-6:30PM- Odem Administration Board Conference Room.