

Be a part of the process: There are many opportunities, many ways, for parent and community involvement and input

There are many ways for parents and community members to provide input, share ideas, and be involved with continuous improvement in the Spring Lake Park Schools. The opportunities range from volunteering in a classroom or at a school event to serving on a school or district committee. Please read on to learn more about the many opportunities we have for you to get involved and work with us to continually improve the experience we provide for all students.

Short-term: Focus groups, roundtables, forums, listening sessions

Attend a focus group or listening session to share your ideas, thoughts, and ask questions

Focus Group Participant:

We hold focus groups throughout the year on various topics to gather input and information from community members and parents. These are one-time opportunities that provide participants the opportunity to engage in what we like to think are lively and interesting conversations about timely, important topics. Information gathered is used by task forces or committees to help guide their improvement efforts.

Roundtable Discussion

There are many opportunities for discussion occur throughout the year, planned ahead of time or scheduled to address a current topic. Citizens can also request an opportunity to dialogue with school district personnel. Meet with the district and/or school administrators to engage in dialogue on any topics of interest to the group. Contact school principals for school level discussions or coffee with the principal. Look for opportunities at the district level advertised on the website, newsletters, or local newspapers.

School Board Listening Sessions:

Attend a forum on a particular topic to give feedback and have discussions with other parents. A monthly Community Connections Listening Session initiated by the School Board is a great way to share comments, suggestions, questions, and ideas.

Ongoing: Committee Opportunities

Please browse the opportunities listed below to get involved in improvement planning at the school, program, and/or district level

Strategic Framework Advisory

This Advisory meets at least two times per year to review progress towards strategic directions, study scorecard data, identify emerging trends and issues, and share insights to guide planning with the district strategic Framework for the Future.

Facilitator: Don Helmstetter and Jeff Ronneberg

Systems Improvement Advisory Council (SIAC)

The Systems Improvement Advisory Council serves to convey community beliefs and opinions as

they relate to continuous improvement efforts, and teaching, learning, and accountability issues in the Spring Lake Park Schools. Members serve as a sounding board for the community and gain knowledge about curriculum, professional development efforts, and instructional programs and assessments of and for learning being implemented in classrooms throughout the district. The committee is composed of parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members.

Facilitator: Denise Waalen

E-12 Assessment Committee

The E-12 Assessment Committee will meet on a periodic basis to assess the fit and relevance of our current assessment practices, identifying areas for improvement and necessary alignment with other practices in the district. Members of the E-12 Assessment Committee will develop recommendations to present to the administration. *Facilitator: Jerelyne Nemanich*

Curriculum Task Forces

Curriculum task forces are formed annually to research best practices, study current district practices, identify essential learning outcomes, and engage in formative review of curriculum effectiveness. Curriculum is developed through a process of backward design and integrates assessments of and for learning in our day to day practices. The details of this process are explained in the *Spring Lake Park Schools Learning Community Framework*. *Facilitator: Denise Waalen*

District Technology Integration Committee

Ensure that the District's overall technology program aligns with the Strategic Plan, and with State guidelines. Guide the development of the District's Web site, make technology budget recommendations, and maintain the overall technology plan. *Facilitator: Steve Halvorson, Jerelyne Nemanich*

Learning, Teaching, and Accountability Advisory Council (LTA Advisory Council)

This Advisory Council provides system-wide leadership and coordination of processes and procedures related to professional development, curriculum and instruction, assessment, and school and organizational improvement planning. The Council meets throughout the year to engage in planning and provide school-level support in the above areas. Members of the LTA Advisory Council receive ongoing training, including the opportunity to attend regional and national conferences regarding exemplary practices related to professional development, curriculum, assessment, leadership and continuous improvement. They

also sit on site-level teaching and learning teams, providing leadership at the school level. *Facilitator: Denise Waalen*

School-level Learning and Equity Teams (formerly Teaching and Learning Teams)

These teams facilitate building-level processes and procedures related to school improvement planning, professional development design and delivery, the work of PLCs, curriculum and instructional alignment, and assessment. The work of these teams aligns with the LTA Advisory Council. *Facilitator: School principal or designee*

Communications and Connections Advisory

This committee of parents, community members, and staff assesses current communications and outreach, as well as identified opportunities to improve our engagement with all members of our community. *Facilitators: Jim Elert, Colleen Pederson*

Special Education Advisory

This committee is comprised of parents of students in need of special education that attend school within the district. The goal of this committee is to assist with the continuous improvement planning of special education services in the district. *Facilitator: Tom Ambrasas*

Community Transition Committee

This community group gives the 18-21 year old transition program feedback to improve the curriculum for students in need of additional programming in real life skills. *Facilitator: Tom Ambrasas*

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee

This advisory committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year to learn more about the gifted and talented program, provide input on areas for growth, and identify volunteer opportunities for support of the program. *Facilitators: Kim Fehringer, Marianne Paulos*

Athletics Advisory Council

All parents of high school students involved in athletics or activities are invited to attend Advisory meetings that are held each month. Please contact the Activities Office for further information. *Facilitator: Dave Alto*

Parent Teacher Associations/Organizations

Each school holds parents meetings on at least a monthly basis. Please contact the school principal or district calendar for further information.

Community Education Advisory Council

Make recommendations about policies, programs, and budget for Community Educational Services to meet needs and interests of community members. *Facilitator: Colleen Pederson*

Early Childhood Advisory Council

This group meets regularly to provide input and influence regarding ECFE and School Readiness/Preschool programs. *Facilitator: Kristin Goessel-Seery*

Autism Parent Support Group

This committee supports parents with: defining appropriate programming options for their child, learning about autism, and assisting them with access to community resources to support their child.

Facilitator: Candice Vittorini

Down's Syndrome Group

This group is formed to help parents of newly identified children with Down's Syndrome learn about this syndrome and access community resources which will assist them with raising their child.

Facilitator: Jennifer Graber

Panther Foundation

The purpose of the Panther Foundation is to enrich educational experiences for the

4,600 students within the Spring Lake School District. Support for the Foundation comes entirely through contributions and special projects. The Foundation awards grants for innovative projects initiated by staff, parents, and students that directly benefit students.

District Liaison: Colleen Pederson