



2016 Board Chair Workshop

Improving Student Achievement through Raising Student Aspirations

Terry.A.McCabe@gmail.com

SCSBA - February 18, 2016


Goals for Today's Session

- Discuss why student aspirations is important in our schools
- Discuss the environment schools need in place to advance student aspirations
- Opportunity to use a tool for reviewing the current climate in your school community
- Begin an Action Plan to take back to your local board to address student aspirations

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Why Aspirations?

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

 **Aspirations Framework**

Aspirations Profile

The Guiding Principles


The 8 Conditions

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

My Voice™ Survey

- Opportunity to include and honor student voice in school reform.
- What can we as a school board do to improve our results?

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

 **The Guiding Principles**
Conditions that Inspire and Support

Self-Worth
5X more likely to be academically motivated

Engagement
16X more likely to be academically motivated

Purpose
18X more likely to be academically motivated

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Belonging

- The community, staff and students feel welcome.
- Divergent viewpoints are welcomed and accepted.
- School board members are visible in the community.
- Students make presentations at board meetings.
- School board members talk with pride about their district.
- School staff know their opinions matter to the school board.
- Board members work collaboratively.
- All members of the school community value the importance of individuality.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

School is a welcoming and friendly place.
 I feel accepted for who I am at school.
 Teachers make an effort to get to know me.
 I am a valued member of my school community.
 I think bullying is a problem in my school.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Heroes

- Trust exists between school board members, staff, community and students.
- People are acknowledged for unique skills and talents.
- School board is viewed as making fair and consistent decisions.
- Students are always considered when making decisions.
- Administrators feel valued as professionals.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

Students respect teachers.
My parents care about my education.
I know a teacher who is a positive role model.
Teachers care if I am absent from school.
Teachers respect students.
Students respect each other.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Sense of Accomplishment

- All members of the school community set and achieve meaningful goals.
- Learning and growth is assessed in many ways.
- School board members persevere during challenging times.
- The decision-making process, not just the end product is valued.
- School board members celebrate all forms of student and staff accomplishments.
- Citizenship projects and initiatives are supported and valued.
- School progress and success is assessed by more than test scores.
- Administrators' efforts and hard work are acknowledged and appreciated.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

I am encouraged to practice good citizenship at school.
Teachers recognize students who are kind and helpful.
I have never been recognized for something positive at school.
I give up when school work is difficult.
Teachers recognize me when I try my best.
Teachers let my parents know what I do well.
I put forth my best effort at school.
Getting good grades is important to me.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Fun and Excitement

- Humor and laughter are present in school board meetings.
- School board members are engaged in their work.
- School board meetings are held in a comfortable setting.
- School board meetings are well planned and interesting.
- Administrators are encouraged to share their professional interests and passions.
- Public meetings are free of educational jargon in order to engage all audience members.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

I enjoy being at school.
 Teachers enjoy working with students.
 Teachers make school an exciting place to learn.
 School is boring.
 I enjoy participating in my classes.
 Teachers have fun at school.
 Learning can be fun.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Curiosity & Creativity

- Creative thinkers are truly valued.
- School board members are excited by new ideas.
- The arts are valued in our schools.
- Questions are encouraged at school board meetings.
- School staff questions and concerns are taken seriously.
- Various solutions and ideas are discussed before a decision is made.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

I feel comfortable asking questions in class.
 My teachers present lessons in different ways.
 At school I am encouraged to be creative.
 My classes help me understand what is happening in my everyday life.
 School inspires me to learn.
 What I learn in school will benefit my future.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Spirit of Adventure

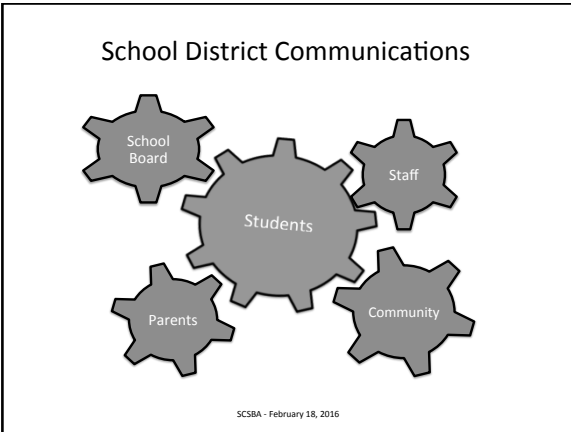
- School staff are not afraid to share their success and failures with the board.
- Many people are involved in creating district goals.
- School Board members know how to support healthy risk-taking.
- School Board members express high expectations for all students.
- School Board members ask for help and guidance when needed.
- Administrators are encouraged to take on new challenges.
- Community members, staff and students are encouraged to express their opinions

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

I like challenging assignments.
 I push myself to do better academically.
 Students are supportive of each other.
 I am afraid to try something if I think I may fail.
 Teachers help me learn from my mistakes.
 I want to do my best in school.
 I am excited to tell friends when I get good grades.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016



- ### Leadership & Responsibility
- The entire school community understands professional and social expectations.
 - School Board Members discuss their strengths and weaknesses.
 - School Board members articulate their educational philosophies.
 - Student's social, physical and academic growth are supported.
 - Administrators are confident their leadership role is supported.
 - Opportunities for student leadership are supported.
 - Many voices and ideas are valued and utilized.
- SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

Students have a voice in decision making at school.
I see myself as a leader.
Other students see me as a leader.
Teachers encourage students to make decisions.
Teachers are willing to learn from students.
I am a good decision maker.
I know the goals my school is working on this year.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Confidence to Take Action

- School board members know they can make a positive difference in their community.
- The school community is inclusive and accepting.
- Actions taken by the school board members are ethical.
- School board meetings are upbeat and positive.
- School board members are supportive and encouraging.
- Education is valued and a priority in the community.
- Decisions are made based on much thought and information.
- Student and staff self-confidence is high throughout the district.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

The Survey Says:

I believe I can be successful.
 Teachers believe in me and expect me to be successful.
 I work hard to reach my goals.
 I think it is important to set high goals.
 School is preparing me well for my future.

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Establish Board Priorities

- Is high aspirations a necessity for our students?
If So:
- How do we foster high student aspirations in our district?
- Do we provide appropriate resources?
- Do we allow for open communications with students, staff, parents and the community?

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Questions to Consider When Developing School Board Policies

- How does creating this policy affect students?
- How does this policy make a positive difference for the entire school district?
- How does this policy affect you as a board member?

SCSBA - February 18, 2016


"The secret to change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

-Socrates

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

My Voice™ Survey

- Opportunity to include student voice in school reform.
- What can we as a school board do to improve our results?



SCSBA - February 18, 2016

Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards

1. High expectations
2. Strong shared beliefs
3. Accountability driven
4. Collaborative relationships
5. Data savvy
6. Alignment of resources
7. United team leadership
8. Team development and training

SCSBA - February 18, 2016

