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Pine Bluff Invests in an Innovative Vision for Student Success
School District Engages Community Leaders to Set Path Forward

Pine Bluff, AR: Pine Bluff School District (PBSD) just launched a strategic planning process with the goal to build and implement a long-term vision that could set in motion new opportunities for its schools and the greater community. “The overall goal of our work together is to create the optimal conditions for all students in Pine Bluff to be successful, both in school today, and in the future. We have an opportunity to capitalize on wide-spread community commitment to become the achieving district of choice for the entire Pine Bluff community,” Warren explains.

This initiative comes on the heels of the Arkansas State Board of Education ordering the annexation of the Dollarway School District into the Pine Bluff School District effective July 1, 2021. At that time, the Pine Bluff School District officially grew from six to nine campuses.

“The strategic planning process will enable Pine Bluff School District to approach this unique moment of opportunity with bold vision, ambitious goals centered on the instructional core, engaged community partners, and a thorough, thoughtful plan of action,” states Pine Bluff School District Superintendent, Barbara Warren.

The strategic planning process will take place in four phases over the upcoming year: setting the direction and vision for the school district, determining specific strategies to move forward, garnering community-wide commitment, and setting in motion specific action steps to reach the goals.

To support this process, the district has convened a Community Advisory Committee of 20 diverse and representative local leaders, who will meet once a month for 12 months to advise and support district leadership on the design and implementation of the strategic plan.

The Committee’s work and the planning process overall will be spearheaded by Superintendent Warren and her team. Warren has chosen a team of facilitators from WestEd, a nonpartisan, nonprofit agency that has decades of experience partnering with school districts across the country on similar strategic planning efforts. These facilitators will help the Community Advisory Committee by structuring their conversations, informing the discussions with national research and analysis of the local context, and ensuring that the broader public is both engaged with and informed of the strategic planning process along the way.

Beyond the committee members, the Pine Bluff community-at-large will have multiple opportunities to provide input and feedback into the vision, priorities, goals, and action plans of the strategic plan. This input will be used to inform a final strategic plan which will be shared with the public. The first opportunity for the community to give input will be in January through a survey about the vision for the future of Pine Bluff School District. By this time next fall as a result of this project, Pine Bluff School District staff will be poised to implement and monitor a concrete plan of action to accelerate the district’s progress forward and ensure that all Pine Bluff students have what they need to succeed.

Members of the Community Advisory Committee include:

- Nyeshia Aldridge – Boys and Girls Club Jefferson County

- LozAnne Calhoun - Southeast Arkansas College
- Robert Carr, Jr. - University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- Marguerite Flannigan – Divine Nine Organizations
- Zola Hudson – City of Altheimer
- Juawana Jackson – Sixth Division Circuit Court
- Dennis Johnson – Pine Bluff School District Child Nutrition
- Bessie Lancelin – Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Services
- Angela Lopez – Department of Human Services
- Gary McClain – Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
- Marceinia Peoples – Forrest Park/ Greenville Preschool Principal
- Freddie Scott, Sr. – Pine Bluff Community Thought Leaders
- Kourtney Smith –Dollarway High School Teacher
- Calvin Thomas – Pine Bluff High School Teacher
- Allison Thompson – Economic Development Alliance for Jefferson County
- Fred Toney – Pine Bluff Branch of NAACP
- Jesse Turner – Pine Bluff Faith Community Coalition Ministerial Alliance
- Eric Walden, Jr. – Go Forward Pine Bluff
- Kimberley West. - Pine Bluff School District Engagement
- Leondra Williams – Dollarway High School Principal

About Pine Bluff School District: <https://www.pinebluffschoos.org/>