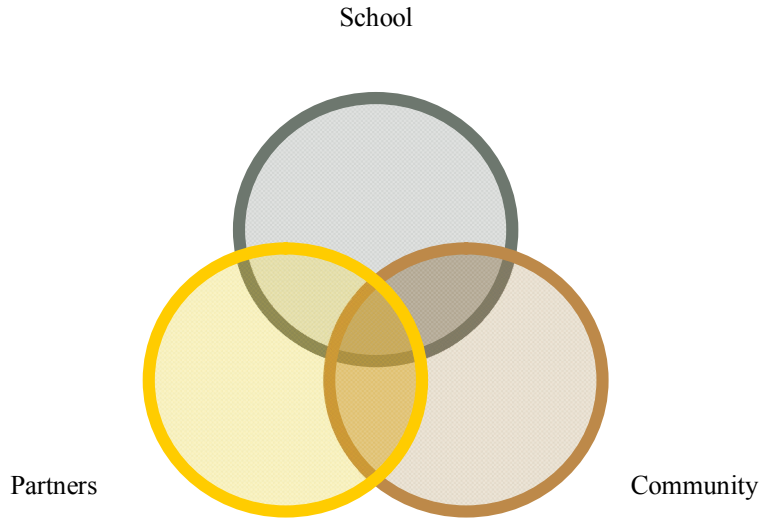


# Pecatonica School District Strategic Plan



**Compiled from planning sessions held on:**

*July 26, 2010*

*August 10, 2010*

*August 25, 2010*

*September 13, 2010*

*October 11, 2010*

**Community Visioning Sessions**

*February 8 and 22, 2010*

**Pecatonica School District Community Survey**

*Completed on February 11, 2009*

**Facilitated by Paul Ohlrogge**

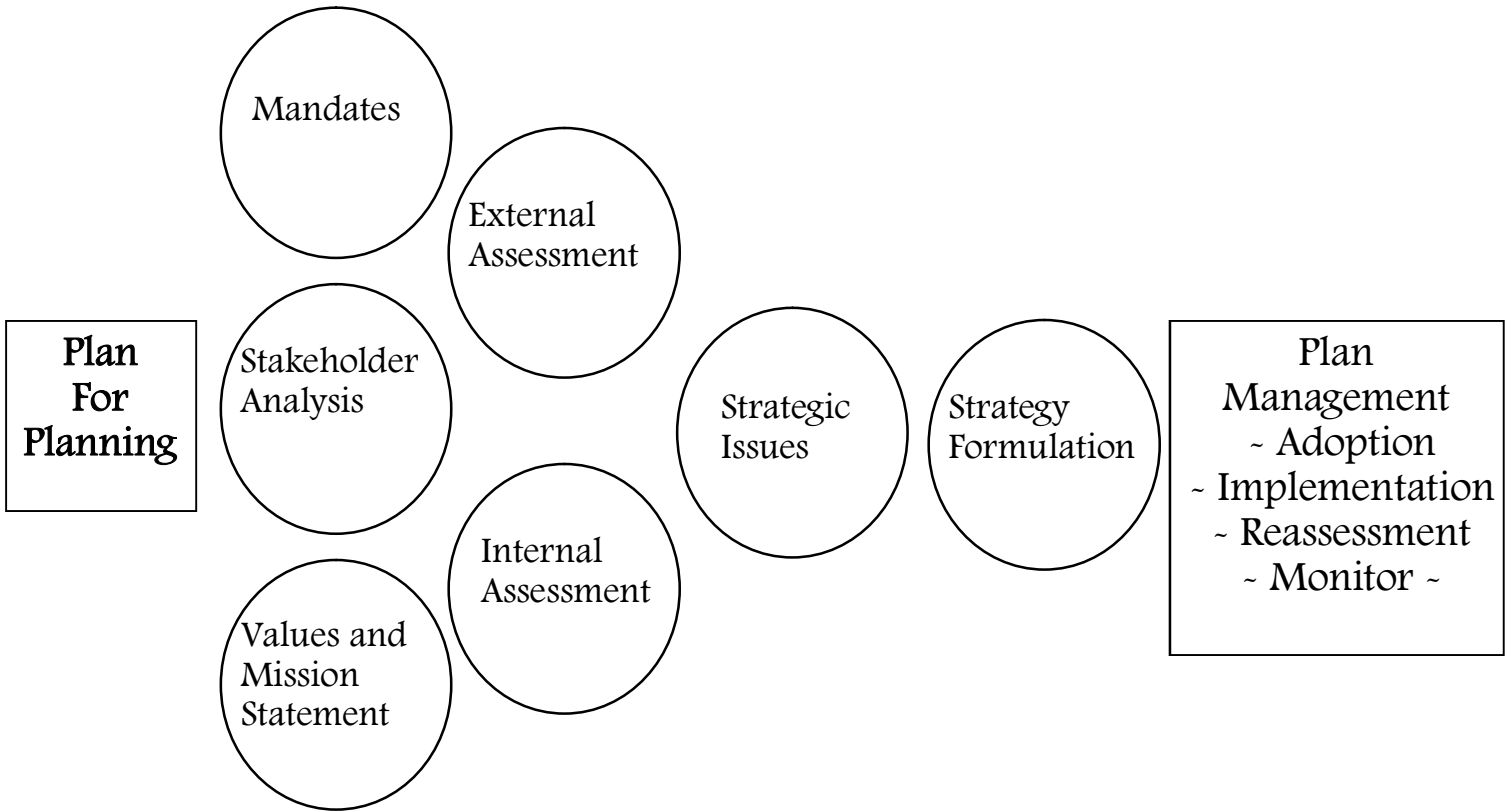
**UWEX Iowa County**

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*University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA.*

# Overview of strategic planning process



## Pecatonica Long Range Planning Committee

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On July 26, 2010 thirty plus members of the Pecatonica School District community met for the first time to begin planning for the future of the district. The meeting was held at the Pecatonica High School Library from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

After a presentation on the demographics of the Pecatonica area the Long Range Planning Committee was asked to answer two questions.

What do you think the overall purpose is of the Long Range Planning Committee?  
At the end of the planning process what do you hope to we accomplish?

*Table 1. Purpose of the Pecatonica School Districts Long Range Planning Committee?*

<i>Purpose of the Pecatonica School Districts Long Range Planning Committee</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at the best possible outcomes for the kids/community/district</li> <li>• Be prepared for change</li> <li>• Explore all possibilities</li> <li>• Explore all options</li> <li>• “School” includes – children, parents, seniors – a place for education for all</li> <li>• Communication of our group and about school</li> <li>• Identify our stability – our niche, our trademark, unique offering</li> <li>• Get on the same page</li> <li>• Look into the future</li> <li>• Plan for future trends</li> <li>• Make connections across interest groups</li> <li>• Establish benchmarks – where we are based on data</li> <li>• Establish future goals</li> <li>• Get a focus</li> <li>• Help kids succeed with appropriate resources</li> <li>• Understand our stakeholders perceptions and goals</li> <li>• Identify who else needs to be a part of this process</li> <li>• Educate ourselves</li> <li>• Get communal understanding</li> <li>• Find a way to get community involved</li> <li>• Build a vision to take us through the 5 year plan</li> <li>• Look at strategies to sell our district</li> <li>• Discuss ways to improve our district</li> <li>• Vision of our district for the future</li> <li>• Review of transitions and a road map that helps us adapt to the unknown</li> <li>• Define issues ...seeing a greater focus on providing success</li> <li>• Revision is ok and is necessary</li> <li>• Students are participants along the way as well</li> </ul>

*Table 2. What do you hope we accomplish by planning?*

<i>What do we hope to accomplish as a planning committee?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action plans that are attainable and measurable (<u>SMART</u> goals)</li><li>• Have a hard copy plan to share with others</li><li>• Develop a Haiku</li><li>• Improve test scores</li><li>• Develop a Mission/Vision (update) for learning in small schools</li><li>• Develop a plan of action</li><li>• Identify specific goals to attain</li><li>• Market ourselves</li><li>• Selling this district as somewhere to <u>stay</u></li><li>• Short term goals – attaining the big plan</li><li>• Better product is the end goal</li><li>• Communication with community, families, district mailings</li></ul>

**Table 3. Vision Table – 2015 Vision for the Pecatonica School District**

The Long Range Planning Committee was asked to think to the future and specifically five years from now and envision what they hope the school should be. Table 3 displays the brainstormed list and below the table is the Vision Statement that the School Board will formerly accept.

Vision of the Pecatonica School District in 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of opportunities for students</li> <li>• Up-to-date technology</li> <li>• General caring and concern for students among one another is evident</li> <li>• Atmosphere is positive at the School</li> <li>• Broad number of community members volunteer at the school district</li> <li>• Wide variety of people discussing connections to school</li> <li>• School is excelling even without dollars needed</li> <li>• Pecatonica School District is valued and special</li> <li>• Students taking pride in the community and connected to the community</li> <li>• Alumni coming back</li> <li>• New families are arriving</li> <li>• School is focal point for community revitalization</li> <li>• Five years ago the Long Range Planning committee (LRP) set the course and the plan is continuing onward</li> <li>• School is well populated and continues to thrive</li> <li>• Graduates excelled in own efforts</li> <li>• Thriving community – new businesses are here</li> <li>• Potential for new school expansion</li> </ul>

### **Vision Statement**

On September 13, 2010 the Long Range Planning committee formerly forwarded the following Vision Statement to the Pecatonica School Board. The school board adopted the following Vision Statement.

*Pecatonica Area Schools will continue to be a focal point of learning for the community by offering personalized education opportunities to students and residents. The school will be a source of great community pride, valued and supported by all, attracting new members and economic prospects to the area.*

**Mission Review** - Similar to Vision the Long Range Planning Committee was asked to review the old mission statement and brainstorm purpose words for a new Mission Statement. The following table lists the Aim, Action Audience words used in developing a new Mission Statement for the Pecatonica School District.

*Table 4. Mission Statement Table - Aim, Action, Audience*

<b>Aim</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach individual potential</li> <li>• Educate</li> <li>• Prepare for the future</li> <li>• Successful and productive (keep it simple)</li> <li>• Post secondary education</li> <li>• Employment or service opportunities</li> <li>• Productive living in a global society</li> <li>• Life gifts and talents</li> <li>• Leave school knowing who they are and what part they play</li> </ul>
<b>Action</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene and coalesce groups of people</li> <li>• Encouraging public participation</li> <li>• Live on-line forum with school board meetings</li> <li>• Experiences to develop leadership</li> <li>• Be able to work with people</li> <li>• Responsibilities as an informed citizen</li> <li>• Respect for community, others, self, environment</li> <li>• Problem solving and critical thinking</li> <li>• Flexible and adaptable</li> <li>• Provide opportunities and resources</li> <li>• Meaningful/challenging/flexible curriculum</li> <li>• Demonstrate and practice leadership skills</li> <li>• Make technology available –maybe an outcome</li> </ul>
<b>Audience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community which includes – students, parents, tax payers, seniors, teachers, administrators, business owners</li> <li>• All the community</li> <li>• The world</li> <li>• Every individual student</li> <li>• Current residents</li> <li>• Potential residents</li> <li>• Changing community</li> <li>• Business owners</li> <li>• The disinterested</li> <li>• Policy makers</li> </ul>



**Mission Statement:**

On September 13 the Long Range Planning Committee forwarded the following Mission Statement to the Pecatonica School Board. The Mission Statement has been formally adopted by the School Board.

*The Pecatonica Area School District will provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that challenges and equips students to become productive and innovative learners, leaders, and citizens in our ever-changing global community.*

**Stakeholder Analysis**

The Long Range Planning Committee for the Pecatonica School District turned its attention to the expectations of key stakeholders. Stakeholders are those organizations; agencies, groups or individuals that affect the Pecatonica School District or who are affected by the Pecatonica School District.

The Long Range Planning Committee was asked to examine the criteria that these stakeholders would use in judging the Pecatonica School District for success. Please note that there were seven key stakeholders identified in the brainstorming process. The **bold printed** stakeholders are considered to be the key stakeholders to the Pecatonica School District.

*Table 5. Stakeholders of the Pecatonica School District*

Village Boards	<b>Businesses/Business Owners – present and future</b>	Town Boards
<b>Students</b>	<b>Parents</b>	Grandparents
Tax Payers	County Agencies	Church Communities
Library	<b>Alumni</b>	Service Organizations
Prospective residents	<b>Staff/Teachers</b>	Board Members
Citizens of the United States	Senior Citizens/Retirees	Farmers and the broad agriculture community
Investors	Our School Board itself	Volunteers
New Residents to the area	FFA and 4-H	PTA
Sports and athletic groups	PEC Foundation	Fire Department and EMS organizations
BCPI and Hollandale Community Association	Homemakers Clubs (HCE)	Forensic Groups
Booster Clubs	Sportsman Clubs	<b>Governments - State and Federal Legislators and local</b>
Future community problem solvers	Renters	The Home Schooled
Commuters to our community	Tourist	Realtors
American Legion Auxiliary	The uninvolved citizen	<b>Taxpayers</b>

### Stakeholders Criteria of Success:

How does a key stakeholder look towards the Pecatonica School District? What do the Key Stakeholders view as success? What are their expectations? The following table is a list of items that the Long Range Planning committee brainstormed while analyzing what is the criteria for success from the seven key stakeholders. (Key Stakeholders are: Students, Business Owners – past and present, Tax Payers, Parents, School Staff, Government Agencies, and Alumni)

*Table 6. Key Stakeholders Expectation of Success*

<b>Students</b>	
Positive relationships with teachers and staff	Prepared for the next step of their lives when they graduate
Opportunities to develop leadership and teamwork skills	Look to alumni as an example of success
Caring Staff	Involved Staff
Opportunity to be involved in multiple activities (school and community)	Knowledgeable staff
Sense of community within the school	Positive student and community connections
<b>Business Owners – Present and Future</b>	
School will bring more people into the area which will equal more business traffic	School will have a positive reputation
Businesses support the school and the school supports the businesses	School helps instill character and values in students
Try to keep taxes down and make the most of the tax dollars that are generated	Access to high speed internet
<b>School Staff/Teachers</b>	
Students have success beyond High School	Students have what they need to succeed
Curriculum aligns with state and federal standards	Students exhibit citizenship, empathy, and tolerance
Good balance between academics and citizenship – well rounded children	Good working environment

<b>Parents</b>	
100% graduation rates	Good citizens and values taught
Preparation for post graduate life	Children are cared for
Safe environment (no bullying- no violence)	Drug free environment
Be able to be involved with the school at different levels	Have access to the school
Communication from the school is regular and thorough	Well rounded environment
Not to worry about the financial impacts of the school	Foster individuality and inclusion
Teaching tolerance	Offer a variety of opportunities
<b>Tax Payers</b>	
Budget control	Educated neighbors
Responsibility	Help pay for the education of the youth
<b>Governments</b>	
Cost effective	High performing
Condensed	Entrepreneurial
<b>Alumni</b>	
Competitive aspect that students do well in athletics as well as academics	Pride is kept in the school and community
That students will know the classes above and below – relationships are created	Able to brag about the qualities of the school district
Alumni resources are tapped and the connections remain strong	Alumni volunteering in some aspect at the school is needed
Reflect on job opportunities in and surrounding community	Activities for alumni are here and planned to draw them back

## STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES and THREATS (SWOT Analysis)

The final activity of the Tuesday August 10 planning session had the Long Range Planning Committee do an internal and external scan (SWOT Analysis). The purpose of a SWOT analysis is to help clarify the conditions in which an organization exists. . A SWOT analysis provides valuable clues about which direction an organization may want to explore in strategic planning. An organization wants to build on their strengths and take advantage of opportunities, while it overcomes or minimizes the effects of weaknesses and threats.

The SWOT Activity for Long Range Planning committee had members walking around the room and writing down their thoughts on four big sheets of paper that were labeled with *strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats*. The following is the compilations of the SWOT Analysis. The first table (table 7) is the Strengths and Weaknesses which is a look at the internal functioning's of Pecatonica School District and the second table (table) is the Opportunities and Threats which is a look at the external environment affecting the Pecatonica School District.

*Table 7. Strengths and Weaknesses (an internal scan of the Pecatonica School District)*

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Small class sizes</p> <p>Students can get involved in many clubs and organizations</p> <p>Individualized attention</p> <p>Safe and caring environment</p> <p>Lots of community and staff involvement</p> <p>Prepared for the future</p> <p>High level of ownership</p> <p>Looking to improve the district – not complacent</p> <p>Alumni are doing incredible things</p> <p>Open door feeling from parents</p> <p>Multi-generational connections here</p> <p>Teachers and staff really know the kids and their families</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>Location to metro area</p> <p>Great community and a great place to live</p> <p>Positive relationships</p> <p>Small number of families with great wealth or great poverty</p>	<p>Small size and declining enrollment</p> <p>Lack enriched variety in curriculum (i.e. electives)</p> <p>Economic status due to tax base</p> <p>Disproportional non-parental and retired population</p> <p>Lacking technology</p> <p>Test scores</p> <p>Not much parental involvement</p> <p>Lacking organized internship program</p> <p>Misplaced priorities</p> <p>Attitude that we don't deserve the best</p> <p>Most workers leave the community for their daily jobs</p> <p>No after school child care here</p> <p>Lack of funding for the fundraising opportunities here</p>

*Table 8. Opportunities and Threats (external scan of Pecatonica School District)*

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Grants</p> <p>Participation in activities</p> <p>Adult education</p> <p>Changing community</p> <p>Using the community with education</p> <p>Community volunteer opportunities</p> <p>Connecting with secondary education with other school districts</p> <p>Job shadowing</p> <p>Field trips</p> <p>Hands on opportunities</p> <p>Open up school facilities for more community usage (the shop, gym, weight room, meeting facilities, computer lab)</p> <p>Social aspects of school activities</p> <p>Opportunities for education from tech colleges</p> <p>Educate the tax payer</p>	<p>State funding</p> <p>Declining enrollment</p> <p>Opting out</p> <p>Tradition</p> <p>Referendums</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Lack of local jobs</p> <p>Working lands initiative</p> <p>Unfunded government mandates</p> <p>Declining local population</p> <p>Increased expectations to funding (NCLB)</p> <p>Facility upkeep</p> <p>Apathetic population</p> <p>Government</p> <p>Lack of quality educators</p> <p>School closings</p> <p>Youth leaving the rural areas</p> <p>Rumor mongering</p> <p>Natural disasters</p> <p>Speed of technology</p> <p>Drug use and abuse</p> <p>Crime and gangs</p> <p>Consolidation</p> <p>Lack of housing development - subdivisions</p>

**Organizational Mandates:**

Mandates are defined as those things that the organization is required to do (or not to do) by external authorities. Such mandates are usually found in laws, ordinances, and articles of incorporation. Informal mandates may be assumptions and have historical roots in nature. The following table lists the formal and informal mandates of the Pecatonica School District identified by the Long Range Planning Committee.

<i>Formal Mandates of the Pecatonica School District</i>	
Develop students to be productive and successful citizens	Every student graduates from High School
That Pecatonica School District meets all the State and Federal educational guidelines	Provide and deliver high quality education to every child in our district
<i>Informal Mandates of the Pecatonica School District</i>	
Treat every student equally with equal opportunities for all	Provide a safe and supportive environment for students
Secure community support for the school	Provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills
Provide a wide variety of extra curricular opportunities sponsored by the school	Work closely with parents and guardians
Keep pace with the changing world	Have the technology on hand that is current with the needs of the district
That the school is safe and a place where youth can come and feel comfortable	Every once in a while an athletic team goes to state.

## IDENTIFICATION of STRATEGIC ISSUES

The Long range Planning Committee was asked to consider everything that had been brainstormed. Their personal values for the school district, the mission and vision statements and the brainstorm of purposes, the stakeholder analysis, the criteria that the key stakeholders will use to judge success of the organization and the SWOT Analysis of the Pecatonica School District. The LRP was asked to list as many critical issues facing the Pecatonica School District in the next five years as they could. These were placed on sticky pads and collated. These collated sticky note pads were then organized by topic and re-phrased into question. The following issue statements were discussed that evening and ranked by order of importance.

How does the Pecatonica School District better market ourselves as successful school district, attract new students and ultimately increase enrollment? (13 votes)

How can Pecatonica School District improve the student test scores district wide?

*(Note this issue added and paced as the second most important at the planning meeting on September 13, 2010. The group agreed that this needed to be addresses so that success can be achieved on the other issues, specifically marketing).*

How can the Pecatonica School District creatively expand the existing curriculum to offer more opportunities for students and stay within the current budget? (11 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District more effectively explore opportunities to share resources with neighboring school districts and communicate the highlights of this cooperation with Pecatonica residents? (8 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District better engage the Pecatonica area community with the school district? (7 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District better communicate to the Pecatonica area residents the academic measurement of student success? (6 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District successfully plan for future physical plant needs? (6 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District better understand why students open enroll out of the Pecatonica School District and what strategies do we need to keep our students here at Pecatonica? (4 votes)

How can the Pecatonica School District work to convince and motivate policy makers to change the school funding formula? (4 votes)

*The entire planning committee agrees to meet approximately six months from the start of this process to assess how the planning process is proceeding.*

*#1. How does the Pecatonica School District better market ourselves as successful school district, attract new students and ultimately increase enrollment?*

*Initial Team members:*

Jaci Gilbertson

Kaye Gilbertson

Carol Gruner

Ricky Rolfsmeyer

Dick Jaeger

Mary Massey

Desired End State:

Increase enrollment

Action Steps

Short term

Start data collection and review

Meet with school district about student involvement with web site development

Coordinate efforts to develop effective communication plans and publications

Gather info and ideas from the community

Create newspaper articles on Alumni (as many publications as we can)

Develop a website that markets to the community and abroad about how Pecatonica can compete

Create opportunities for students to participate by telling their own positive experiences

Develop banners and signs supporting the school/ announcing our wonderful school district

Continue collecting information

Hire a marketing consultant/advisor

Increase enrollment is a goal

Develop a newsletter and have it sent out electronically and set out at businesses

Send hard copy out to all property owners

Recognize teachers in newsletter

Student achievements in newsletter

College graduation announcements

Links to local websites



## Group 1, Marketing

Members: Kaye Gilbertson, Rick Rolfsmeyer, Jaci Gilbertson, Carol Gruner, Dick Jaeger

Major components –

- Website and Newsletter

- Presenting plan to Pecatonica Community

- PR Consultant

- “Other” PR (e.g., banners celebrating success)

Next three months

- Newsletter

- Develop outlines/templates

- Chart possible content sources (e.g., elementary parent newsletter stuff already produced)

- Who puts it all together? Talk to admin about assigning staff time to this.

- Develop budget

Get mailing addresses for all PEC district residents (voting records?)

Make sure PEC still has non-profit or bulk mailing permit

Estimate copying costs

- Work w/teachers to assess possibility of student involvement – Fall, 2011

- Website

- Each group member IDs 5 school websites they like/dislike (include reasons)

- Research sites where students are involved

- Develop list of recommendations for PEC website

- Assess whether student involvement could occur – probably fall semester of 2011

- Check feasibility of hiring website work out – contractor

- Presenting the Plan to the Community

- Article in PEC Leader

Ricky drafts first go at it and sends to group for edits and finalization

Have copies of the Plan available for public to take: Banks, @ school, grocery stores

Make display and have it at concerts, PT conferences, ball games and other events at school

- Consultant

- Do some research on where schools have used PR consultants, for what, and how effective it was

- Look into pro bono – any such folks living in our district? Can UW-Platteville help?

Next meeting: November 8, 3:30 PM at the Elementary School

<b>#2. How can Pecatonica School District improve the student test scores district wide?</b>
<i>Initial Team members:</i> Gary Neis Ron Linder Irene Middlemas Patty McGowan Steve Cary Steve Demler
Desired End State: Improve test scores – raise them
Action Steps Short term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review past three years of scores (August 2010)</li> <li>Review test technology (August 2010)</li> <li>Review DPI WINNS sight on the web</li> <li>Maps testing for comparison</li> <li>Look at the sequencing of curriculum – core standards (2010-2012)</li> <li>Share our information with community and school community</li> <li>Revise our curriculum where needed (2010-2012)</li> <li>Celebrate our successes</li> <li>Create leadership committee to explore other school successes and testing</li> <li>Look at comparable schools</li> <li>Reach out to parents and have them help in the preparation for the testing</li> </ul>

**Action Steps** – Major components  
 WKCE Test prep for students and testing in November  
 Three MAPS training at CESA 3 (6 Staff members)  
 Sharing CESA training with the rest of the PEC staff  
 MAPS testing in January  
 Prepare students for the ACT

February – July  
 Share MAP and WKCE information with parents  
 Curriculum adjustment  
 ACT prep classes offered in curriculum  
 Common core standards  
 Hold conversations with other districts regarding the testing and curriculum

Next meeting November 29 at 5:30 – at the Grapevine

**#3. How can the Pecatonica School District creatively expand the existing curriculum so to offer more opportunities to students yet stay within the current budget?**

*Initial Team members:*

Christine Pieper Sather

Jill Gaskell

Cora Demler

Wyatt Massey

Jim Mueth

Desired End State:

Provide subject matter experts (SME) to conduct classes via in-person, onsite, skype, or local field trips

Action Steps

Short term

Identify SME's for each willing person willing to participate (start now)

Put article in the paper, search for online extra credit assignments for students (this year)

Medium Term

Explore technology we currently have and make sure it is usable (1-2 years)

Setting up appointments – calendar –

Develop lesson plans/SME's and technology

Long Term (5 years)

Follow through with technology

Continue changing new SME's

New technology

**Issue number 3 – Action Steps –**

Explore a relationship with a Technology company sponsoring skype software? Grants?

Explore the costs of being involved with a virtual school without actually being a member of that district.

Add online courses and not necessarily AP courses.

Survey teachers and ask what do they see as missing - try to target needs, wants.

Co-op thru Skype to get more language classes – this is a need at Pec.

\*\* Cool tools for schools - that are free – supplements for existing classes – review these and document needs

Expand existing classes, not add more new classes

Talk to Albany about how they utilize Skype

Next Meeting December 15 at 6:00 -

**#4. How can the Pecatonica School District more effectively explore opportunities to share resources with neighboring school districts and communicate the highlights of this cooperation with Pecatonica residents?**

*Initial Team members:*

Chuck Meyer

Roy Ruegsegger

Jennifer Wetteland

Aaron Lancaster

Desired End State: cooperation with schools

Action Steps

Short term

What interests do surrounding school districts have?

Make contacts with surrounding districts

What needs do they have as well as us

Medium Term

Joint board discussions

Joint staff discussion

Long Term

Joint programs

Increase in opportunities for students

**Action steps –**

1. Contact the surrounding schools and ask about their needs, and interests
  - a. Argyle
  - b. Barneveld
  - c. New Glarus
  - d. Darlington
  - e. Montello
  - f. Mineral Point

Look at RECESS a program thru UW-Madison

Survey these schools and find out what they may need/want/desire etc.

Hold face to face discussions with these schools

Report results back to the board

Develop a list of needs and interest that we have at Pecatonica School district. Discuss and create a list of what we can offer other schools

Develop a survey.

- a. Analyze survey results
- b. Target one program to implement for the 2011-12 year. – make this doable. Ultimately how can we make this work – transportation? Scheduling? Staffing?

Next meeting not yet scheduled – but will cover the start of identifying our needs and wants. Start the development of a survey.

## Appendix 1

On February 8 and 22 the communities making up the Pecatonica School District held two community Visioning Sessions regarding the future of the Pecatonica School District. The first meeting was held at the Village Hall in Hollandale, the second meeting was held at the Municipal Library in Blanchardville.

The following tables highlight the visioning discussion. The same agenda was used for the each session (see the last page). Also documents were made available highlighting the results of the community survey which was available both on the Internet and in paper format. A document highlighting the findings of the consolidation study done by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance was also made available.

**Table 1. What you like most about the Pecatonica School District?**

What is it you like <i>the most</i> about the Pecatonica School District?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like communication give to parent from school - good pipeline.</li> <li>• Kids don't get lost; teachers know kids, know the families</li> <li>• Go to athletic events &amp; know our Pec kids</li> <li>• Like knowing our teachers &amp; they know us</li> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Our school district - community has something to do with it.</li> <li>• School in both villages</li> <li>• Like the diversity</li> </ul> <p>See youth excelling in lots of things</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general I like our teachers</li> <li>• Like it small</li> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Coming from a nearby school I like our functional buildings</li> <li>• Community really supports education here</li> <li>• Like our extra curricular the arts, the drama and theatre</li> <li>• I liked it that our Problem Solver Club received national attention</li> </ul>

**Table 2. What is *special* and *unique* about the Pecatonica District?**

What is <i>special</i> and <i>unique</i> about the Pecatonica District?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Square miles big for # of students - big area to cover</li> <li>• Largest employer in the district is the school district</li> <li>• Agriculture community is changing - vs. city/urban district</li> <li>• Our pride is special</li> <li>• Homecoming unique</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive atmosphere</li> <li>• People are astounded when they hear what our teachers do</li> <li>• School is close knit and is really a community in and of itself</li> <li>• Very high in per capita of special needs students</li> </ul>

**Table 3. In your opinion what is important to preserve at the Pecatonica District?**

In your opinion what is important to <i>preserve</i> at the Pecatonica District?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve the district</li> <li>• Preserve the quality of education</li> <li>• Athletics &amp; extra curricular are important (music, theatre, forensics, all of them)</li> <li>• Attitude that kids are the “top” priority</li> <li>• Trust - that students are being mentored</li> <li>• Trust that teachers &amp; staff have support of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Teachers continue to prepare for each individual child and teach to the level of the child</li> <li>• Quality education is received here</li> <li>• Keep all extra-curricular activities – sports, theatre, music, drama etc.</li> <li>• That all students, because of our size have the opportunity to go out for extra-curricular activities</li> <li>• Preserve as many offerings as possible</li> <li>• Keep refining the curriculum</li> <li>• Homecoming in both communities</li> <li>• Preserve the attitude that “<i>kids come first</i>”</li> <li>• Continue to work hard.....a lot of hard work is needed here</li> </ul>

**Table 4. Looking to the future what are some of the biggest challenges facing the district?**

Looking to the <i>future</i> what are some of the biggest challenges facing the district?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trying to maintain staffing in an era of declining enrollments</li> <li>• Justifying the \$’s spending in declining enrollments to tax payers.</li> <li>• How to engage more participation from community</li> <li>• Economy - reality of people losing jobs</li> <li>• Keeping students in the district</li> <li>• Trying to keep with neighboring school districts - offer the same as other districts</li> <li>• Marketing our assets</li> <li>• Increasing changes in what students need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting referendums passed if we need them</li> <li>• Getting the Wisconsin Legislature to change and understand the issues</li> <li>• Worried about the continual rising property taxes</li> <li>• Predicting the school populations – if we consolidate will this meet the needs?</li> <li>• Keeping an open mind to new ideas and new things to try</li> <li>• On-line schooling and open enrollment-challenge is to keep our kids here</li> <li>• Maintaining quality programs on limited budgetary resources</li> </ul>

**Table 5. What should the district do to meet those future challenges?**

What should the district do to meet those <i>future</i> challenges?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore consolidation</li> <li>• Alternative route to program offerings</li> <li>• Share teachers</li> <li>• Hire &amp; keep quality employees</li> <li>• Learn from home school families...why</li> <li>• Also open enroll families</li> <li>• Market the district</li> <li>• Market as Pecatonica Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light a fire under people here in the community so they know what is going on</li> <li>• Storm the Capitol</li> <li>• Ask community members if they are willing to donate money to the schools budget shortfall</li> <li>• Look at sharing teachers with other districts – this could open up even more opportunities for curriculum expansion</li> <li>• Look at creative ways to finance activities – i.e. look at a year round pass of \$25 for senior citizens for games etc.</li> <li>• Explore a wage freeze</li> </ul>

**Table 6. In your view how would a future, successful consolidation appear?**

In your view how would a future, successful consolidation appear?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding current programs</li> <li>• More movement of staff - not student</li> <li>• Not longer bus rides for younger students</li> <li>• Bldg consolidation - one of the buildings will not be used</li> <li>• Don't lose id - maintain it</li> <li>• Perhaps don't have one</li> <li>• Let's look and maybe redefine what consolidation is</li> <li>• May have to look at dissolving</li> <li>• Building a new community</li> <li>• More efficient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at other options besides Argyle</li> <li>• Two schools instead of three</li> <li>• Meet educational needs of the students</li> <li>• Provide long term financial gain...is it worth it to consolidate?</li> <li>• A radical approach might be to promote having one High School in Lafayette County – county wide district</li> <li>• Share teaches with other school districts</li> <li>• Look at virtual schools</li> </ul>

**Table 7. In your opinion what will be elements of the best possible Pecatonica School district in 2015?**

In your opinion what will be elements of the best possible Pecatonica School district in 2015?	
Hollandale	Blanchardville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High student achievement</li> <li>• Prosperous family farms</li> <li>• Sound education programs</li> <li>• Healthy communities - attracting &amp; developing business</li> <li>• Tax structure that our community would benefit from</li> <li>• Kids first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still have a District – consolidated or not</li> <li>• Still preparing students for their life ahead</li> <li>• Have at least what we have now – a perfect school will have quality school trips, labs, field trips</li> </ul>

## Pecatonica School District Visioning Outreach Meeting

Monday February 22, 2010  
Blanchardville Library Meeting Room

### Agenda

Introduction – Gary Neis, Superintendent Pecatonica School District

Public Participation and Ground Rules – Paul Ohlrogge, UW-Extension, Iowa County

Visioning Activity of what a successful Pecatonica School District will look

- What is it you like *the most* about the Pecatonica School District?
- What is *special* and *unique* about the Pecatonica District?
- In your opinion what is important to *preserve* at the Pecatonica District?
- Looking to the *future* what are some of the biggest challenges facing the district?
- What should the district do to meet those *future* challenges?
- In your view how would a *future*, successful consolidation appear?
- In your opinion what will be elements of the best possible Pecatonica School district in 2015?

4. Closing comments – future planning efforts