The State of Education

Successes and Challenges

Steve Plank, Middleton High School

League of Women Voters, Madison - March 1, 2017
Middleton - Successes

Academics
- Niche.com - 2017 #1 High School in WI
- US News and World Report - 2014 #1 High School in WI
- 24.0 Composite ACT

Arts
- Music, Visual Art, and Theatre
- Quality that is often recognized at the state and national level
- Rivals many small college programs

Activities / Athletics
- 28 Sports / 82 Teams
- 71 Clubs
- Student involvement last year
  - 1684 involved with a 3.35 GPA
  - 369 not involved with a 2.65 GPA

AP - Last Year
- 563 students took 1,030 AP exams in 29 areas
- 76% of those resulted in a score of 3 or higher
- MHS had 174 AP Scholars: 98 Scholars, 45 with Honor, 31 with Distinction and 2 National AP Scholars
Middleton - Challenges

- Changing Children
  - Poverty
  - Diversity
  - Enrollment
  - Mental Health
- Changing Generational Needs
  - Information is Free
  - Creativity
- Changing Political Environment
  - Fear
  - Privatization
  - Funding
Changes to Graduation Requirements
Little impact as many schools have requirements that far exceed the state requirements.

MHS Graduation Requirements 23.75 Credits

- English – 4 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Physical Education – 1.5 credits
- Health - 0.5 credits
- Financial Literacy – 0.5 credit
- ELECTIVES / 6 – 8 credits

- Additional Credit Requirements / 2- 4 credits (Option A or B)
  - Option A:
    - Fine Arts - 1 credit; CTE – 1 credit
  - Option B:
    - World Language – Level III Proficiency (1- 3 credits); Fine Arts - 0.5 credit; CTE - 0.5 credit
- Advisory – 0.25 credits
- 40 Hours of Service Learning
Considerations When Looking Ahead...

- **Teacher Shortages & Teacher Licensing - Currently Proposed in Governor’s Budget**
  - Lifetime teaching licenses vs. Five year renewal and / or Professional Development Plan (PDP)
  - Rural areas are struggling the most
  - Questions about ongoing training and specialization
  - OR - Consolidated licenses: Ex. Chemistry, Biology, Physics

- **Addressing Equity and Racial Disparities**

- **Police Officers in Schools - Our relationship with Middleton PD**
Detail from Dept. of Public Instruction

- School Finance
- Mental Health
- Student Diversity
- Poverty Trends
- Enrollment Trends
School Finance

Revenue Limits & Per-Pupil Aid

*Change* in Per-Pupil Revenue Over Time


Children’s Mental Health Challenge

1 in 5 kids have a mental health issue
That’s about 174,000 Wisconsin school-age kids; around 95,000 have serious mental health issues

Most kids will go untreated
Around 80% of students will go untreated

Of kids that get treatment, 3/4th received it at school

Data from CDC, Perou et al., 2013
28% of Wisconsin’s public school population identified as students of color. (2013 U.S. Census)

Nearly 90% of African Americans live in 6 counties (Milwaukee, Dane, Racine, Kenosha, Rock, and Waukesha).
Poverty is Growing in Wisconsin
Change in Free & Reduced Lunch (2001-2012)

Wisconsin FRL Rate Doubles
2001: 21%
2012: 43%

In many rural districts, more than half the students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch.

Students are in Fewer Districts
Change Student Membership (2001-2012)

In 2001, 1/3rd of districts were in declining enrollment.

By 2012, over 2/3rds districts were in declining enrollment.

Today, 75% of our students are located in just 30% of our districts.

Rural Districts:
Fewer Kids & Greater Poverty

Change in Enrollment

Change in Poverty
Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice, and discipline.

- Jim Collins
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