



Addendum of Clarification on Learner Centered

In response to concerns raised by community members, both Superintendent John Ramos and President Baker of the Board of Education asked that the committee clarify the spirit and intent of the discussions which led to the strategic direction documents, in particular concerning the phrase “learner-centered.”

One committee member even went so far as to publish an article, “what learner-centered means to me,” <<http://educationetc.org/scottstornetta/2016/02/15/what-learner-centered-means-to-me/>> which became something of a focus for community discussion. This article was intended as simply an individual perspective on the committee’s discussions and not an official view. However, it does, generally speaking, reflect the flavor of our discussions. In particular, three themes emerge which accurately reflect the committee’s emphasis, and which we hope will be helpful in guiding the implementations of the action committees:

1. We emphasize the benefits of implementing an individualized approach to student learning that personalizes instructional pace based on assessment of discipline-specific mastery. We will increase curricular offerings and opportunities to guide students in finding their personal passions.
2. We recognize that teachers must be supported to implement a growing toolkit of balanced instructional strategies and assessment options within each discipline to meet the individual needs of the whole child. This toolkit will build upon current best practices. We did not endorse one instructional strategy or assessment option over another.
3. We acknowledge the need to pilot programs, grown out of documented student success, to reach and serve a greater number of students. We will incrementally expand only programs which demonstrate that they:
 - maintain existing excellence,
 - elevate the achievement of additional students, and
 - are both sustainable and affordable for teachers and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Borello, William Gaudelli, Nina Kambili, Marisa Stoessel, Scott Stornetta

(AnneMarie Maini, while not a member of the sub-committee, acted as a liaison to the Board of Ed and Dr. Ramos)