

2007

Dysart Unified School
District #89

New Century Learner
Advisory Committee



NEW CENTURY LEARNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

An overview of the process and recommendations for incorporating new century skills into the educational experience of all Dysart Unified School District students.

New Century Learner Advisory Team Overview

The Dysart Unified School District Governing Board established a mission statement and goals focused on increasing in excellence. The goal areas identified are rigor, relevance, relationship and reflection. Dysart is dedicated to going beyond providing preschool through grade 12 students with just the educational basics. The Dysart District must prepare students for the challenges and the opportunities of the 21st Century. Increasing in excellence requires working collaboratively with all stakeholders and actively involving parents and community members as partners. To accomplish this task a Dysart New Century Learner Initiative was planned and implemented at the start of the 2007-08 school year.

This NCL Initiative process was designed to generate a description of the Dysart graduate who is fully prepared to take on the challenges and reap the rewards of being a citizen of the new century. The New Century Learner (NCL) Initiative established an advisory committee of business and community leaders, government leaders, representatives from higher education, parents, students, teachers, administrators and staff tasked with researching and analyzing information about what skills are needed to prepare students for success in the 21st century. In addition, through a series of stakeholders' meetings at the local campus level, at department levels and with a community forum, input on this critical topic was gathered that contributed to the work of the NCL Advisory group.

The NCL Advisory Committee acted as umbrella group. The committee funneled research and information resulting in a framework of skills to be incorporated into the Dysart educational system through the strategic planning process.

The following objectives were set forth and accomplished by the Dysart New Century Learner Advisory Committee:

- To create a dialogue among stakeholders about the importance of 21st century skills.
- To develop a shared understanding of where the district is currently with bringing 21st century skills into the educational system.
- To articulate the new century skills that must be a part of the system.
- To create a report to be utilized for strategic planning.

The remainder of this document provides a final report of the process and the recommendations of the New Century Learner Advisory Team. This work would not be possible without the dedicated members of the NCL Advisory Committee. In addition, credit must be given to the administration and staff at the campuses and departments across the Dysart District who contributed to the work of the New Century Learner Initiative. Finally, the Dysart Governing Board Members must be applauded for their vision and support of this critical process.



Advisory Team Members

- Todd Aakhus, Higher Education
- Evan Allred, Administrator
- Diana Bass, Parent
- Filmore Bender, Civic Leader
- Jeanne Blackman, Business
- Daniel Bruner, Student
- April Castillo, Teacher
- Dr. Spencer, Government
- Alejandro Esquivias, Student
- Doris Flax, Education
- Nikki Frye, Teacher
- Stephanie Garnes, Community
- Ed Galindo, Teacher
- Tim Gallen, Community
- John Hagen, Government
- Ray Hayes, Community
- Megan Hays, Student
- Manuel Hernandez, Former Student
- Dr. Teddy Irvine, Administrator
- Shelly Isai, Teacher
- Dr. George Jeffers, Higher Education
- David Lewis, Business
- Dr. Anne Lin, Higher Education
- Collean Lufkin, Staff
- Judge Joseph W. Malka, Community
- Anthony Napodano, Administrator
- James Rumpeltes, Government
- Lyn Truitt, Civic Leader
- Brian Kennedy, Business

Facilitators

- Dr. Tammy Hall, Principal
- Ken Hicks, Director of Finance
- Dr. Gail Pletnick, Superintendent
- Dr. Quinn Kellis, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Cyndi Miller, Assistant Superintendent
- Lynn Montanya - Munier, Executive Director of Human Resources and Legal Council
- Scott Thompson, Executive Director of Business Services

Governing Board Members

- Mr. Charles Otterman
- Ms. Bridget Pauletich-Otterman
- Ms. Christine A. K. Pritchard

Sessions

The sessions planned for the New Century Learner Initiative were interactive, engaging and resulted in compelling conversation between informed stakeholders. Each session built and expanded on the previous sessions culminating in a powerful framework that will be a major data element for strategic planning in the Dysart Unified School District. The information below provides an overview of each New Century Learner Advisory Committee meeting with additional information available online at <http://dysart.org/ncl/index.html>. The online information contains video summaries of each session. In addition, the report appendix contains documents that summarize key data points from the sessions.

Session 1: Planning the Future: External and Internal Information

Date: August 29, 2007 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Dysart Learning Center, Board Room

Presenters:

The Global Perspective

Mary J. Cullinane, Director US Partners in Learning
Microsoft Corporation

The Arizona Perspective

Ms. Debra Raeder, Executive Director
Governor's P-20 Council

The Dysart Perspective

Dr. Quinn Kellis, Parent and Assistant Superintendent
Dysart Unified School District

Outcome: Understand the needs of the new century learner from the global, state, and local perspectives

Session 2: Reflection and Consensus

Dates: September. 19, 2007 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Facilitated Activities

Outcomes: Shared understandings of new century skills based on readings and dialogue

Session 3: Evaluate Current Practices

Dates: October 17, 2007 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Facilitated Activities

Outcomes: Determine the current status of the district as it relates to developing new century learning skills

Session 4: Analyze, Synthesize and Recommend

Dates: November 7, 2007 6:00PM -8:00 PM

Facilitated Activities

Outcome: The research, information and discussions from the NCL Advisor Team sessions will be analyzed and synthesized by the group to produce a final report that includes a recommended framework of 21st century skills to be incorporated into the teaching and learning experience of all Dysart students

Sessions were held at Dysart schools and in departments to provide an opportunity to share information on the New Century Learner Initiative. Input gathered at these meetings was incorporated into the final session of the Advisory Team. These meetings included:

Ashton Ranch	October 30, 2007	Sonoran Heights	October 23, 2007
Canyon Ridge	October 23, 2007	Sundown Mountain	October 12, 2007
Cimarron Springs	October 1, 2007	Sunset Hills	October 16, 2007
Countryside	September 20, 2007 and October 1, 2007	Surprise	September 27, 2007
Dysart	October 29, 2007	Thompson Ranch	October 11, 2007
Dysart High	October 17, 2007	Valley Vista High	October 30, 2007
El Mirage	October 18, 2007	Western Peaks	November 18, 2007
Luke Elementary	October 18, 2007	West Point	September 17 & 24, 2007
Marley Park	October 4, 2007	Willow Canyon High	October 22, 2007
Mountain View	October 2 & 31, 2007	Educational Services	October 22, 2007
Parkview	October 18, 2007	Human Resources	October 15, 2007

Resources and References

Speakers

Mary J. Cullinane, Director US Partners in Learning, Microsoft Corporation
Ms. Debra Raeder, Executive Director Governor's P-20 Council
Dr. Quinn Kellis, Parent and Assistant Superintendent, Dysart Unified School District

Articles

Governor's P-20 Council. (2006) "P-20 Council Education Recommendations and Work Plans". <http://www.governor.state.az.us/P20/>
Hirth, Marilyn A. (2007) "Twenty Years and Beyond . . . Applying Futurist Ideas to School Growth and Expansion". School Business Affairs.
Levine, Mel. (2007), "The Essential Cognitive Backpack". Educational Leadership 64(7): 16-22.
Metiri Group.(2003) "Twenty-First Century Skills". <http://ncrel.engage.org>
Partnership for 21st Century Skills. (2007) "Framework for 21st Century Learning". www.21stcenturyskills.org
Salpeter, Judy. (2003) "21st Century Skills: Will Our Students Be Prepared?". techLEARNING
<http://www.techlearning.com/showArticle.php?articleID=15202090>
Casner-Lotto, Jill and Barrington, Linda. (2006) "Are They Really Ready For Work?" Conference Board BED-06-Workforc
<http://www.conference-board.org>.
Stewart, Vivien. (2007) "Becoming Citizens of the World". Educational Leadership 64(7): 8-14.

NEW CENTURY LEARNER INITIATIVE

Recommendations for Framework of the Dysart New Century Learner Skills

Governing Board Goals	Dysart New Century Learner Skills
Rigor	<p>Core Subjects Core subjects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English, reading or language arts• World languages• Arts• Mathematics• Economics• Science• Geography• History• Government and Civics <p>Entrepreneurial Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core knowledge mastery – with emphasis on math and science• Acute knowledge of health literacy• “Renaissance” thinker access to liberal arts education• Ability to make connections among and between disciplines and real-world experiences• Critical thinker who can solve problems <p>Global Awareness (Collaboration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work collaboratively with individuals representing diverse cultures• Global citizenship with local/national participation• Flexibility and adaptability to navigate through the ever-changing social boundaries• Appreciation and mutual respect for other cultures• Understand what it means to be a citizen of the world and to act ethically

Governing Board Goals	Dysart New Century Learner Skills
<h1>Relevance</h1>	<p>Critical Thinking and Problem Solving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercising sound reasoning in understanding • Making complex choices and decisions • Understanding the interconnections among systems • Identifying and asking significant questions that clarify various points of view and lead to better solutions • Framing, analyzing and synthesizing information in order to solve problems and answer questions • Process driven and collaborative in creative and innovative work. • Inductive and deductive logic • Independent, creative, critical, collaborative thinker • Understanding the interconnections among experiences and systems • Real life application of skills • Critical thinkers who can frame, analyzing and synthesize information in order to solve problems and answer questions. <p>Communication and Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively through speaking and writing • Demonstrating ability to work effectively with diverse teams • Outcomes driven collaboration • Lifelong learning (all members of the community) • Facilitation and presentation skills

Governing Board Goals	Dysart New Century Learner Skills
<h1>Relationships</h1>	<p>Personal Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work appropriately and productively with others • Define, prioritize and complete tasks without direct oversight • Flexibility & adaptability • Adapt to varied roles and responsibilities • Utilize time efficiently and managing workload <p>Social Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident/"Comfortable with one's self • Positive influence to others <p>Ethical Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instill core values • Demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior • Act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind • Demonstrate interpersonal skills using integrity, responsibility, diligence and positive work ethic <p>Initiative & Self-Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor one's own understanding and learning needs • Go beyond basic mastery of skills and/or curriculum to explore and expand one's own learning and opportunities to gain expertise • Demonstrate initiative to advance skill levels towards a professional level • Define, prioritize and complete tasks without direct oversight • Utilize time efficiently and managing workload • Demonstrate commitment to learning as a lifelong process • Be confident taking initiative and trying new things • Be responsible for one's own productivity and make contributions to the whole

Governing Board Goals	Dysart New Century Learner Skills
<h1>Reflection</h1>	<p>Information Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent thinking as well as thinking collaboratively • Life-long learners who continuously strive to improve themselves by using information accurately and creatively for the issue or problems at hand • Access, evaluate, and use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand • Possess a fundamental understanding of the ethical issues surrounding the access and use of information • Habit of obtaining 360 degree feedback from all levels for every person • Introspective (analyzing and synthesizing information) • Interpret, process and problem solve large amounts of information and adapt to changes

Appendix Contents

- Bibliographies of Presenters - Session 1
- MILE Survey Results
- Input Summaries - Dysart Schools and Departments
- Data Collection Summary - Sessions 2, 3 and 4