



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

January 2010

Dear Stafford Citizen,

On December 2, 2009, the SMSD Board of Trustees and the Stafford City Council unanimously approved my recommendation to enter into an agreement with Cambridge Strategic Services. Cambridge is charged with leading SMSD and the City of Stafford in a process designed to position SMSD and the City in a manner that addresses the many current and future education challenges SMSD is and will be facing. While it can be successfully argued that every year or point in time is critical for a school organization, it is my opinion that SMSD and the Stafford community is poised to greatly benefit from a comprehensive planning process at this time.

After consideration during Spring 2009, I asked that a small committee be established to assist in providing guidance in identifying the most appropriate process to follow as we look to the future of SMSD. After several months of meetings and lengthy discussions, we are now prepared to move forward with Cambridge Strategic Services.

The purpose of this communication is to let the citizens of Stafford know what is getting ready to occur and how you may play a role. There are many reasons why I believe it is important that SMSD participates in an exercise like this. A few of them are:

- The expectations of the world's marketplace, higher education, and the workforce is changing rapidly. SMSD, and public education, must make every attempt to adapt to these changes for our students and staff.
- SMSD must position itself for a continued transition of change with students and community members.
- We must take advantage of positive momentum occurring in SMSD.
- We must not continue with the same conceptual academic approach and expect different or improved results.
- A strong belief in SMSD and public education.

As we move forward with this important process, there are four matters of importance that I believe are important to the planning process meeting and exceeding my expectations.

- I. SMSD parents and students must be involved.
- II. Process must be a coordinated effort inclusive of general residential community and the commercial business community; SMSD belongs to the community and all with a stake in SMSD must have a voice.

- III. Process must be coordinated effort inclusive of SMSD and the City of Stafford.
- IV. Process must be facilitated by a quality, qualified outside set of eyes with a proven record of success. There is no question Cambridge Strategic Services meets that profile.

The process to imagine, design, and implement the future of SMSD will begin in early 2010 with a series of in-depth discussions on the future of SMSD. If you are interested in learning more about this exciting time at SMSD, please visit our website at www.staffordmsd.org.

