

A PLAN TO GET THINGS DONE

• *WILLOW LAKE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY WORK ON STRATEGIC PLAN*

For two days in October of 2013, school administrators, personnel, parents, community members, and students gave their time to a “Strategic Planning” session for the Willow Lake School.

“A lot of the community turned out for our strategic planning and everyone is going strong to get things done,” Willow Lake School Board President Caryl Schmidt said.

“It is an unbelievable event that so many have come together to discuss, plan and work for the betterment of not only the school, but for every single person in the community.”

More than 20 people participated in the meeting to analyze, discuss, and plan for the future of our school. The meeting was facilitated by Lance Witte, who is Superintendent of the Wessington Springs School District and also an associate with The Cambrian Group, which specializes in strategic planning for schools.

“Mr. Witte pointed out that a good Strategic Plan will put your school on the path of success, and will provide continuity and consistency that guides the direction of the school,” Willow Lake Superintendent Scott Klautt said.

“The Strategic Plan created through this process will be a five-year plan, with many check points on the progress to make sure it’s on track.”

Willow Lake’s strategic planning group identified the values and beliefs that will guide the school and drafted a new Mission Statement. They discussed in detail factors both within and outside of the school that could impact the future, addressing threats as well as opportunities.

From the discussion emerged four key strategies that will be focused on:

1. Technology,
2. Curriculum,
3. Facilities, and
4. Positive Characteristics.

Willow Lake will implement their strategic plan through “Action Plans,” for each of the four strategies identified.

“Action Teams” will be appointed to discuss the four key



strategies and will have co-leaders and team members. The teams will include community members who are matched to the teams according to their interests and talents.

A kick-off event was held in November of 2013 at the school for the public to hear more about the strategies identified in the two-day Strategic Planning meeting, and more about how the Action Plans & Teams will work.

“This has been a very positive process thus far, and much enthusiasm has been shown for the future of our school. The School looks forward to sharing this with the community at the November meeting.

