



May 21, 2024

**Dear Lafayette Parish School System Community,**

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our district's positive momentum. This past year, we celebrated literacy by recognizing our "Million Word Achievers" and providing support for all students to become the best readers they can be. We continued our focus on high school graduation, college preparation, and career readiness by offering dual enrollment, AP coursework, and industry-based credentials that set LPSS high schools apart from others in our region. We helped foster positive social-emotional outcomes for students by ensuring access to licensed school social workers across the district and by launching Wellness Wednesdays. We gave school leaders the autonomy and support to incentivize students, and we continued to prioritize a climate of safety on campuses during school and campus-based events.

At the same time, I have not shied away from highlighting the reality of the financial challenges we face as a district. Our initial response was to begin recommending certain actions regarding facilities. However, we soon realized that we needed to establish a broader process that included greater community engagement. We decided to pause and hire an independent firm experienced in this kind of work to properly engage the community, make an independent assessment, and ultimately provide recommendations on how to best optimize our district's resources.

At the School Board's request, we have hired a strategic planner—Civic Solutions Group (CSG), a firm with extensive education experience in Louisiana school districts—to conduct an independent, comprehensive evaluation of our district's schools, including our facilities, finances, transportation systems, and demographic and enrollment trends. The goal of this process—one that many school districts routinely utilize—is to ensure that we are effectively channeling taxpayer dollars into priority areas that meet the needs of students today.

This process cannot be successful without the robust engagement of our community—our students, families, staff, school leaders, and broader Lafayette partners. We are committed to ensuring that a wide variety of perspectives are heard and incorporated through the process. As an immediate next step, we are convening a Community Advisory Panel to provide targeted feedback —this panel will help inform our community engagement efforts, receive community feedback, and identify any gaps.



CSG will also be hosting multiple touchpoints for community engagement through a series of town hall meetings and community surveys:

- CSG will host their first round of town halls and surveys this summer for the community to provide input on priorities.
- This will be followed by a second round of town halls and surveys in the fall for the community to respond to CSG's initial set of recommendations.
- Following input from the community on these recommendations, CSG will then present their final recommendations to the School Board for consideration in late fall.
- Any resulting changes will then be implemented in a phased approach, beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the process, please contact [districtplanning@lpssonline.com](mailto:districtplanning@lpssonline.com). We will also launch a dedicated webpage next month to share regular updates with the community throughout this process.

Our mission as a school district remains the same—to provide excellent education to all students and develop productive citizens to compete in a global community. We remain grateful for your continued support and engagement.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Francis Touchet Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Francis Touchet Jr.  
Superintendent