

Message from Superintendent Slavensky
Spring 2017

When I arrived in Amador County USD in October, I had done a fair amount of research and reading about our schools and community. During the past 5-6 months, I have met so many talented and passionate people and have learned much more about our educational programs and efforts that make our schools good places to be. Echoing Jim Collins' words, in the spirit of moving "from good to great," I am so excited to be part of a place that I am certain will become one of the highest performing school districts in California! This will happen because together we care about our students, we are dedicated, and our students are ready and capable!

On February 20, 2017, researcher and author Dr. Mary Howard tweeted "We need aspirational discomfort to do BIG THINGS. We can't grow if we aren't willing to be UNcomfortable." To aspire means to reach high to achieve one's hopes, ambitions, and dreams. Sometimes, this is tough but almost always worth whatever it takes! I'd like to revisit the aspirational goals I shared with the Board of Trustees in October 2016 with you:

Our Aspirational Goals:

1. Demonstrate integrity, open communication and collaboration with a focus on "students first" in every discussion and decision.
2. Appreciate the history of our community while simultaneously pressing forward with courage to ensure our students achieve at high levels.
3. Practice and model a growth mindset, demonstrating transparency and learning through challenges.
4. Demonstrate passion and perseverance for long term goals, including risk taking and making approximations with a sense of hopefulness that we will reach our goals together.

A collective next step is to engage in the **Strategic Planning** process involving a broad-based stakeholder planning team. At two recent Board of Trustees meetings, the Board took action to approve a timeline and a Board subcommittee to be part of the process. **March 30-31, 2017** is scheduled for the initial stage in the process. More information will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support on behalf of all students.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools