

### **Part 3 – GROWING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Those who consider future search may wonder about the wisdom of widespread community involvement in school planning at the outset. Often they fear that “outsiders” will have too high expectations of the school district or else overstep their role. What has been found is that by opening the system through a future search, people better understand their role and find ways to contribute more fully and appropriately. The four chapters in this section highlight some partnerships and collaborations that followed these future searches.

Community partnerships among the school system and agencies, organizations, and citizens have fueled the schools as centers program that followed the North Platte, NE (chapter 6) future search. A community organization that coordinates and celebrates these services has garnered state, federal, and private grants to support these programs.

In Naperville, IL (chapter 7), parents and citizens have become true partners in the school district. A foundation was able to procure more monies to support teachers’ innovative ideas. Business mentorships for teachers have linked them to specialized knowledge and skills in their community. In addition to these and many other tangible outcomes, the intangibles of trust, empowerment, a network of stakeholders, increased leadership capacity, and ownership of outcomes have also been enhanced.

Both San Gabriel, CA (chapter 8) and Minneapolis, MN (chapter 9) used future search to develop ways to provide health services to students in response to research showing that students who are sick and hungry are unable to learn. San Gabriel’s community collaborative worked hard to receive a state grant to launch its “one-stop shop” that meets the health, mental health, and social needs of students and families. Now a clinic provides services for uninsured sick students, administering general checkups, immunizations, and sports physicals. Their “one-stop shop” partners with other agencies to provide after-school programs, language instruction, emergency food supplies, tutoring, pregnancy prevention, and services to pregnant teens and teen mothers.

In Minneapolis, MN (chapter 9), a partnership among public health providers, private health providers, and the school system now provides equity and access to quality health care for students. By including the private sector despite initial objections from some public sector providers, this strong partnership is able to meet the health needs of students, including primary care, immunizations, asthma treatments, and sports physicals, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. The creative infrastructure of this partnership sustains the vision, focus, and energy of this community effort.