

Accreditation, strategic plan move CV ahead into 2016-17

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily
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This year the Chippewa Valley Schools district is developing more new courses for restructuring the middle school curriculum for the 2017-18 school year, according to Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba. Photo courtesy of DIANE BLAIN



Seneca Middle School in Macomb Township piloted a robotics program for middle school students in the Chippewa Valley Schools district. This program will be implemented in all the district's middle schools in the coming school year according to Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba.

While students are sharpening pencils in anticipation of the upcoming school year, Chippewa Valley Schools is sharpening its focus with the recent approval of a strategic plan, middle school curriculum and accreditation.

On July 18, the Chippewa Valley Board of Education approved the goals of a strategic plan for the district after being originally unveiled to the school board on June 15, 2015. Chippewa Valley Superintendent Ron Roberts said that the strategic planning process has taken over a year and last year the goal areas were approved.

"The goal areas were broader in nature and not measurable. We went back and developed specific goals to work on related to the goal areas," Roberts said.

Although the strategic planning process took longer than was originally planned, Roberts felt the outcome was better.

“We kind of worked on a format of how everything looked when we wrote specific goals and then spent time and sent it back out to the strategic planning committee for what they thought of these particular specific goals. We got feedback from them,” Roberts said.

Minor changes were made based on the input and the plan was submitted to the board, according to Roberts.

“They were not changed a whole lot, some tweaking of the language here and there,” Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba said.

The strategic plan lists goal areas for curriculum and instruction, culture, technology and professional learning. Each goal is broken down into a specific list of smaller goals that the district will focus on to help them achieve the overall goals.

Also on July 18, the Chippewa Valley Board of Education approved robotics as a middle school exploratory class starting in the 2016-17 school year at a cost of \$20,375. This is part of the middle school restructuring plan for the district and has already been piloted for two years at Seneca Middle School in Macomb Township, according to Skiba.

This year the district is developing more new courses for restructuring the middle school curriculum for the 2017-18 school year, according to Skiba.

“It falls in line with strategic planning and the middle school restructuring plan,” Skiba said.

Chippewa Valley Schools was also approved for system wide accreditation by AdvancED in June, according to Roberts.

“What we’re doing now is examining the strategic plan and AdvancED and consolidating to make sure we address all of these in the most efficient way possible,” Roberts said.

AdvancED is a global accreditation service. The district is required by law to have a school improvement process model, and Chippewa Valley selected to use the model offered by AdvancED due to its consistency, Roberts stated.

In the past Chippewa Valley has gone through an accreditation process for individual buildings, according to Roberts. For this cycle, the district selected districtwide accreditation, which takes place every five years. The accreditation team visited all but four of the buildings in Chippewa Valley Schools.