



DARIN EPPERLY/DAILY NEWS

**MEMBERS OF** a dialogue group discuss trends facing education over the next 20 years during a session Wednesday night at the Norfolk City Council chambers.

## Groups seeking 'big jump forward'

By **KENT WARNEKE**

editor@norfolkdailynews.com

Students sat next to elected officials. Ethnic minorities were across from government representatives. Businessmen and women were intermixed throughout.

They came together this week to think and talk about the future — more specifically, Norfolk and Madison County's long-range future.

"We want to think beyond our immediate needs in order to ensure that the city is vibrant and strong 20 years from now," said Norm Jedlicka of Norfolk.

Jedlicka was one of the volunteer leaders of five different "dialogue groups" involving about 50 Norfolkans and Madison County residents. All five groups met for the first time this week as part of the Visioning 2026 project that is designed to help plan and prepare for a vibrant future.

At Wednesday night's dialogue group at the Norfolk City Council chambers, the focus was on education. Discussion ranged from technology and online learning to funding concerns and what makes for a desirable teacher-student relationship.

Other dialogue groups have focused on topics such as energy, wellness, the global economy, technology and generational issues and demographics.

All of the participants have been encouraged to go beyond looking for solutions to today's challenges.

"We're looking for a leap into something culturally different — a big jump forward," Jedlicka said.

—Please see **JUMP**, page 10

# Jump

Continued from Page 1—

The dialogue groups will meet again next week to help all the participants better understand the various trends that could have a future impact on Norfolk and Madison County.

The next step in the Visioning 2026 project is a symposium on Monday, Sept. 25, at the Johnny Carson Theatre featuring Marv Cetron, who has been described by U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation's foremost futurists.

He is the founder and president of Forecasting International and will be speaking at the 7 p.m. symposium, which is free and open to the public, as well as meeting with smaller groups while in Norfolk.

One of the next important steps in the process after the symposium is the formation of focus groups — involving dia-

logue group members and any others interested. The focus groups will build off the information already learned about future trends and come up with specific, tangible action plans to help Norfolk and Madison County plan for the future. Norfolkans and Madison County residents are invited to participate in the focus groups.

Members of the Leadership Norfolk program and its alumni group are spearheading the Visioning 2026 project. Other core partners are the Daily News, Madison County, Northeast Community College, Norfolk Public Schools and the City of Norfolk.

\*\*\*

### Want to learn more?

Those wanting more information about Visioning 2026, the upcoming symposium and how to sign up for a focus group can call the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce office at 371-4862.