

FRANKLIN SQUARE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN

Successful organizations plan. Very successful organizations approach this task methodically and collaboratively. In that spirit, the Franklin Square School District has established a Strategic Planning Committee composed of parents, teachers, administrators, and Trustees of the Board of Education. This committee has been asked to consider how the District can continue to meet the various needs of our students, our parents and our community at large and to suggest objectives that can be explored for completion by the school's administration.

The lists that follow contain objectives that can be categorized in one of three ways:

- 1) *Continuing Initiatives*: Items from the 2005 Strategic Plan that should be completed or continued.
- 2) *New Initiatives*: New items that should be completed soon such that the District can address contingent needs and build upon recent success.
- 3) *Contingent Initiatives*: Some items that are appropriate for our consideration; however, should be addressed as finances, community support and other factors will allow.

In an effort to assist the community in understanding these recommendations, we have prioritized these objectives according to the categories listed above. This prioritization is as important a consideration to this committee's report as the objectives themselves.

Adopted by the Board of Education: March 11, 2009

GOAL 1: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Continuing Initiatives

- Continue Curriculum Review Cycle in all instructional areas to address State learning standards: Science, Math, English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Social Studies

All reviews should explore connections to technology and the use of electronic textbooks and resources, whenever available.

- Continue to provide staff development to expand use of Differentiated Instruction. (DI)
- Formalize upper and lower grade class partnerships to enhance learning for both groups.
- Explore opportunities to provide enriched learning for all children, and provide specific recommendations to the Board of Education.

New Initiatives

- Develop opportunities for student presentation within the Art program, including but not limited to displays at public library, local businesses, local hospitals, senior centers and electronic displays.
- Enhance students' physical fitness by emphasizing aerobic exercise and by including information on nutrition in physical education classes as well as in the district's health and science curricula.
- Explore universal reading screening to help identify student weaknesses and improve reading instruction.
- Further develop the Inclusion model and train staff and parents as needed.

Contingent Initiatives

- Explore the possibility of a foreign language program for our students.
- Explore the possibility of an orchestra program for our students.
- Explore the potential for a Pre-Kindergarten program in our district
- Focus articulation efforts on the challenges associated with departmentalization, and develop strategies to assist students with this challenge.

GOAL 2: PUPIL SERVICES

Continuing Initiatives

- Expand previous discussions to investigate the need for a District social worker to address issues including diversity, family needs, attendance patterns and others.
- Build a support system for teachers and students to ease the transition to less restrictive environments. (mainstreaming)
- Continue to explore and refine traffic patterns at each school during drop-off and pick-up times; identify alternatives for reducing congestion, with the goal of increased safety for all.

New Initiatives

- Develop enhancements for student recess periods, including but not limited to, organized activities, the utilization of a proactive approach to solving student disputes, and sixth grade leadership.
- Empower students to be a part of the leadership at their schools.
- Continue charity based efforts, community service programs, and character education initiatives.
- Discuss and begin to implement other enrichment activities such as an enrichment component to Summer Recreation, a school operated after school enrichment program (perhaps in place of current vendor), Saturday enrichment activities, and the development of opportunities for students in areas such as theater, photography, robotics, journalism, animation and intramural sports. The committee felt strongly that all of these possibilities could be implemented only to the degree that they were self-sustaining or supported through alternative funding.

GOAL 3: MANAGEMENT

Continuing Initiatives

- Expand professional development opportunities for administrators.
- Create opportunities for strengthening the growth of a cohesive administrative team and district leadership team.
- Expand opportunities for community involvement in District activities.
- Further enhance District web site to include more parent/school communications and interactions.
- Continue to monitor and ensure the safety and security of District buildings.

New Initiatives

- Re-examine the concept of promoting the school district, particularly within the community.

GOAL 4: PERSONNEL

Continuing Initiatives

- Provide system of training all newly hired support staff.
- Hire or train staff to find and write grants, as well as to be in charge of public relations. Consider the possibility of assigned grant writing responsibilities.
- Continue the formation of extra-curricular clubs by providing incentives to teachers. (Publicize the contractual provisions for sponsoring clubs.)

New Initiatives

- Explore the concept of volunteer service, with an eye on utilizing such volunteers in roles like Kindergarten assistants and Inclusion classroom aides. If successful, this practice might be formalized in future years.
- Coordinate Human Resource Administration, considering the restructuring of positions and/or electronic solutions.

Contingent Initiatives

- To the degree finances and other considerations permit, explore the feasibility of a staff wellness and fitness initiative.
- Explore the role bus matrons would fulfill if assigned to every bus. Consider fiscal impact of such an addition.
- Consider additional Reading staff as student needs dictate and future budgets will allow.

GOAL 5: FACILITIES

Continuing Initiatives

- Develop a five-year plan for Capital Projects.
 1. Thoroughly test water systems. Explore the use of filtration systems.
 2. Explore the need for air conditioning. This will become more of an issue with continued increase of school building usage during the summer

- Develop a school beautification program relying upon student clubs and community volunteers.

New Initiatives

- Explore the degree to which the current District configuration and zoning meets the economic, social and educational needs of the District, and explore options that might enhance these aspects of the District's operations.
- Explore "Green" initiatives, particularly in the area of alternative energies and resource conservation.
- Explore the potential benefit of bringing the school lunch program "in- house" rather than rely on a vendor
- Consider enhancements to outdoor lighting in an effort to create an even safer environment.
- Expand use of security cameras.

Contingent Initiatives

- Explore electronic facilities management, keyless entry systems, HVAC solutions for common areas, and lighting enhancements.
- Explore use of outdoor learning environments.
- Research activities for daily living programs, including space availability and furnishing of same.
- Consider repair of all school parking lots.

GOAL 6: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Continuing Initiatives

- Develop school district projects to benefit the Franklin Square community.
- Provide more school district press releases about student and school successes.
- Consider Adopt-a-Class program with local businesses.
- Outreach to senior citizen groups: guest speakers, special student performances, Adopt-a-Kid tutorial program, noon hour story time, guest readers.
- Provide additional curriculum workshops and computer classes, including those targeted for community members.
- Utilize high school volunteers as tutors.

New Initiatives

- Expand Adult Program to include opportunities in aerobics, computer science, exercise, foreign languages, golf and parenting. The committee felt strongly that all of these possibilities could be implemented only to the degree that they were self-sustaining or supported through alternative funding.
- Build upon our articulation program to include components like homework buddies, peer mediation, anti-bullying, cyber-bullying and to allow community service opportunities for high school students to serve in the elementary district.
- Better use publications in the District, including the expansion of current ones, migration of those publications to on-line iterations, development of student publications and more complete use of web site in making all of these available to the public.
- Consider the presentation of concerts to senior citizen groups.

GOAL 7: TECHNOLOGY

New Initiatives

- To continue preparing our children to succeed in a 21st century learning environment that relies upon a variety of devices, platforms and programs.
- To enhance opportunities for students to use computers and to develop their skills in areas such as keyboarding, web site design and presentation platforms.
- To determine the need for a new file server and schedule its implementation before the current server loses all operability.
- Continue the expansion of computer labs; update and network as necessary.
- Continue the installation of Active Boards, establishing a multi-year goal to place one in every classroom.
- Train staff, as appropriate, in all technological innovations and initiatives.
- Research the availability of an updated, user friendly administrative program that includes e-mail and calendar functions.
- Consider the implementation of an automated phone system such as Connect Ed for use in mass notifications.
- Provide Distance Learning opportunities to allow students to collaborate, communicate and learn from other sources beyond the classroom.

GOAL 8: FINANCE

Continuing Initiatives

- Develop a District committee to explore the possibilities of non-traditional funding methods emphasizing revenue sources.
- Seek partnerships within the Franklin Square community.
- Continue to seek additional ways to communicate, involve and collaborate with the Franklin Square community on the development of the school budget.