



Hawthorne Public School District **Is Creating a New Three-Year Strategic Plan**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Hawthorne Public School District is to provide a safe and challenging learning environment that fosters a love of learning. In doing so, pupils shall be able to reach their maximum potential in accordance with their specific individual needs, abilities and talents. By providing meaningful experiences, Hawthorne students will develop heightened communication skills, acquire knowledge of citizenship and economic responsibility, make meaningful connections and function successfully as active participants in a complex, changing global world community.



The 3D Strategic Planning Process: Dream, Determination, and Destiny by Design

Session #2 of 3: What is our Vision for Hawthorne Public Schools?

On Wednesday, February 21, 2018, District Administration, staff, Board of Education members, parents and community members came together to continue strategic planning. The evening's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Hawthorne Public Schools. The meeting began with remarks from Board President Mike Sciarra and some words from Superintendent Richard Spirito, with a focus on school security. We then commenced the planning session with an overview of the first meeting. Next, we engaged in a visioning exercise: each of us imagined being away from the district and community for five years and coming back, only to find our schools on the cover of Time magazine, as a national example of "21st Century Success"! The group was asked to ponder, *what would you envision happening in the school system to make this happen? What would be the title of such an article, touting such astonishing success? What would be the key visions in the article—meaning, what would be the means the district would have used to make 21st-century success a reality?* Participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups to develop a shared vision.



After having received the instruction “NO LIMITS!”, small groups of participants brainstormed and shared ideas together. Each group identified their consensus points and then presented their work to the full group of meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all consensus points are recorded and posted on the web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Blue Dot Group

Title of Article: “Experience of Opportunities: To Infinity and Beyond”

Key Visions:

- 100% graduation rate
- Action taken on data gathered on individual students
- Individualized experiences (dual enrollment, service learning, job shadowing, etc.)
- Value academics as much as athletics
- More life skills/trade courses
- Broad course selection to meet graduation requirements
- Robust language program (including American Sign Language)
- Community partnerships
- Social/emotional learning embedded in school culture
- More planning time for staff, with collaboration between disciplines
- Air Conditioning!!
- Pool
- Gym
- Improved inclusion
- Survey graduates; gather information on effects of decisions.

Yellow Dot Group

Title of Article: “Hawthorne Schools: Creating Multiple Pathways to Success”

Key Visions:

- Positive integration of a population growing in numbers and diversity
- Continually building strong community and school bonds
- Empower students to take ownership of, and leadership role in, their education
- Put spotlight on STEAM problem-solving progress across curriculum
- Create cross-district teacher & student collaboration for consistent learning levels
- Highlight digital citizenship and information literacy K-12
- Growth of mental health and wellness.



Orange Dot Group

Title of Article: “Hawthorne School District Uses Old School Values with New Technology”

Key Visions:

- Utilizing technology effectively
- Preparing students for real-life challenges and situations.
- Compromising and working as a team.
- Preparing students to communicate verbally.
- Coping skills (success and failure), problem solving, and conflict resolution.
- Engagement in community.
- More opportunities to create new innovations (like Treps Market Place)
- Self-awareness, self confidence.
- Providing more border-less opportunities.
- Parent involvement/Awareness/Education/Accountability.

Red Dot Group

Title of Article: “It’s Not Just the Academics”

Key Visions:

- Updated facilities
- Later start for High School
- Recess—increased awareness for student needs (Brain Breaks)
- Continued focus on student wellness
- Additional staffing/support staff
- Vocational curriculum
- Additional World Languages
- Increase in safety
- Global exchange program
- Increase communication specifics
- App/website compatibility

Green Dot Group

Title of Article: “Building 21st-Century Learners & Beyond: Keeping the Momentum Going”

Key Visions:

- Literacy course—computing, coding
- Increased computer literacy—tech advisor, support and training for families
- Increased parent involvement



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- 1:1 District (Chromebooks + support + maintenance)
- Turf fields (+ all maintenance)
- Foreign language starting in K (full time)
- K-12 STEAM (+ coordinator + support + PD + support and training for families)
- Virtual academics and homework help
- Problem-based learning or IBL
- Increased PR
- Increased SLE experiences
job shadowing, career advisement
- Facility upgrades from desks
- Climate control / AC
- Increased student choice + freedom + input
Let them create!

From these outcomes, and the work from the first Strategic Planning session, we identified common “threads”, or themes, from which three goal areas for the new Strategic Plan emerged:

- **21st-Century and Life Skills**
- **Student Health & Wellness**
- **Teaching & Learning**

Other common themes of thought which were evident in the total outcomes of the previous work were **Technology** and, **a Global Vision**. These elements should inform all three of the above-listed goal areas next session, when we will be writing a **Goal Statement and the Objectives** for each of the above goal areas.

Our next, and final, Strategic Planning Session will be held on Monday, March 19, at 7pm in the New Cafeteria, Room 123, of the Hawthorne High School. (Inclement weather date Monday, March 26.) Participants will select the Goal Area they would like to explore.

We will be writing Goal Statements and Objectives to support the Goal Statements, which will be written into the new three-year Strategic Plan for the Hawthorne Public Schools.

Please attend with a friend!

We thank you for your commitment to this process and your good work.
