



Blairstown Elementary School District Is Creating a New Three-Year Strategic Plan

MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with home and community, Blairstown Elementary School is dedicated to the mission of providing an engaging and comprehensive education.

A passion for learning is ignited through an enriched learning environment. While celebrating individuality, our students develop confidence, competence, and character.

All students have the opportunity to achieve their highest potential on a quest of lifelong learning to succeed in a global, 21st century.

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

Session #2 of 3 : What is our Vision for Blairstown Elementary?

On Tuesday, February 20, 2018 Blairstown Elementary School 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 Blairstown Elementary School District. The meeting began with an overview of the first meeting. We then envisioned each of us being away from the district and community for five years and coming back, only to find our school 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 the title of such an article, touting such astonishing success, be? 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. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those 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.



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Blue & Green Dot Group

Article title: “BES Students Mentoring Tomorrow’s Leaders”

Key Visions:

1. Empowering students to make a difference in our global community through a greater awareness of the world.
2. Enhancing communication skills by using the written word and technology to create connections to other communities throughout our country and the world.
3. Using teachable moments of life to share experiences.
4. Create a sense of wonder and act upon it.
5. Fostering interdependence through exploration and student-led lessons.
6. Develop interpersonal skills.
7. Seeing diversity in our world by exploring careers.
8. Using authentic assessment to create ownership of knowledge and skills to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to solve real world problems through innovation and creativity.

Orange & Yellow Dot Group

Article title: “Full Circle Collaboration”

Key Visions:

1. Creating a nurturing/family-like environment.
2. Communication—Open with parents
 - Student class page
 - Syllabus
3. Preparing students for future expectations
4. A path for each student
5. Learning how to learn
6. Mentorship and collaboration
7. Proactive relationship-building for all
8. Content-driven conferences

Black & Red Dot Group

Article title: “From Evolution to Revolution”

Key Visions:

1. Small class size
2. Increased support staff
3. Developmentally appropriate curriculum that goes BEYOND the standards



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4. Perfect balance of technological/environmental interactive educational setting
5. No cost limit on class trips
6. Creation of an educational foundation as a financial support base.

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:

- **The Whole Child**
- **Teaching & Learning**
- **Citizenship**

Other common themes of thought which were evident in the previous work were ***Collaboration***, ***Connections***, and ***Mentorship***. These three 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 Tuesday, March 20, at 7pm in the Media Center of the Blairstown Elementary School. (Inclement weather date Tuesday, March 27.) 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 plan for the Blairstown Elementary School District.

Please attend with a friend!

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