

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Does Your School District Have a Plan?

In these uncertain times it is more important than ever to have a plan, preferably a strategic one that shows your community where the district is headed and how you—the board—plan to get there.

Your plan should include:

- A review of the past. The review should include any previous work, including Mission, Vision, Belief and Goal Statements. What successes and challenges have you faced? What trends have emerged? What can be learned from these experiences?
- A look at the present. Where are you now? What are your strengths and areas for potential improvement? How do your various stakeholder groups view the district? How does your student achievement measure up against similar districts? What does the data say?
- A view of the future. What do you want the district to be and look like in three to five years? How will you serve all of your students?
- A plan for implementation. How will you get there? What things will you need to do to accomplish that vision? Who will do the things that have been identified? Does your budget reflect an alignment of resources to the work toward your vision? Are your school improvement plan efforts aligned?
- A plan for monitoring and communicating. How will you know if you are moving toward your vision? How will you monitor student growth? How will you rate your superintendent's progress toward goals in the evaluation process? What evidence can you expect to see? How often will you get updates on the progress? How will the progress be shared with all stakeholders?

Strategic planning is not a single event, but rather an ongoing activity. The most effective businesses, organizations and school districts consider this type of planning to be vital to their continuing success.

In the end, one of the fundamental purposes of school boards is to envision the future of the district. Without a clear picture of where you want to be and how you will get there, your path will be fraught with indecisiveness, second thoughts and forays off into directions that don't help you provide the high-quality education that your students deserve.

If you have questions about how your district can begin the process and how MASB can be of assistance, please contact Board Development Manager Debbie Stair at [dstair@masb.org](mailto:dstair@masb.org) or 517.327.5904.



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