

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Armonk, NY

(Adopted: 9-13-16)

BOARD GOALS 2016-2017

1. *Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

The Board, through dialogue with the administration, reviews of programs, and formulation of policy, will promote effective practices and attitudes that foster excellence in teaching and learning and further accountability of all employees for student success. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Board will:

- ❖ Continue to study how the District can best implement Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in ways that will best promote college and career readiness for our students. For 2016-2017, this will include monitoring the implementation of the STEAM curriculum as it is being introduced to students K-12. In addition, the Board will monitor the implementation and impact of the newly updated technology labs at Wampus, Crittenden and BHHS.
- ❖ Begin to study how programs and initiatives in the curricular areas not traditionally covered by STEAM can prepare our students for leadership and success in the 21st Century. The most important aspect of this goal will be learning about the work our chairpersons of Social Studies, World Languages and English are considering around a theme of Globalization that would make our students more informed about the larger world and the implications of Globalization dynamics. Although this development is in its nascent stages, it fits well within the District's informal mission to create the leaders of the 21st Century.
- ❖ Review the School District's current offerings and initiatives that are designed to address issues related to cultural diversity and character education. Consider updating these if necessary, and consider how we might better communicate the efforts to our parent community.

2. *Fiscal Accountability and Communications*

The Board considers one of its primary functions to be careful planning and oversight of the District budget, with emphasis on providing a fiscally responsible budget to the community each spring. The Board remains committed to keeping the community informed of budget developments.

For the 2016-2017 school year, the Board sets two goals that seem particularly timely and important toward satisfying its budget commitments.

- ❖ Begin to study the long term impact of the tax cap and our planned gradual depletion of reserves on the District's ability to produce responsible budgets that will fulfill the community's evident desire to maintain an excellent educational program. Such a study will, over time, also include: review of our five year budget projections, future capital needs, changing needs in the instructional program, collective bargaining agreements, the impact of pension and health insurance contributions, and various costly state mandates.
- ❖ Study the District's enrollment trends and how they will impact future budgets. This work will include the usual serious attention to our annual demographic report, but with a look toward the longer future. The impact on budgets, staffing, and our ability to provide excellent opportunities for all students will be primary concerns.

3. *Succession Planning and Leadership Development*

The Board of Education shall continue to develop a succession plan for administrators in order to minimize disruption resulting from turnover and to protect and promote the strong, coherent leadership we currently enjoy. This goal recognizes the important role that the District's leaders play in maintaining excellence in programming and staff performance and in sustaining the positive culture and environment that we desire. As such, the Board will: continue its dialogue with the administration regarding succession planning; support the development of internal candidates who show potential and interest in leadership positions; support practices designed to ensure the success of new and transitioning administrators; and support efforts to recruit excellent candidates.

4. *Education Reform and Advocacy*

The Board recognizes that forces in the State, including the governor, the legislature and the Department of Education, have been actively seeking to reform education around principles that we find alarming and sometimes threatening to the continued success and traditions of the Byram Hills School District. The Board has discussed these issues at public meetings in the past and has passed resolutions recording its strong protests when appropriate. The Board establishes this goal in order to formalize its commitment to monitoring and responding to the reform movement and to establish authority and support for the superintendent's activities in these matters on behalf of the District. The Board will endeavor to remain informed about the reform efforts in New York by receiving regular reports from the Superintendent and its own members on political developments and local activities, and encouraging the superintendent to make recommendations for appropriate Board actions as needed.