

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Armonk, NY

(Adopted: October 15, 2019)

BOARD GOALS 2019-2020

Mission Statement: In an environment of mutual respect, the Byram Hills School District and its community will provide students with the means, the knowledge, and the opportunity to excel in order to become productive and responsible citizens of the twenty-first century.

1. Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The Board will encourage effective practices to support excellence in teaching and learning through dialogue with the administration, policy development, and implementation.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board will support a rich curriculum and instructional program where students make meaning through learning in active ways and in collaboration with others, and they demonstrate their learning authentically. The Board will encourage program development and review of various data sources to monitor progress toward the new learning standards and District instructional goals.

- ❖ **New Curriculum Implementation:** Continue to support the new mathematics program implementation and study the learning outcomes for students as they progress to the middle school; support the ongoing continuum of literacy and development of progress monitoring tools; implement the new K-2 social studies inquiry-based units of study in grade 2; and study and plan for the new K-5 science curriculum. The new NYS standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies begin full implementation by 2021.
- ❖ **Innovation in Teaching and Learning:** Support continued innovation in teaching and learning of academic subjects to prepare students for college and career expectations, which includes:
 - Additional college and university visits to learn about expectations of students;
 - Provide students opportunities to strengthen their literacy skills while learning about self and others through literature;
 - Create meaningful, place-based and inquiry-based learning experiences; develop students as historians by integrating the historical thinking skills throughout the curriculum;
 - Support inquiry-based science lessons to develop students “doing” science; and expand students’ perspectives about the world views through the study of world languages.
- ❖ **Student Wellness:** Support positive social and emotional learning of students by encouraging continued partnerships with Stanford, Yale, and the University of Michigan for faculty development and student success. The Board will continue to explore school start times through a transportation study, and will support the high school review of class schedules.
- ❖ **District-Wide Data Team:** Support the District Data Team’s work to utilize data for progress monitoring in core academic curricular areas.

2. Fiscal Accountability and Communications

One of the Board's primary functions is direct oversight of the District budget, with emphasis on communicating the District's financial stability and fiscally responsible choices that support educational excellence.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board will continue its focus on three essential goals:

- ❖ **Budget Study:** Continue 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 to maintain an excellent educational program. Such a study will include a review of:
 1. Five year budget projections and tax levy projections (long-range forecast);
 2. Capital Reserve fund utilization;
 3. Collective bargaining agreements;
 4. The impact of pension and health insurance contributions;
 5. Reserve funds;
 6. Opportunities to achieve operating efficiencies;
 7. Impact of enrollment trends, existing debt and refinancing alternatives.
- ❖ **Capital Needs Study:** Review and anticipate future capital needs for the District.
- ❖ **Per-Pupil Cost Review:** Continue to study per-pupil costs to identify alignment of expenditures with fiscal and educational goals. The Board will review the new School Funding Transparency Form issued by NYSED to conduct a cost comparison to similar districts.
- ❖ **Efficiency Review:** Develop a Transportation Department study with a consultant to review the efficiency of routes and operations and the potential for adjusted school start times.

3. Leadership Development and Succession Planning

The Board of Education shall support teacher and administrator leadership development to guide the greater K-12 vision. The Board shall also continue to develop a succession plan for administrators through dialogue with the administration; 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 will continue its commitment to monitoring Federal and State education initiatives and will advocate for policies that are in the best interest of Byram Hills. Areas of focus may include state funding, unfunded mandates, curriculum changes, testing, APPR, shared services, Standard Equivalency, and fiscal management. The Board will continue to participate in programs related to policy and advocacy and maintain a dialogue with legislators and other decision makers to advocate for District priorities, as appropriate.

5. Security

The Board will continue to focus on District security and cybersecurity.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board will continue its focus on four essential goals:

1. Adoption of a new District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan (public document) and review guidance issued by NYSED for the 2019-2020 school year;
2. Support of increased surveillance at all buildings through the additional installation and monitoring of cameras;
3. Assessment of prevention strategies that protect the data assets of the District;
4. Development of procedures to respond to a data breach; and continued training for the staff on IT security and awareness, including the monitoring of third party storage and applications.