

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Armonk, NY

(ADOPTED: 9.22.20)

BOARD GOALS 2020-2021

***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.*

The District and the Board of Education will focus on the following goals for the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Board Goals are centered on the implementation of the [Return-to-School Plan](#) with a focus on teaching and learning, the social and emotional health of staff and students, and health and safety. Of course, the Board will continue its goal of fiscal responsibility, succession planning, advocacy, and security.

Teaching and Learning

The Board will support excellence in teaching and learning through policy development and the implementation of the Return-to-School Plan.

Guiding Principles

- ❖ The instructional program easily transitions from in-person, hybrid, and fully remote for continuity of student learning and is accessible to all students.
- ❖ The instructional program will provide substantive interaction with teachers regardless of delivery methods (i.e., in-person, hybrid, or remote.)
- ❖ The curriculum will align to the **NYS Learning Standards**.
- ❖ Clear communication methods with administrators and staff will be established regarding the curriculum, instruction, or technology support.

Return-to-School Plan – Teaching and Learning

Scenario 1: In-Person Instructional Model

Scenario 2: Hybrid Instructional Model

Scenario 3: Remote Learning Instructional Model

Social and Emotional Health of Staff and Students

The Board will support the programs and schedules necessary to support our school community during an in-school, remote, or hybrid schedule. The focus will be on supporting staff to teach our children and supporting staff and students in a much different school setting.

- ❖ **Staff and Student Wellness:** Support the social and emotional health of staff and students by encouraging continued partnerships with Stanford, Yale, and the University of Michigan for faculty development and student success. The Board will support the new school and class schedules, including time to support students at the beginning and end of the day.

Health and Safety

The Board will support the District plan for health and safety measures involving cleaning, social distancing, PPE, and a system for the closure of all or parts of our schools in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak or staffing issues as a result of COVID-19 exposure.

Guiding Principles

- ❖ Follow guidelines from the **Centers for Disease Control** (CDC), the **Department of Health** (NYSDOH), the **New York State Education Department** (NYSED), and the **American Academy of Pediatrics** for developing re-entry and safety protocols.
- ❖ Include District and community stakeholder partners as contributing groups to the District plan, including medical professionals from the field, operations experts, parents, teachers, administrators, town liaisons, the school physician, and school medical consultant.
- ❖ Develop mitigation plans to respond to potential COVID-19 cases, contact, and proximal contact cases, notify the school community, and formulate action plans while obtaining DOH guidance.
- ❖ Provide expectations and training for families, staff, and students to protect everyone's health and safety.

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.

The Board will continue its focus on both current year and long-term fiscal planning:

- ❖ Manage financial implications of COVID-19 public health and economic crisis on current year budget:
 1. COVID-19 Expenditures: Review and anticipate costs related to COVID-19 with a focus on state reporting of such costs, reimbursements, and use of Reserve funds, if necessary.
 2. Budgetary implications of potential reduction in state aid.
- ❖ Long-Term Fiscal Planning: Continue to monitor current and long-term trends and ensure that the District continues to produce responsible budgets that support an excellent educational program. Such a study will include a review of:
 - Five-year District forecast
 - Impact of the tax-cap
 - Analysis of District Reserves
 - Collective bargaining agreements
 - Capital projects
 - The impact of pension and health insurance contributions
 - Enrollment trends
 - Anticipated future revenue trends
 - Existing indebtedness and refinancing alternatives

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.

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.

Security

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

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 2020-2021 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.