

News Release

Dobbs Ferry Board of Education Approves New Four-Year Strategic Plan

New “Vision” and “Mission Statement” Are also Announced

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., September 26, 2013—The Dobbs Ferry Board of Education unanimously approved the District’s new Strategic Plan at its September 12th meeting. The Strategic Plan is an educational roadmap that will guide teaching, learning and other important areas of operating the School District through 2017. Over the summer, the Board worked diligently with the draft document that the Superintendent compiled following more than a year’s work by the Strategic Planning Committee (20 members), and based upon community-wide feedback from 100-plus people who participated in focus groups in the spring.

In August, administrators developed the Action Plans that will be operationalized at the building level over the next four years. According to Superintendent Dr. Lisa Brady, the Strategic Plan reflects the many viewpoints shared with the District while keeping the goals and desired outcomes concise. Instead of a cumbersome, unwieldy document, the new plan presents a succinct framework to chart progress.

Board of Education President Tracy Baron said, “The Strategic Plan really memorializes what the School District and community value. It identifies the priorities that people feel are most important at present and looking to the future. We had a number of new administrators in the District and it was important to incorporate their fresh ideas and have consensus among all the key stakeholders as to the direction we are heading. Getting input from so many different members of the community really informed the process at every step.”

The long-range Strategic Plan supports five “Areas of Focus.” They include Instruction, Curriculum, Technology, High-Performing Workforce and Partnerships. These represent the common themes that emanated from three critical questions posed to parents, teachers, students, administrators and community members who participated in the strategic planning process. Those questions were “What should the District keep doing?” “What should the District start doing?” and “What should the District stop doing?” The discussions and responses surrounding these queries created the context of the final Strategic Plan.

Partnerships is a first-time category highlighted in the updated Strategic Plan and is increasingly important to the School District. The Dobbs Ferry Schools are continuing to explore opportunities for collaboration with local colleges like Mercy College and other quad-village schools, as well as expanding community partnerships with the Village, local businesses and non-profit groups. These partnerships also help to create relevance between what students are learning and the affiliated organizations by supporting and encouraging external internships and curricular programs in school.

The School District is also pleased to begin the 2013-2014 school term with a new vision statement and mission statement in place- key foundational elements to the Strategic Plan and a part of the overall process. The Dobbs Ferry schools' values are reflected in the vision statement "Independent Thinkers Prepared to Change the World;" while the mission statement encompasses the attributes of 21st century learners..."The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically and are knowledgeable about the world around them."

To see a copy of the Strategic Plan, please go to the District website www.dfsd.org and click on the link in the SpotLight section. Thank you to Dobbs Ferry community members for your help and dedication to the Strategic Planning process.

For more information, please contact:

Public Information Officer, Elizabeth Hausman (914) 693-1500 x3013