



Stillwater Township Board of Education

Strategic Planning Update #3

Recap of the Third Community Strategic Planning Session, April 7, 2025

At the invitation of Superintendent Dr. William Kochis and the Stillwater Township Board of Education, members of the Stillwater Township Elementary School District community came together on the evening of April 7, 2025 for the third and final meeting of school district Strategic Planning. For three consecutive meetings, any interested participants from the school community were invited to participate in the process of forming a new, five-year Strategic Plan which will guide the school district from 2025-2030, and which the Stillwater Township Board of Education intends to approve this spring. A dedicated group of volunteers attended our final meeting, along with the Stillwater Board of Education, school principal Melissa Cramer, Business Administrator Rene Metzgar, and Dr. Kochis. Educational leadership consultant Ms. Kathleen Helewa this and the two prior sessions.

We began the final evening with a recap of our work up until that point, which comprised the creation of SWOT analyses, an examination of the District's Mission Statement and motto, and the articulation of a long-term vision for our school district. Based upon that work, at the end of the second session, we determined four Goal Areas for the new Strategic Plan:

- 1. Academic Achievement and Curriculum**
- 2. A Strong Elementary Foundation**
- 3. Safe Facilities**
- 4. Fiscal Responsibility / Resources**

Our final phase of work was to write broad, five-year draft Goal Statements and some draft supporting Objectives for each of the Goal Areas. Participants this evening broke into four small groups, with each group working on a separate Goal Area. Using a suggested formula from Ms. Helewa to craft the statements and objectives, and using the perspectives of the all the group members, the small groups worked together to create draft language for each Goal Area. That work appears below, verbatim.

Goal Area 1: Academic Achievement and Curriculum

Goal Statement: Enhance academic achievement to develop critical independent thinkers who collaborate with others to recognize and appreciate their individual attributes so they are better equipped to be successful citizens in our community.



Objectives:

1. Focus on project-based learning with flexible grouping.
2. Offer teachers resources to grow their skill set to teach their student to express themselves academically and creatively.
3. Adopt the State's standards and develop curriculum tailored to the values of the Stillwater community.

Goal Area #2: A Strong Elementary Foundation

Goal Statement: Prioritize a love of learning in an age-appropriate educational setting to prepare open-minded citizens and self-driven learners for success in Stillwater and beyond.

Objectives:

1. A curriculum that reflects the values of the community
2. Expanding opportunities for community involvement to contribute to the intellectual and social growth of students
3. Provide opportunities for students to become responsible, independent, self-motivated community members who are stewards of their generation.

Goal Area #3: Fiscal Responsibilities / Resources

Goal Statement: Explore innovative approaches to operational funding and capital projects to maintain quality elementary education in Stillwater for the students and stakeholders to ensure financial stability now and in the future.

Objectives:

1. Explore innovative approaches to operational funding and capital projects
2. Pursue grants for capital projects
3. Pursue grants for supplemental programs
4. Community engagement



Goal Area #4: Safe Facilities

Goal Statement: Maintain and enhance safety and security to protect and provide a positive learning environment for students, staff, and the community to sustain learning excellence.

Objectives:

1. Continuously update security technology
2. Continue partnership with State and local law enforcement
3. Continue to maintain and upgrade buildings and grounds

Working with Ms. Helewa, Dr. Kochis will refine this work into a formal Strategic Plan. Ms. Helewa will prepare a Strategic Plan document for formal Board approval at a Stillwater Township Board of Education meeting. **(NOTE: Date has been re-targeted for the May 12 BOE meeting.)** Once the Plan has been approved, the Stillwater Township Superintendent of Schools and the Stillwater School administrative team will create annual action plans for the Plan's objectives which will bring the goals of the Strategic Plan to fruition. The Stillwater Township Board of Education will support, monitor, and evaluate the Superintendent's progress on the action steps and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan throughout its five-year lifespan.

We finished the evening with sincere thanks to all who participated in the creation of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Helewa thanked the Stillwater Township Board of Education and Dr. Kochis for the opportunity to facilitate community participation in building a critical guiding document for the Stillwater Township School District.

All stakeholders are warmly invited to join us on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 pm for the Stillwater Township Board of Education meeting, held in the Stillwater School All-Purpose Room.



The Stillwater Township Board of Education intends to approve its new Strategic Plan that evening. Come celebrate this milestone with us!