

Good evening,

We've had a busy and productive first year of our Strategic Plan, so I'd like to echo some of the accomplishments presented at our June Planning Session:

This year marked strong progress toward a culture of inquiry and problem solving across Rye Neck in the achievement of Goal 1, thanks to the leadership of Melinda Folchetti and Kristina Schlote and the enthusiasm of our district faculty. Staff members who completed the Harvard Question Formulation Technique course last year became turnkey trainers for all faculty, leading to QFT strategies being observed in classrooms from Kindergarten to 12th grade throughout the year. Curriculum reviews led to the development of "dream projects" tailored to each teacher's context and completed by year's end. The Capstone pilot program, as reported by Tom Graziano at the recent Board of Ed. meeting, far exceeded expectations and was a notable success in fostering authentic student-led inquiry.

The district made meaningful strides toward fostering the empathetic and compassionate learning environments called for by Goal 2, thanks to the leadership of Wil Siegel and Brian Pinto, and the earnest participation of the whole district staff. A student screening was successfully administered in grades 6–12 and the social emotional learning curriculum underwent a comprehensive inventory and evaluation, laying the groundwork for future enhancements. Planning for next year's wellness days was completed, with staff utilizing early release time to develop related lessons and activities. A dynamic, growing library of wellness resources was established to support students and staff.

Significant shifts in design were made in building systems to support staff growth and professional collaboration, thanks to the Goal 3 team of Tara Goldberg, Linette Milo, and our district Professional Development Committee. A group of staff members was trained in using a web-based platform to catalog and manage professional development opportunities which was then expanded, resulting in a wider array of experiences for staff. An intervisitation structure was created and widely utilized by teachers, fostering peer learning and idea sharing. The district also piloted its first round of Professional Learning Communities, with staff successfully applying new strategies directly in their classrooms.

I'd like to thank Assistant Superintendent Corinne Ryan for orchestrating our Strategic Planning efforts with the help of our administrators and key school leaders, and recognize our community for giving us the critical resource of time for professional learning. I'd also like to express my pride in how our entire district staff rose to the challenge of change. Of course, I will always be grateful to our students for allowing us to be part of their learning journey. Overall, the district has laid a strong foundation for a sustained culture of inquiry, nurturing environments, and professional growth.

Thank you.