



Mansfield Township Elementary School District

Strategic Planning 2026

Recap of the Second Community Planning Session, March 18, 2026

This Spring, the Mansfield Township Board of Education intends to approve a Strategic Plan which will guide the Board's and Administration's decisions over the next five years. The Board of Education and Superintendent Diana Mai would like to form the District's new Strategic Plan with community participation from a wide variety of school stakeholders. Thus, the District announced and advertised that all those interested are welcome to join in the process, which will be accomplished over three 90-minute evening meetings at the school's All Purpose Room on March 11, March 18, and April 1, 2026 with consultant Kathleen Helewa facilitating the sessions.

Approximately twenty-five people attended the first meeting to work together on the new Strategic Plan, including Mansfield residents, parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members. About thirty members of the school community came together on the evening of March 18 for the second session of Strategic Planning--Spike made a brief appearance as well! As was the case on March eleventh, Ms. Helewa facilitated the meeting.

We began our second session with a recap of our March 11 meeting, in which Superintendent Mai presented a State of the District report, and four small groups each created a SWOT analysis [i.e., identifying our school district's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats; see Meeting #1 recap for greater detail], utilizing everyone's unique perspectives.

The small-group SWOTs had various responses, all of which resonated with this evening's participants. We reviewed the common threads from each of the small groups' work. The greatest commonalities in *Strengths* were Mansfield's caring, dedicated teachers and staff, the District's facilities, and healthy communication in and from the District. The greatest commonality in *Weaknesses* was the need to strengthen and expand programming, such re-writing the Social Studies curriculum, expand clubs and afterschool activities, provide more World Language options, and to support teachers with a greater focus on articulation and more supplies and resources. Most common in the *Opportunities* category were accolades for MTES' amazing, supportive PTO and the District's great relationship with local law enforcement, which provides a strong sense of safety & security. Greatest commonalities in the *Threats* category were social media and budget shortfalls.

The focus for our second session was to define our vision for Mansfield Township Elementary School students. For guidance, we looked to the Mansfield Township Elementary School District's Mission Statement, with an eye towards our core values—meaning, the values that govern our school district, the essence of our identity, and the guiding principles that define and create our school district culture.

We revisited the Mission Statement together (*see next page*):



Mansfield Township Elementary School District Mission Statement

The Mansfield Township Elementary School District collaborates with the community to provide a meaningful and rigorous education that instills the value of lifelong learning. We strive to empower all of our students to reach their full potential and become productive citizens, in accordance with the comprehensive standards of our state.

The Mission Statement was embraced by all present. All agreed that the The Mission Statement accurately reflects the guiding principles that define the Mansfield Elementary School District's culture and objectives, and encapsulates the District's core values.

This was the perfect segueway for our work for the evening. All were asked to define together a vision for the Mansfield Township Elementary School—to envision what the student experience and school district would look like in five years' time, when our new Strategic Plan (which we are currently building) had matured, and all of the aspirational goals and objectives contained in the Plan were fulfilled. All were asked to imagine the outcome of the new Strategic Plan and to complete the following statements, as if we were answering the questions below in 2031, five years from now:

Mansfield Township Elementary School students are _____

I.e., What is the everyday school experience like for current Mansfield Township Elementary School students?

MTES graduates are _____

I.e., How do children who graduate from MTES stand out from their peers?

MTES facilities our campus are _____

I.e., What distinguishes our school buildings and facilities from other towns?

Because we, as a school community, _____

I.e., What did the school district provide / do in the five year span of 2026 to 2031 to make the above a reality?

We then split into four small groups to brainstorm in lively discussions and complete those statements as collective groups, to be reported out to the large group. That work is recorded below.

Blue Group

MTES students are

- Worldly thinkers,
- Good citizens,
- Engaged in school,
- Confident, and finding where they thrive

Blue Group work continues on the next page



Blue Group work, continued

MTES graduates are

- Critical thinkers
- Respectful and kind
- Prepared academically
- Proud to be a Dragon

MTES facilities and campus are / have

- Good playgrounds
- Community gathering place
- Safe

Because we, as a school community, want all stakeholders on the same page and everyone buying into the vision.

Violet Group

MTES students are

- Reading, writing and [performing] math on grade level
- Respectful
- Engaged in every part of the day
- Top quartile for attendance across the State

MTES graduates are

- Prepared in all areas for middle school
- The students teachers want!

MTES facilities and campus are / have

- Maintain quality grounds
- Trees and grass
- Outside classroom—gardens to use

Because we, as a school community

- Challenge ourselves to achieve goals
- Communicate, listen, plan, hear, act, and change plan as needed
- Re-do if needed!

Gold Group



MTES students are

- Motivated, eager to work and come to school
- Communicators
- Critical thinkers
- Empathetic
- Filled with days that feel stable, structured, and secure

MTES graduates are

- Ethical
- Citizens of the world
- Confident
- Independent in life skills
- Community-minded
- Driven to have a successful future

MTES facilities and campus are

- Well-maintained
- Clean
- Safe with police presence
- Sensory inclusive
- ADA-accessible playground

Because we, as a school community are

- A team
- Committed to excellence
- Value diversity
- Hold high expectations for lifelong learners

Green Group

MTES students are

- Exposed to Spanish Language
- Curious and eager to learn (intrinsic)
- Present and engaged

MTES graduates are respectful, mature, well-rounded role models by providing more SEL and community enrichment.

Green Group work continues on the next page

Green Group work, continued

MTES facilities and campus are



- Safe & reliable
- Up-to-date
- Monitored by an SRO

Because we, as a school community, provide ample connection between school personnel and families.

Our last task for the evening was to begin to determine the Goal Areas for our new Strategic Plan, which would support the visions articulated this evening while recognizing the outcomes of the SWOT exercises. Looking at the common themes that emerged from the work of this and the prior session, the following four goal areas were identified:

- 1. Academic Achievement**, including teaching & learning and curriculum & instruction
- 2. Student engagement**, including clubs and activities, student pride & ownership in their work, fostering intrinsic motivation in students, and increasing attendance
- 3. Safety & Security**
- 4. School and Community Pride**, including showcasing and incorporating what makes Mansfield / Warren County special into students' learning

The meeting ended with thanks to all the participants who came out that evening to join together in this important work, and to the Board and Superintendent Mai for this opportunity to work together in such a congenial, student-centered atmosphere. Our third and last Strategic Planning meeting is set for the evening of April 1, at which we will write draft goal statements and supporting objectives for the Goal Areas of the new Strategic Plan.

All interested participants from our school community who have been a part of this work, and those who were not able to attend our prior meetings, are **enthusiastically** invited to join us!



**Come join us on Wednesday, April 1, at 6:30pm
in the Mansfield Elementary School All Purpose Room!
Everyone welcomed—attend with a friend!**