



Steering Committee Meeting Notes **February/March 2026**

The Steering Committees met in February and March in their priority groups. Below are the meeting notes that capture the focused conversations around priority accomplishment and goals. During the last meeting in April, the groups will join together to share and celebrate the work, and to provide input on the revised goals for the Shared Vision 2026-2029.

Priority #1: Customized Learning, Innovative Programming and Academic Excellence

During the Steering Committee meeting, we reviewed and refined the district's emerging learning framework pillars by gathering feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, students, staff, administrators, and community members. We are grateful for the thoughtful participation and meaningful insights shared by this diverse group, whose perspectives are helping shape this important work.

The committee explored the clarity, practicality, and overall vision of the four focus areas: Student-Centered Learning, Real Skills for Real Life, Engaged Learning Experiences, and Measure and Celebrate Growth. Participants engaged in a future-focused discussion by imagining what learning should look like for students one year from now, helping the committee reflect on whether the proposed pillars represent meaningful, personalized, and engaging learning experiences. The group also provided actionable feedback to strengthen the framework by identifying elements that felt inspiring or worth protecting, highlighting language that may be too vague or difficult to implement, and identifying the resources and support schools would need to successfully bring the vision to life.

Priority #2 (The W-E Experience) and Priority #4 (Communications and Community Engagement)

We reviewed our accomplishments from the past year with a highlight being the revitalization of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Our selection committee chose the four inductees. Plans are underway to finalize the details for the Alumni Hall of Fame which will be held on May 1, 2026.

Our new "Perspectives with Dr. Ward" podcast was launched. It is available on Apple, Spotify, and YouTube. Our next two episodes will be in production and shared in April and May.

The main focus of the meeting's discussion was through the lens of the AASA (the National Superintendents' Association) pillars: Student-Centered Learning, Measure What Matters, Engaged Family and Community Relationships and Real Skills for Real Life. This ensures that there is alignment of our work across departments. The district as we develop a marketing campaign that highlights the advantages and strengths of our public education school system.

Recommendations centered around:

- Measuring and reporting on student success in addition to academics, by highlighting the well-rounded experiences students are involved in to demonstrate their growth, achievement, and the importance of belonging and connection.
- We talked specifically about how to prioritize areas of communication where parents, as our central audience, would like more information. Parents are excited about the increased opportunities, such as Flex Classes, Capstones, AP, CCP and Career Tech, for our students, but as parents move from middle school to high school it can be overwhelming as parents help their children choose pathways and courses. They suggested that we produce more "tutorial" videos, concise information sheets and infographics about all of our program options. We also talked about how to further streamline parent newsletters and emails, and possibly communicating directly to high school students.
- Lastly, one of the recommendations was to offer a way for anyone, parents, students, volunteers and community members, to nominate others for recognition via QR codes displayed around the district and the community. Right now, it is mainly through staff or word of mouth, but providing anyone in the community a vehicle to submit ideas and stories would expand our reach. Our Schedule a Tour and You Ask We Answer forums have been successful models.

Priority #3: Fiscal Responsibility and Operations

Mr. Patrick shared the district strategic framework with the committee, and an overview of the four priorities. The committee reviewed what was discussed at the committee meeting in the fall. The review was finished with a reminder of what the committee decided in October 2024 it wanted to focus on and see forward progress. The areas emphasized were safety/security of our school buildings, a comprehensive plan for maintaining and improving our campuses, being fiscally responsible and transparent.

Mr. Johnson, Director of Operations, proceeded to discuss facilities and operations. There are a few projects on the horizon, but the largest facility area is the renovation of Royalview Elementary School. Currently, all new, efficient lights and ceiling tiles are being installed along with the beginning work for the eventual air conditioning units. This work should be done by August 2026.

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The next phase would be walls, flooring, and cabinetry, which would be done by August 2027.

Other projects include a new fuel service station at transportation to replace the old underground unit, part of a roof replacement at Edison, a district AED update, and new MARCs radios in each building.

Additional future projects include Improving safety cameras, new drinking fountains in most buildings, possible boiler replacement at Willowick MS and bus updates due to the \$151,476 grant the district received from the state (one of the largest!).

Officer Popik explained his new role as the district SRO Coordinator. He will not only coordinate our School Resource Officers around the district for safety and security, but he will also be reviewing and revising our safety drills, evacuation protocols, rally and reunification points, and building safety systems. He is also our liaison to the various fire and police departments in our district. His role has never been more important, and Chuck will do a *great* job!

Finally, we reviewed some of the legislative moves that recently happened at the state and county level that drastically changed our district forecast. These items will be more thoroughly discussed at the work sessions that the BOE is having over the next few weeks.