



To: Randi Reichle, Chair
East Windsor Board of Education

From: Justin Martin
Martin & Associates

Date: April, 23, 2023

Re: Board goal setting

Executive Summary:

Beginning in fall 2022, the Board of Education began to consider, reflect, and plan to focus on strengthening collaboration and collegiality among board members. The overarching mission was to establish goals that reflected the background, intelligence, credibility, and professionalism of the board members themselves in their work.

Meetings in January, February, and March were productive and inspiring. From the outset, board members embraced creating an environment that focused on mutual respect and professional regard for others, transparency, a focus on the big picture, and their roles in focusing on the big picture, their elected duties and responsibilities as caretakers of the community's financial investment in public education, and advising and assisting in implementing the strategic plan.

Board members quickly agreed on streamlining processes, best ways to communicate with the superintendent and leadership team. Board members gained consensus in their day-to-day actions in committing to a vision of high expectations for student achievement, a team approach to all board challenges, and participating in professional development and training through Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and other resources.

The Creation of Board Goals:

In its work together, the board created four overarching goals to focus on in the coming year. These goals are outlined here with the expectation that the board will officially adopt and

embrace them in their work and establish quarterly reviews to ensure the board is on track and consistently working toward them, as all board members recognized that in doing so will only enhance the school system's ambitious plans for the coming years related to curriculum and instruction, facility upgrades, and long-term planning for student success.

Goal 1: The Board of Education will work collaboratively to adopt, create, or update processes designed to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of board operations. The board will regularly review and update its current policies through the policy subcommittee and at regular board meetings. The board chair will designate chairs for each subcommittee.

Goal 2. The Board of Education will work collaboratively to effectively communicate the board actions and school accomplishments with town boards and the community at large. Each board member will be responsible for communicating with a "to be assigned" town board or non profit.

Goal 3. The Board of Education will work collaboratively to support the implementation of the strategic plan.

Goal 4. The Board of Education will work collaboratively to create a long-term facilities plan that prioritizes school district needs.

Conclusion:

Through its work, board members have considered and agreed to regularly reflect and ask themselves the following questions:

- What is in the best interests of students?
- What is in the best interests of constituents?
- What questions does the community have and how can we address them?
- What can we do to assist the superintendent and leadership team in meeting the education goals of our community?

The board work was largely productive during the meetings leading up to the establishment of these goals. From the perspective of the consultant, the board is well suited to succeed as long as the board in its entirety adheres to the camaraderie created during these sessions and continues to focus on working in a collaborative, open, and honest manner.