



**Northern Lehigh
 School District
 Strategic Planning Meeting**
 January 23, 2008

Please contact Lynne Fedorcha,
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for more information about how to be involved!

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- As part of the introduction, participants were asked to share in writing their personal hope for our students and a hope for our community.

Hope for Students	Hope for Community
Allow all students the opportunity to improve their education and to increase our rate of college acceptances.	Better Co-operation with the school administration and faculty. Allow taxpayers the opportunity to be heard on major spending issues ie – community surveys
Learn, achieve, succeed!	Collaboration with school, businesses, families – all working together.
I would like for all students to experience success	I would like for our community to experience growth.
I hope that all students will learn to the best of their ability and develop values (integrity, appreciate diversity, kindness, honesty, respect, responsibility) and become life long learners	That we can work together to best benefit our children educationally, socially, spiritually and culturally.
I hope that our students, when they graduate, are prepared for the workforce and/or college, and that they have received a well-rounded education.	I hope that our community can be revitalized through the investment of new businesses (not chain stores or boxstores) and promoting tourism, and preserving our history.
Hope that our students are prepared for careers, higher ed, military, etc. upon graduation and are also prepared to be good citizens & community members. Learn & access info, solve problems, analyze, think critically, lifelong love of learning.	That we embrace diversity and look forward to the future with vision
To prepare our students for the challenges of the twenty first century.	Northern Lehigh needs to be a vibrant community where both businesses and individuals can thrive.
I hope our students will take what they learned in the classroom and apply it to their lives outside of school.	I hope our community can continue to positively impact our ...?
I hope the students will become productive, caring , and giving adults and citizens.	I hope the community becomes more united in the goals, beliefs, and future hopes.
I would hope that all our students leave prepared for college, excel in the post-secondary education, and	I would hope that our community partners with education to improve the education of our students

return more to society than they were given.	beyond standards.
My hopes are to build life long learners who enjoy their years in school.	Build a community where school board, administrators, teachers, and residents can work together to build a great school.
My hope for our students is that they find happiness and success in a valuable education and future career.	In our small community, my hope is that we create a safe, comfortable place for growth and progress.
My hope for our students is that they graduate with the abilities to be successful in a global society.	My hope for our community is that it becomes accepting of change and becomes an integral part of the global community.
I hope our students learn the knowledge and skills to achieve personal and professional success.	I hope our community can work together to provide the students at NLSD the quality staff, faculty, resources, technology, and facilities that they are so deserving of.
I hope that our students, upon graduation, are able to become positive contributors to their community, family, and self.	I hope that the community is positively affected by the students educated by our district and that its members aspire to work in a partnership with the schools.
Stay in school and to onto college.	Become more involved with school activities. Board meeting, this process committee's.
I would like all students to become independent life-long learners.	I would like our community to understand and value the importance of education in their lives and the lives of their children.
My hopes for our students are to provide them with new technologies to be competitive with other schools, to have a safe learning environment, and to make all students successful.	My hopes for our community are to encourage an understanding toward the value of education and an appreciation for all that our community has to offer.
It is my hope that students learn and succeed in a supportive, safe and challenging environment.	It is my hope that the students become empowered with their learning experiences to become responsible and productive leaders in the community and that the community and school district works together to make this happen.
My hope is that all of our students will get a quality education that will take them beyond Northern Lehigh to success as an adult.	I would hope the community would grow in such a way that it would truly value education.
Students should participate in learning achievement and the idea that all students can learn.	Community should become more involved with decisions in the district as well as ideas for more help for our students to succeed.
My hope for our students: to be educated in an environment supportive of all needs, to be proficient readers who have a thirst for knowledge	Hopes for community: To be a support system for the education of all students so that they may be contributing members of society.
I would hope that we continue to provide the kind of education that will allow our students to have the same opportunities as students in our other IU schools.	I would hope that the community will look to the future and what is needed for our school and be courageous about it.
For our students to contribute to our community.	Provide an environment for all students to learn in our schools.
To provide a positive and competitive education for all students which includes quality in both instructors and all instructional needs.	To create and maintain a community which encourages business and homeowners to come to our community to work and live.
To prepare our students to be well rounded and that are capable to strive for achievements, and become active members of the society.	To be one single entity where goals are accomplished and visions accomplish strength.

I would like to see our students to become positive contributors to the success of their families, community and society as a whole.	The Northern Lehigh community will develop its potential, resources and manpower to grow into an economically sound community.
Our students will excel in 1) all standardized testing that comes our way 2) becoming solid citizens when they graduate 3) being prepared for whatever comes next (college, trade school, or work force)	Our community will learn to come together in order to advance the learning of all of our students in a way that fits the needs of all those involved.
I hope my students develop a life-long love of learning and to become contributing members of society.	

II. Jeopardy!

General facts about the district were shared in the format of the game **Jeopardy!** A few are listed here

- The district is comprised of the boroughs of Walnutport and Slatington and Washington Township
- 150 teachers, 44% having been with the district for more than 15 years
- 2060 students: 14% special needs, 1.3% ESL, 2.4% gifted, 30% free or reduced lunch

III. Strategic Planning Purpose and Process

- The purpose of the strategic plan and the planning process were reviewed. The link to PDE's planning document is located under Strategic Plan Information
- Participants had an opportunity to brainstorm our strengths and thoughts about education, included below:
- What we do best.....
 - Technology is up to date
 - Cutting edge programs (Head Start, RTI, etc.)
 - Vision for district and maintaining focus.
 - Bang for the "Buck"
 - Progress for a small district
 - Our end product.
 - Able to maintain small town atmosphere & care about our students.
 - Commitment and sense of well "roundedness"!
- Other thoughts about education:
 - Content specific education is not the driving force.
 - Critical thinking and Information location skills are important.
 - Memorization skills not important as they once were.
 - We must challenge middle-of-the-road students.
 - Ability to learn how to learn...more important than the material!
 - Awareness of what is going on outside of the classroom - - A Must!
 - Communication/interpersonal skills...very important
 - Create a Life long love of learning.

IV. Did You Know?

Future trends, concerns, expectations were presented. When planning for the next six years, we must consider what is happening world-wide.

- The most notable fact is that we are currently preparing our students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented to solve problems we can't even conceive!
- Predictions are that in the year 2010, there will be a need for **20 billion** skilled laborers world-wide!
- The amount of new technical information doubles every 2 years! For college freshman, this means that half of what they've learned in their first year of study will be outdated by their third year of study.
- The number of text messages sent and received each day exceeds the population of the planet.
- The 25% of the population in China with the highest IQ exceeds the population of North America...in India, it's the top 28%. That means that China and India have more honors kids than we have kids!
- We must think globally if we want our kids prepared for a future.

V. The Notebook

Participants received a notebook that included survey information, AYP information, PSSA results, and other facts that will be helpful to committees as they prepare to define our goals for the next six years.

VI. The Timeline

Committees will need to complete their goal work by May. The final draft will be assembled in June and submitted to the Board and public between August and September. The Board must approve the plan no later than September 30, 2008.

VII. The Committees and Contacts

1. Standards and Assessment...Jill Chamberlain, jchamberlain@nlsd.org (610-767-9812)
2. Professional Development...Aileen Yadush, ayadush@nlsd.org (610-767-9832)
3. Educational Technology...John Hrizuk, jhrizuk@nlsd.org (610-767-9844)
4. Teacher Induction...Karen Nicholas, knicholas@nlsd.org (610-767-9827)
5. Special Education...Laurie Newman-Mankos, lnewman@nlsd.org (610-767-9848)
6. Chapter 12...Dawn Wadsworth, dwadsworth@nlsd.org (610-767-9848)

VIII. Future Meetings

Please join one of our committees! Keep checking our website for information about future Steering Committee meetings. Your involvement is appreciated...one meeting at a time!!!

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank, 1929-1945