



The sole reason for
the existence of our
profession is the
student.

John W. Barile
Superintendent of Schools

Bethany Public School
District
44 Peck Road
Bethany, CT

BETHANY 2020

ASCENT TO EXCELLENCE

STRATEGIC PLAN
2014 - 2020

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 12, 2014



February 2014

Dear Bethany Community Member,

We are proud to present the Bethany Public School District Strategic Plan, “Bethany 2020 - Ascent to Excellence”. Bethany 2020-Ascent to Excellence aims to ensure that our school children are well-educated, exceptional young people, who will shape the future.

The foundation of the Strategic Plan is our mission, beliefs, and commitments. These values will guide all district and school decisions. The document includes eight goals with focused objectives to ensure their achievement. The goals represent traditional ideals for educating children and the evolving dynamics of the modern world; including academic achievement, technology, safety, finance, engagement, individualized goals, collaboration, and communication.

In August of 2013, the Board of Education Chairman, in concert with the Superintendent, appointed an ad hoc, -committee to develop the Strategic Plan. For the past six months, this Committee, made up of dedicated teachers, parents, administrators and Board of Education members, worked to develop this guiding document. The Committee consulted multiple State and local educational resources during the development process. The Committee reviewed and incorporated viewpoints from many sources including parent surveys, information gleaned from meetings with the educators, Board of Education forums, educational research, and legislative updates.

We thank those individuals who served on the Committee and who graciously volunteered their time and expertise to develop this comprehensive plan.

Excellence demands desire, commitment, and perseverance. We look forward to working together as we Ascend to Excellence.

Sincerely,

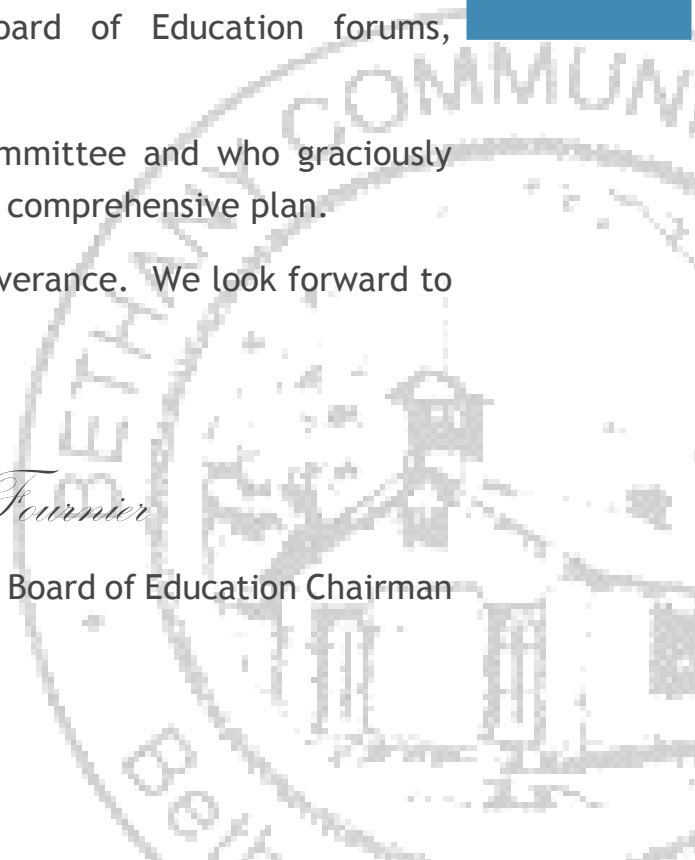
John W. Barile

John W. Barile, Superintendent

Brian C. Fournier

Brian C. Fournier, Board of Education Chairman

2/12/14



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian C. Fournier
Chairman

Adam Carrington
Vice Chairman

Christopher Pittenger
Secretary

Janet Finneran

Doreen Fox

John Paul Garcia

Dominick Reis

Vivian Shih

Namita Wijesekera

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

John W. Barile, Sr. Superintendent

Robert Spino Principal

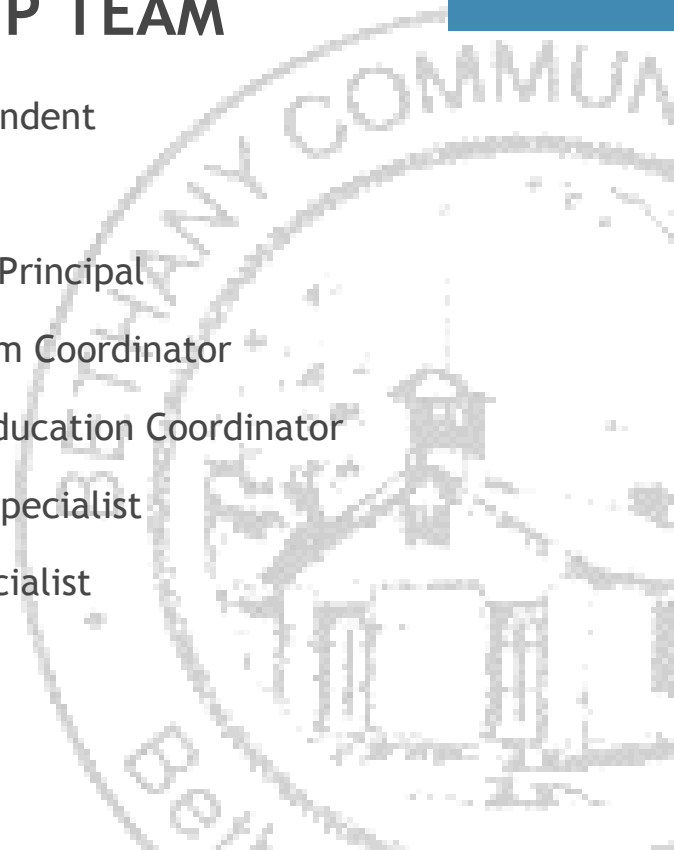
Diane Krivda Assistant Principal

Maureen Galla Curriculum Coordinator

Timothy Charron Special Education Coordinator

Sara Monaco Reading Specialist

Nicole Murphy Math Specialist



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

John W. Barile, Sr.	Superintendent
James Bruni	Grade 3 Teacher
Adam Carrington	Vice Chairman, Board of Education & Parent
Heather Chometa	PTO Co-President and Parent
Brian Fournier	Chairman, Board of Education and Parent
Dana Menzies	Grade 1 Teacher
Christopher Pittenger	Secretary, Board of Education and Parent
Michelle Schwenger	Talented and Gifted/Enrichment Teacher
Robert Spino	Principal



Strategic Goals

1. *We will maximize each student's potential through a rich and challenging curriculum and a broad range of programs.*
2. *We will provide proactive, coordinated academic, social, and emotional support for every student.*
3. *We will cultivate responsibility, respect, and resilience in our students, and will promote citizenship in the school, the community, and the world.*
4. *We will encourage and enhance collaborative relationships with parents and with the broader community.*
5. *We will ensure that the staff and students are fluent in the integrated use of technology in the service of learning.*
6. *We will be responsible stewards of Bethany's school resources.*
7. *We will provide a safe and secure learning environment.*
8. *We will invest in the continual development of our staff.*



MISSION STATEMENT

*To challenge and inspire every student
to become a lifelong learner and a
resilient, independent, literate,
caring, creative, responsible
world citizen.*



Our Beliefs and Commitments

We Believe that...

Educating children is our first priority.

Education is a community-wide responsibility and requires the active engagement of all stakeholders.

The individual worth of each child must be celebrated.

Every student can learn and deserves an equal opportunity to learn.

Every student has special gifts and talents to be discovered and nurtured.

Positive attitude and effort lead to accomplishment.

Physical activity, the arts, and play are essential elements of a comprehensive education.

Education must focus on active learning, using critical thinking and problem solving skills.

We are committed to ...

Empowering students to become resourceful learners who can apply their knowledge.

Challenging each student to reach his/her full potential.

Respecting individual and community values.

Integrating twenty-first century technology throughout our school.

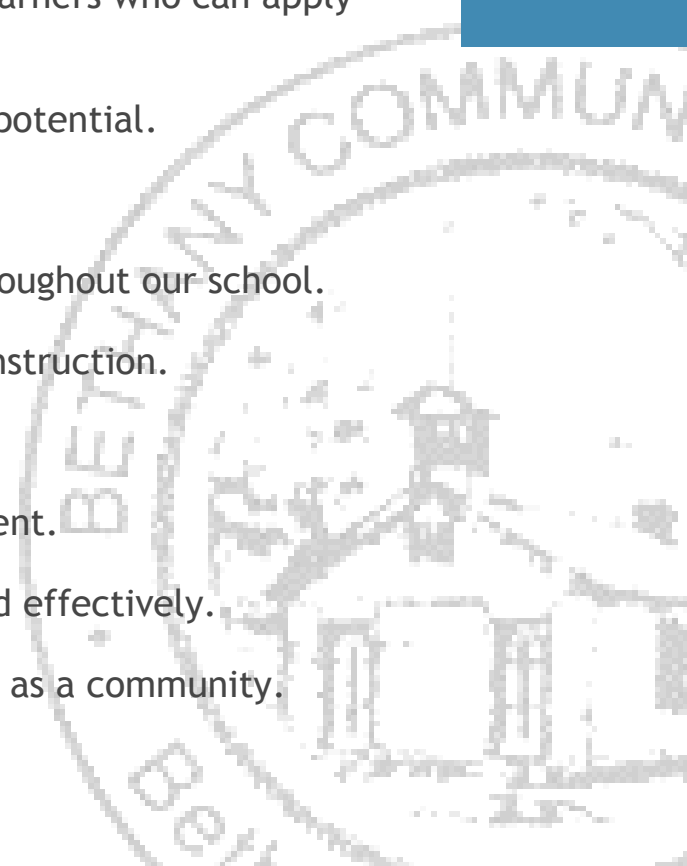
Investing in our professional staff to enhance instruction.

Developing and retaining exemplary teachers.

Providing a safe, secure and positive environment.

Managing our financial resources efficiently and effectively.

Advancing the Bethany School District together as a community.



Bethany 2020 Ascent to Excellence



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bethany Public School District wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their contributions and inspiration in the development of this Strategic Plan and set of Goals and Objectives through 2020.

Bethany Public School District Strategic Planning Committee 2014-2020

Connecticut State Department of Education

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

Strategic Goals and Objectives

GOALS

1. *We will maximize each student's potential through a rich and challenging curriculum and a broad range of programs.*

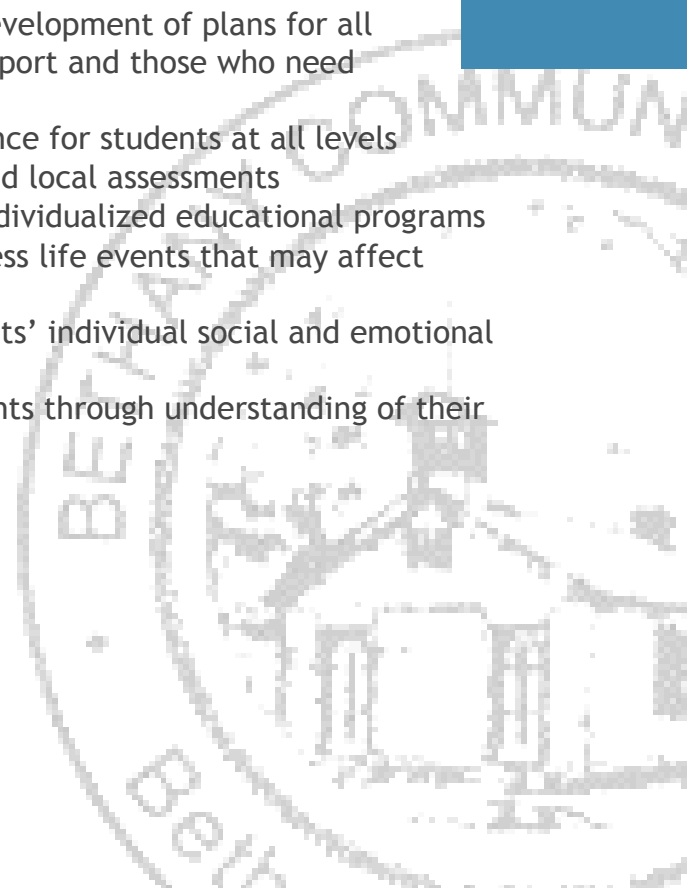
Objectives:

- Develop and maintain a continuous cycle of curriculum evaluation, revision and improvement
- Ensure curricula are aligned with recognized National and State standards
- Ensure that curriculum, supplies, materials, textbooks, and instructional best practices are aligned horizontally and vertically
- Establish regular curriculum coordination efforts with the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge, Amity (BOWA) Districts
- Develop a standards based report card of student progress
- Expand opportunities and instructional time for hands-on science
- Review and, to the extent possible, expand the breadth and depth of the current arts programs
- Continue to enhance a researched based homework plan

2. *We will provide proactive and coordinated academic, social, and emotional support for every student.*

Objectives:

- Support personalized learning through the development of plans for all learners, including those who need extra support and those who need acceleration beyond the core curriculum
- Raise expectations of learning and performance for students at all levels
- Increase student achievement on all State and local assessments
- Research and analyze the effectiveness of individualized educational programs
- Endeavor to anticipate and proactively address life events that may affect student well-being
- Provide responsive support to address students' individual social and emotional needs
- Promote personal connections with all students through understanding of their individual needs, interests, and goals



3. We will cultivate responsibility, respect, and resilience in our students, and will promote citizenship in the school, the community, and the world.

Objectives

- Implement activities and experiences which promote an understanding and respect for cultural, religious, ethnic, economic, racial, and other forms of diversity
- Continue to provide programs and learning experiences that address respect for oneself and others; such as anti-bullying programs, DARE, Developmental Guidance, Life Skills programs, Leadership Council, and activities that promote sportsmanship
- Promote and provide opportunities for school and community involvement for students, staff, parents, mentors, and other community members to develop positive interpersonal relationships and a common purpose
- Facilitate the development of leadership, accountability, and personal and social responsibility
- Encourage personal productivity, adaptability, people skills, and self-direction
- Encourage responsibility through the school-wide implementation of a systematic behavioral plan

4. We will encourage and enhance collaborative relationships with parents and with the broader community.

Objectives:

- Effectively communicate with parents
- Improve the District website
- Investigate additional uses for effective electronic communication
- Continue Board of Education Forums
- Host regular informational sessions for parents and the community
- Invite parents in for specific grade-level showcases such as Biome Bonanza and Market Day

5. We will ensure that the staff and students are fluent in the integrated use of technology in the service of learning.

Objectives:

- Integrate and embed technology into all curricular areas
- Apply technology and media-literacy skills to promote critical and creative thinking, communication, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration
- Teach the responsible use of digital resources
- Use technology to introduce students to content areas beyond the core curriculum
- Explore the use of mobile learning devices to promote individualized education
- Prepare our students and staff for the next generation of assessments
- Provide training and resources to teachers in order to help them integrate technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Implement assistive technology where appropriate to meet the needs of learners

6. We will be responsible stewards of Bethany's school resources.

Objectives:

- Ensure that our facilities are maintained and upgraded through planned investment
- Provide for the needs of our students in a fiscally responsible way
- Maintain and hire the most highly qualified faculty and staff
- Ensure the systematic acquisition and replacement of computer hardware, software, peripherals and other forms of technology needed to support education

7. We will provide a safe and secure learning environment.

Objectives:

- Maintain our School Safety Plan
- Encourage appropriate student conduct through the school-wide implementation of a systematic behavioral plan
- Regularly review safety procedures with all staff, parents, and students
- Ensure that food served and/or sold at BCS meets health and safety standards
- Maintain awareness of allergies and other health risks
- Explore vertical coordination of health and nutrition initiatives with Amity School District
- Maintain and focus the District health and nutrition initiatives
- Promote the responsible and safe use of online resources and other technologies
- Endeavor to identify and support students exhibiting at-risk behaviors

8. We will invest in the continual development of our staff.

Objectives:

- Provide each new teacher with a mentor and orientation program
- Provide the faculty and staff with consistent district-wide professional development and training
- Encourage the staff to actively participate in all aspects of the professional learning community
- Ensure that there is systematic and continuous professional development to support the integrated use of technology
- Provide individualized professional development
- Retain exemplary teachers

