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# **Strategic Planning...the Big Picture for Success**

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SPRINGBORO, Ohio – Strategic planning, by its very meaning, is the means by which an organization continually recreates itself toward extraordinary purpose. Implicit in this definition is the concentration of all efforts, resources, activities, and energies toward a single goal. The strategic planning process we are using at Springboro Community City Schools is a 12 step process that will conclude in 5 years and at that time we will want to engage in this process to recreate ourselves again.

Beginning in September of 2006 and concluding in June of 2007, Springboro Community City Schools asked over 100 community members and staff to chart a course for our district over the next five years. The Strategic Planning Committee represented a mosaic of our community. We had asked members from the clergy, local government, business men and women, parents of elementary and secondary students, retired individuals, empty nesters, Board of Education members, teachers, staff, and even two high school students to join us in this endeavor. This was all done in an effort to capture our true community values, and translate this into a map that would guide our school toward new levels of student achievement and success.

One of the major cornerstones of the strategic planning process was the development of our new mission statement. A mission statement is the unique purpose for which the school district exists and the specific function it performs. Our new mission statement reads as follows: ***“The mission of Springboro Community City Schools, a pioneer in world class education with small town pride, is to motivate and empower all students to become life long learners, productive citizens and future leaders.”***

The final step of the Strategic Planning Committee was to develop 6 strategies, which if completed, would allow our school to achieve its goals and meet the true meaning of our mission statement. Each of the 6 strategies was given to a sub-committee called an Action Team. Each Action Team developed plans (or steps) that when completed would fulfill each specific strategy.

The 6 strategies are as follows:

- 1) We will develop and implement an enhanced, focused curriculum that drives our students to the highest levels of achievement.**
- 2) We will generate and implement comprehensive professional development programs.**

- 3) We will develop and implement programs to attract involvement of all citizens.**
- 4) We will address our facilities needs.**
- 5) We will establish and execute a progressive technology plan.**
- 6) We will develop and implement an exemplary early learning program.**

In April of 2007 each Action Team presented their specific plans to ensure that the strategy they were given would and could be realized. A grand total of 47 individual action plans were developed for the 6 strategies. Each of the 47 action plans were then slated for completion during one of the next five years. Specifically, 14 action plans are to be completed by the end of year one (June 2008). Currently 12 of the 14 plans are completed or nearly completed and are on schedule. It is exciting to see so many people work together for the common goal of providing the highest quality education for our children.

President John F. Kennedy once said so eloquently, “the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans.” If you consider, that the students of today will be the ones tomorrow that will find a cure for cancer, sit in government offices, control the economy, make decisions on war and peace; isn’t it only right that we make sure that the next “generation of Americans” are prepared in every way possible to lead our great towns, cities, states and country and to make us all proud to have been a part of their growth and development?