

Voluntown Board of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022

Board of Education Mission Statement

The Board of Education commits to providing our students the basic skills essential to functioning competently in our society, including their ability to read, write, listen, speak, manipulate basic math concepts, and acquire a general knowledge of science. It is, therefore, our mission to help our students mature into independent, reasoning, and responsible individuals, who can adapt constructively in an ever-changing, multi-cultural, and technological world. (April 2004)

Strategic Plan for the Voluntown Public School System

This 2018-2022 Strategic Plan of the Board of Education emphasizes ways to improve our school system. This plan built upon identifying the best practices in our school system and input from a special Community Networking Roundtable held in March 2018. Priority areas include:

- Students as a Focal Point
- Finances
- Curriculum/Instruction/Learning
- Building/Grounds/Transportation
- Community/Public Relations

Students as a Focal Point

Maintain and update programs that enrich the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of students.

- Engage students and their families in the school community by effective communication initiatives, scheduling parenting programs, maintaining a volunteer program, utilizing multimedia channels of communication.
- Maintain a high quality SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Intervention) program for identifying students with instructional needs and scheduling Tier I and II interventions in Math and reading; and Tier III interventions with the approval of parents and/or guardians.
- Implement the School Climate Plan to promote excellent student behavior and curriculum improvement by implementing a meaningful RTI (Response to Intervention) program that emphasizes the guidelines listed in our Bullying Policy.
- Continue support for the YSB (Youth Service Bureau) and the LPC (Local Prevention Council) to assess community needs and develop programs such as a Juvenile Justice Review Board.
- Determine and set district standards for the wellness, nutrition, and physical fitness policy by maintaining Healthy Food Certification, scheduling uninterrupted recess time, and promoting daily exercise for all students.
- Maintain a comprehensive and balanced extra-curricular program.
- Seek professional development opportunities for faculty and staff with consultation time and communications across grade levels regarding curriculum and student learning.

Finances

- Prepare for potential changes in state and federal grants or other funding sources and develop position statements and contingency plans to ensure consistency and equity in funding education.
- Participate in regional, statewide, and federal meetings to develop recommendations to stop unfunded mandates to local municipalities.
- Seek grants to develop and provide additional programs for students during and after school.
- Document cost -saving strategies to maximize the expenditure of each taxpayer dollar while meeting the needs of the students, especially through participating in a regional school calendar as well as utilizing statewide consortiums, RESC resources, and applying for grants.
- Review database systems for accountability used throughout the school for Special Education, PSIS (Public School Information System) and other evaluation systems.
- Document the financial successes of a small school system in approving cost-saving strategies by the effective use of “school site governance” to maintain quality programs for students.

Curriculum, Learning, and Instruction

- Maintain an established decision making process through the effective use of subject area committees to research and develop proposals for review by the Curriculum Steering Committee and then present them to the Board of Education for approval.
- Implement the Common Core State Standards by supporting the efforts of our faculty to write lesson plans that effectively use our existing materials and supplies, purchase appropriate educational materials, and publish a written curriculum as created and recommended through our decision-making process.
- Continually improve reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, health, and technology programs to ensure that instruction is aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Implement the Professional Learning/Teacher Evaluation Plan and assessment of student progress as mandated by the Education Reform Act PA 13-245 of the State of Connecticut.
- Follow our curriculum development process to review and possibly implement a World Language Program.
- Coordinate school calendars to encourage regional professional development programs.
- Utilize, maintain and update our technology infrastructure and equipment to meet the requirements of the new electronic testing process to document student achievement to meet the accountability mandates of the Education Reform Act PA 13-245
- Implement recommended improvements through professional development to improve the process of helping students select the appropriate high school

Building, Grounds, and Transportation

- Maintain the facilities for effective instruction and a variety of community activities.
- Follow through with the recommended improvements and/or upgrades based on a comprehensive Five-Year Facilities Plan.
- Continue to utilize an Indoor Air Quality/Tools for Schools and Safety Committee to document our continuing work to maintain our facilities to meet all health and safety standards.
- Upgrade technology and communications infrastructure whenever financially possible to meet new educational requirements.
- Monitor transportation needs and prepare for the next lease/purchase.
- Effectively store and retrieve instructional supplies and materials.
- Research and develop recommendations for Green School initiatives.

Community and Public Relations

- Annually publish Student/Parent Handbooks for Pre-School, Elementary, Junior High School, and a new special High School Handbook for 6, 7, and 8th to review high school choices.
- Maintain a School/Community Safety Team to coordinate and implement our security process, procedures, and improvements to our schools
- Expand partnerships with community and town officials.
- Make educational presentations and budget reports to community groups.
- Publish and/or electronically send frequent newsletters about school system initiatives.
- Expand the information posted on the school website, newspapers and other media.
- Create a format to monitor the graduation rate of our high school students.
- Communicate academic standards to parents
- Review issues developed from a Community Conversations forum and seek to enhance this four-year Strategic Plan based on a Board of Education analysis of suggestions and data.
- Participate in networking efforts among town organizations such as: the Board of Education, the Board of Selectmen, Economic Development Commission, Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, Recreation Commission, Seniors, and others to coordinate services and communications to the community.