
District 86 Vision and Strategic Planning Initiatives Update and Review

*Meeting of the Board of Education
February 23, 2009*

MISSION STATEMENT

Hinsdale Township High School District 86 is a community of learners committed to education in an environment that promotes excellence, respect, and responsibility. We believe

- *Learning is a lifelong process*
- *All students are capable of learning*
- *Respect for diversity is an integral part of education*
- *Students learn best in a safe and supportive environment*
- *Education is a shared responsibility among students, parents, the school, and the community*

Focus Area: Student Centered

Establish a vision to ensure that the best interests of District 86 students are at the center of all decisions made. The curricular and co-curricular programming as well as secure learning environment in District 86, must take into consideration the diverse needs of the student population and the individual needs of each student.

Strategy Area: Standards and Alignment

Increase academic standards and improve and align the curriculum and instructional program to ensure that all students of all ability levels at both schools are challenged to their maximum academic potential.

Focus Area: Faculty/Staff

Attract and retain quality educators and staff through an environment that emphasizes professional development and excellent working relationships, and ensures a high degree of employee satisfaction.

Focus Area: Facilities/Green Initiatives

Create an environment within each school that is modern, environmentally friendly (green initiatives, energy conservation), clean and secure, recognizes the unique needs of a diverse population of students, and promotes optimal learning for all students.

Focus Area: Finance

Develop a financial plan to implement the tactics in the Vision and Strategic Plan that ensures fiscal responsibility, equity in resource distribution between the schools in District 86, and transparent communication about the District's finances.



Focus Area: Communication

Develop and implement protocols as part of a comprehensive District communication plan to brand District 86 high schools as the choice schools in the region, as well as ensure transparent communication between and among all stakeholder groups.

Strategy Area: Research and Information

Become a leader in effectively using information to make decisions that will ensure success for District 86 in the years to come.



SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Focus Area: Student Centered

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- The 2008-2010 District Improvement Plan including the Response to Intervention (RtI) component was completed, approved by the Board and submitted to the State.
- Both schools continued work on RtI plans involving students, parents, and staff on committees that focused on Reading, Mathematics, and Behavior.
- In conjunction with the PTO, the Hinsdale Central Guidance Department conducted training for students in college admissions interviewing. The Guidance Department also held a seminar for parents of Special Education students on the admissions process.
- Hinsdale South continued to improve its Transfer Student Program. Faculty involved in the program were invited to showcase their program at the ROE (Regional Office of Education) Equity & Excellence Conference in January.
- District procedures for Homebound instruction, private placements, and alternative placements were reviewed and revised.

Focus Area: Faculty/Staff

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- District Administration has posted all open positions and is updating all job descriptions.
- District Administration has identified all Job Fairs to participate in as recruiting begins for the 2009-2010 school year.
- The Board of Education approved a contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois as the District's Third Party Administrator. This action will provide enhanced services to District employees and substantial cost savings for both employees and the District.
- The Board of Education approved a contract with a new Employee Assistance Program provider who will offer more robust and comprehensive wellness programs to our employees.
- The Board of Education approved a new 403(b) Plan document for District staff.
- Technology staff worked collaboratively with Assistant Principals and teachers to fine-tune the new version of the "grade book" called the Teacher Access Center.

Focus Area: Facilities/Green Initiatives

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- The District adopted web-based software to allow for electronic writing and storage of student IEP's.
- SharePoint is now being used to provide agendas and as a document library following teacher training. Resource materials from faculty presenters are posted following Induction/Training sessions.
- The Instructional Improvement Task Force and the Parent Community Technology Advisory Committee have become totally paperless.
- Hinsdale Central's Red Goes Green Committee continues to work toward the enhancement of recycling efforts at Central. It is estimated that the amount of recycling at Central alone has tripled since last year.
- District Administration continued their research regarding waste disposal and recycling companies and are preparing to take this service out to bid in the Spring.
- District Administration is converting triplicate forms to "writable" or on-line forms for surveys, registrations, and submission of information to the Administrative Center.

Focus Area: Facilities/Green Initiatives (continued)

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- The District’s Technology Department has researched vendors that will ship quantities of computers using a “green system” which minimizes packaging and, subsequently, reduces cost of waste disposal, shipping, and staff time.
- The Board of Education adopted an Environmental Responsibility and Conservation Policy, which demonstrates the District’s commitment to reducing the environmental impact of its day-to-day activities while providing high quality education and teaching students to be good stewards of the Earth. The focus of the policy is to be cost efficient and to engage in sustainable resource.
- Both campuses have used a recycling company which collects outdated computer equipment, transports them off-site, and recycles them responsibly.
- The Board approved a contract with Perkins + Will Architects.
- The architect (Perkins + Will) will be presenting a Master Facility Planning Process to the Board in February for consideration.

Focus Area: Finance

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- The District Administration continues to research software which will meet the needs of both the Business Office and Human Resources Department. Administration is benchmarking other school districts.
- PMA Financial Services made a presentation to the Board of Education related to the District's financial projections.
- Virchow and Krause made a presentation to the Board of Education regarding the FY08 Audit.
- William Blair and Company made presentations to the Board of Education regarding the bond market, working cash bond issuance, and financing options for District projects.
- The Board approved the sale of \$4 million in working cash bonds for artificial turf fields and school entrance renovation at both campuses.
- The Board approved the issuance of \$10 million in working cash bonds for facility enhancements in the District.

Focus Area: Communication

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- Monthly meetings of the Parent Community Technology Advisory Committee provide an effective forum for communication between District Administration and District constituents as they work toward common goals.
- Both building principals continued to use electronic media to communicate with their constituents.
- Hinsdale Central held an “open forum” for parents, students, and staff to discuss the issue of teenage alcohol consumption. Participants identified current student behaviors and discussed the school’s role in responding to this issue.
- District seniors were trained to present Internet Safety curriculum to grade school students.

Focus Area: Communication (continued)

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- District Administration has researched and taken to bid a two-way radio system which will enable District-wide communication when needed/particularly during crisis response incidents.
- The District hosted a Parent Education Opportunity with one of the nation's premiere ethicists, Michael Josephson, founder of the Character Counts Program. The presentation, which focused on how to build character in your teens, was well received by the District community. Mr. Josephson also spent the day at Hinsdale Central High School, the 2007 National Character Counts Award winner.
- A partnership was established between our District and LADSE through the Key Communicator network.



FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Focus Area: Student Centered

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- Process established for selecting a new District Architect/Engineer.
- Professional Development focused on classroom strategies & “Classroom of Tomorrow.”
- The District Improvement Plan with the required RtI component neared completion. Nearly 40 faculty, staff, and parents have been involved in the planning effort.
- Transition planning for special education students has been coordinated across District 86, LADSE, and other school districts.
- District special education services & programs were analyzed for improvement.
- A review of current processes for private placement, alternative placements, and home bound services, have begun to make them more effective and efficient.
- Activity and Athletic program data is being collected to find ways to improve student experiences in both areas.
- District Administration planned three major Parent Education Opportunities.

Focus Area: Faculty/Staff

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- A Professional Development calendar for all non-tenured teachers was created for the 2008-2009 school year. Areas of focus included: classroom management, cooperative learning, and instructional technology.
- Hiring and Staffing timelines were created including administrative procedures.
- Reservations for key teacher recruiting fairs were made.

Focus Area: Facilities/Green Initiatives

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- The Board of Education and District Administration transitioned to an Electronic Board Book.
- The Board Policy Subcommittee has drafted a District Environmental Responsibility and Conservation Policy.
- Electronic media including SharePoint sites, Word Documents, pdf formatting, and email used to replace paper agendas and other correspondence.
- Waste management contracts are currently being reviewed to determine a bidding timeline.
- Adopted and implemented web-based on-line Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- At the building level “green” initiatives have increased recycling efforts and reduced paper usage.



Focus Area: Finance

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- District Administration is researching software companies that can provide a software package that can meet the needs of both the Business Office and Human Resources Department.

Focus Area: Communication

Actions taken during the 2008-2009 school year to support this Focus Area:

- An electronic calendar is utilized District-wide by most staff, which enables more efficient and timely communication regarding meeting and event scheduling.
- E-mail communications regarding Central and South High School news continue to be disseminated to subscribers.
- Principal Pobst sends a weekly e-mail to all Central students regarding school events.
- Principal Waterman sends a weekly internal newsletter, *The Hornet Herald*, to all South staff.
- Both building principals use electronic media to communicate on a regular basis with students, staff, and parents.

