**Strategic Plan Update / January 2018 Press Release**

With this January update, we are pleased to share continued high engagement and great progress in the strategic planning process. The district’s next strategic plan is drafted and ready for feedback to assist in focusing our work and supporting the School Committee, district leaders, and all community stakeholders in making the best decisions to achieve our shared mission, “***empowering all students to excel***.”

Back in June, we named our **Strategic Plan Steering Committee**, carefully and objectively selected from over 70 internal and external stakeholder volunteers. The **Barrington Public Schools Strategic Plan Steering Committee** has now held 5 meetings. The committee meetings have boasted high attendance and members continue to demonstrate high engagement around the planning process to **define our collective vision of success, articulate our core values, and set ambitious goals for 2023 in specific priority areas**. As the Steering Committee meetings are **open and transparent**, non-committee participants are welcome to observe and listen, and community members have taken advantage of this opportunity throughout the process.

In September, our partners at Studer Education℠ administered **anonymous, online surveys to all parents and employees** of the district. Participation was impressive: **more than 200 employees** and at least **665 parents** participated in the online surveys. In early October, members of our community were invited to participate in one of **15 focus group sessions** with our Studer Education℠ facilitators to discuss our district’s vision of success, values, strengths, and areas for improvement. Each session was guided by the same questions and total focus group participation included **nearly 200 people**. These included **44 students, 88 employees, and 60 family and/or community members**. The Steering Committee then used multiple meetings to analyze survey and focus group feedback and to develop the draft plan that is now available for broader feedback to assist in **prioritizing among the many desired outcomes** gleaned through community engagement.

At this time, we encourage community members to visit the [district website page on strategic planning](http://www.barringtonschools.org/strategic-planning.html) to view the **Draft Strategic Plan** and to **provide feedback via an online survey**. **Students, parents, families, employees, and all community members** are welcome to contribute feedback via the survey, which is designed to **glean stakeholders’ priorities** among the many options we’ve heard about for our next plan. Thus far, we have heard from many stakeholders and distilled the consistent themes and interests of multiple groups. Now we are focused on **narrowing and prioritizing** from all that we’ve learned to **finalize an ambitious and realistic plan** for the future.

The survey will be open to the community from **January 5th through January 12th**. Please contribute your voice to this process. As with prior reports from Studer Education℠, this survey’s **results report** will not include verbatim open response comments from the survey; a summary of important information in the comments will be provided to us by Studer Education℠.

The **Steering Committee** will meet again on **January 25th from 4-6 pm** to analyze the feedback from this survey and prepare a final draft of the plan for School Committee approval. Barrington Public Schools and its leaders are grateful for the wide participation and dedicated commitment of the community to making a powerful plan for continuous improvement.