



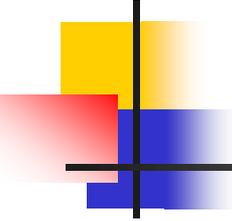
Why Strategic Planning?

Empowering school communities
and their staffs

Presented by: Dr. Charles Fowler

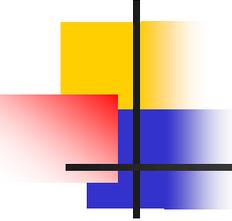
As part of Educational Planning

November 15, 2014



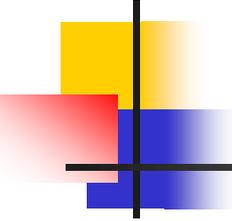
Our local school districts are at the precipice of being nationalized in a period of significant economic challenge

- Race To The Top & The Common Core (impact on state policies in 28 states) and curriculum initiatives at every level
- Required national and state standards and assessments
- Determining how schools will be evaluated and closed or “reorganized”
- Determining how principals and teachers will be evaluated (e.g. APPR)



Our local school districts are at the precipice of being nationalized in a period of significant economic challenge

- State and Federal aid are unpredictable
- While policy changes are being enacted at the state and Federal levels, the local tax burden is being challenged to assume the costs of those changes and mandates within limitations (e.g. New York's levy limit; Governor's 2015 tax proposal)

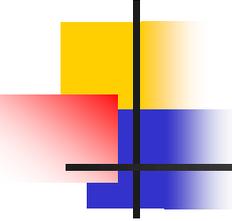


Our local school districts are at the precipice of being nationalized in a period of significant economic challenge

- The overall national economy remains unpredictable with “recovery” largely impacting only the top 1%
- There is growing pressure in New York toward consolidation and/or increased “shared services” which may further homogenize services and policies, limiting local choices and preferences

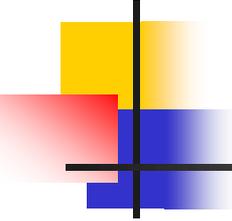
With all these initiatives, there is a tremendous need to provide focus for our teachers and students. WHAT are the priorities?





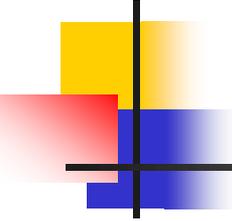
How can a locally-elected school board, staff and community better influence local direction and outcomes and set a focus?

- Placing national and state policies in a “context” of local planning
- Empowering the staff and community to help set the emphasis on the learning needs of their children
- Establishing accountability standards that encompass but are not limited to state and national policy



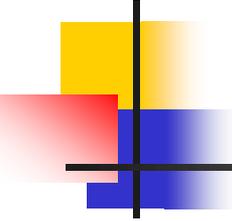
A Suggested Model for VS#13 Strategic Planning

- The Board initiates a broad **needs assessment** process that provides all stakeholders an opportunity to identify areas of needed programs and services growth and improvement
- A **Strategic Planning Committee** is established to process and refine the initial stakeholder input



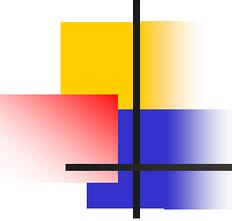
A Suggested Model for VS#13 Strategic Planning

- After gathering additional input to refine the **needs assessment** data, the Strategic Planning Committee formulates an achievable number of broadly-stated, measurable **Goals** to guide the work of the district over the next five-year period



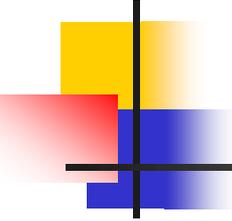
A Suggested Model for VS#13 Strategic Planning

- SPC brings the tentative **Goals** back out to focus groups to “tweak” them and ensure the stakeholder input has been correctly understood
- SPC then brings the tentative **Goals** to the School Board for its approval and/or revision



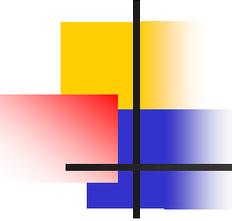
A Suggested Model for VS#13 Strategic Planning

- With school board-approved **Goals**, the SPC and staff develop time-specific, measurable **Objectives and Activities** which describe WHO will do WHAT, HOW, over what PERIOD OF TIME, at WHAT COST, and how the Board will know if the objectives have been met, and/or activities appropriately implemented.



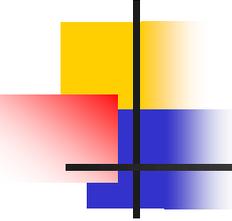
A Suggested Model for VS#13 Strategic Planning

- The **Objectives and Activities** will be folded together with the **Goals** to constitute a **Recommended Five-Year Strategic Plan** to be brought to the Board for approval and incorporation into the District's financial planning



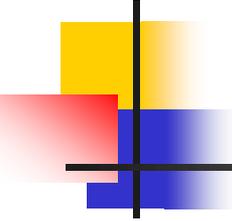
A Suggested Timeline for VS#13 Strategic Planning

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
November-December	Administer Needs Assessment Survey
January-February	Appoint SPC; review initial NA data
March	SPC clarifies/supplements NA
April-May	SPC develops suggested Goals
June	Board tentatively approves Goals
July-September	Superintendent/Staff develop measurable objectives/activities for Goals to review with SPC
October	SPC presents proposed 5-Year Plan
November	Board adopts Plan and its financing



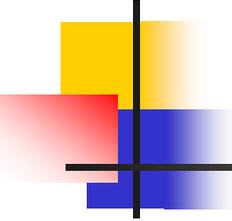
What are the results?

- Members of the broader VS#13 school community have been given a stronger “voice” in the values and priorities for their children
- Staff accountability encompasses but also exceeds simple test scores
- There is a “living” document (always subject to change) which lays out anticipated change over a multi-year period. . .people know what to expect and the accompanying fiscal impact



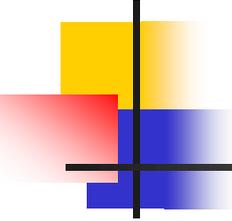
What are the results?

- Multi-year financial planning can become more of a reality
- Financial decisions can better reflect local priorities



How are the costs of strategic planning paid?

Through a BOCES Planning Co-Service Agreement, which is financed through reimbursements in the District's annual State BOCES aid



What will be the first step?

- Seeking stakeholder input which assesses areas of strength and areas of needed improvement
- Because of the planned retirement of the Superintendent, this will be combined with seeking input on “specifications” for the search for a new Superintendent