



## FAIR HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Fair Haven Community Members  
Cc: Board of Education  
From: Nelson Ribon, Superintendent  
Re: Strategic Planning Update  
Date: April 14, 2016

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It is with great enthusiasm that I announce that the final phase of our Strategic Planning process begins tonight! With all of the information collected over a five-month period, we now begin the writing process. As required by our consultants from EIRC, these final sessions are to be conducted in a small-group setting, no more than 25 or so participants, including Board of Education members, administrators, staff and community representatives. As for their selection, priority was given to those participants that attended all three of our sessions last fall and could commit to all three evening writing sessions, with the second coming on April 28<sup>th</sup> and final one on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Additional participants were invited, but declined due to personal commitments.

I would like to thank school community members Christa Ahrens, Suzanne Butler, Katy Frissora, Rachel Griffin, Frank Gripp, Carol Lang and Suzanne McCabe for allocating more of their time to be a part of this process. From our staff, my gratitude goes out to Betty Crowley, Kristen Walls, Dan Ranahan, Chris Aviles and Pat Young, as well as our administrators and Board members. As we have done with all of our other sessions, we will be sure to provide updates of our work on our website's Strategic Planning page.

The goal of the Fair Haven Public Schools' project has been to conduct a strategic planning process for the purpose of defining the decisions and actions that shape and guide the future direction for the school district over the next several years. The planning process included targeted and prioritized action steps to move the district forward.

We have been very fortunate to have welcomed 152 members of our community to our three community/staff focus groups conducted on October 7, November 11 and December 1, 2015. They represent a wide variety of stakeholder groups in our community, including those from the Borough Council, business owners, school staff, police and fire department leadership, senior citizens, along with current, former and future parents of our students. The valuable data collected from these sessions will be reviewed and utilized to guide us in the creation of our final plan.

In addition, a community survey was conducted from February 29 through March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, with 165 surveys returned. Focus groups reflected diversity of opinion and positions regarding the current status and future of the Fair Haven Public Schools and articulated some interesting, thought provoking, and in some cases almost unanimous agreement on the current and future direction of the district. This analysis is now available on our website.

The final plan will be presented to the Board of Education in the coming months for review and approval. It will then be shared with our community members in time to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We greatly appreciate all of the time and information shared throughout this process and look forward to completing this work on behalf of our Fair Haven schools and community!

### Mission Statement

*The mission of the Fair Haven School District, a small caring community that values education, is to provide students with a broad academic foundation based on the New Jersey and Common Core State Standards, to nurture their talents and abilities, and to inspire them to become life-long learners.*