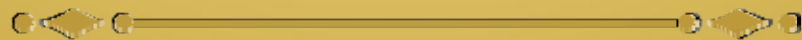


Mt. Diablo Unified School District



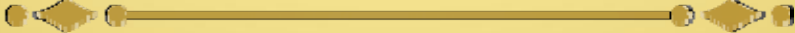
Strategic Planning Study Session
October 5, 2010

Outline for Discussion



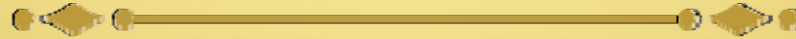
1. **What is the definition of strategic planning?**
2. **What's the difference between strategic planning and long range planning?**
3. **What are the key components of a strategic plan?**
4. **Why do school districts choose to do a strategic plan?**
5. **What does a strategic plan help a district to do?**
6. **What are sample outcomes from the strategic planning process? How do these differ from what we have now?**
7. **When is it not a good time to do strategic planning?**
8. **What would the Board want from a strategic planning process?**
9. **What are the pluses/minuses of doing a strategic plan now?**
10. **Is this the time to do a strategic plan?**

What is the definition of strategic planning?



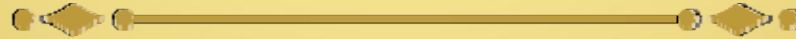
- ✦ Strategic planning is a set of concepts, procedures and tools.
- ✦ Because every planning process should be tailored to fit specific situations, every process in practice will be a hybrid.
- ✦ See handout for sample definitions.

What's the difference between strategic planning and long range planning?



Long Range Planning	Strategic Planning
Primarily addresses existing circumstances.	Identifies and plans how to plan for future circumstances.
Focus on inside the district.	Focus on what is happening in the larger environment and what means for schools.
Focuses more on specifying goals and objectives and translating them into current budgets and work programs.	Focuses on identifying and resolving issues before developing plans with current and projected budget.
Tends to assume that current trends will continue and plans with a linear extrapolation.	Assesses the environment inside and out of the district with an expectation that there will be shifts in direction.

What are key components of a strategic plan?



1. Strategic planning committee to analyze and organize findings.
2. Compilation and review of current, projected and trend data for the school district.
3. Review of futures projections
4. Input from the community to determine values, interests and priorities. This can be through public meetings, focus groups and/or surveys.
5. An analysis of the District's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (S.W.O.T. Analysis).
6. An analysis of the data to identify key findings.
7. Review and potential recommended revision to the District's mission statement.
8. Description of the desired future state of the District.
9. Development of goals and strategies for each key finding.
10. Development of an action plan and monitoring plan.
11. Annual evaluation and adjustment of the plan.

Why do school districts choose to do a strategic plan?

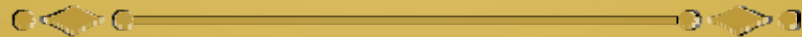


- ✦ Strategic planning is one way to help organizations and communities deal with their changed circumstances.
- ✦ It can help them formulate and resolve the most important issues they face.
- ✦ It can help them build on strengths and take advantage of major opportunities, while they overcome or minimize weaknesses and serious threats.
- ✦ It can help them be much more effective in a much more hostile world.

What does a strategic plan help a district to do?

- ✦ Think strategically and develop effective strategies.
- ✦ Clarify future direction.
- ✦ Establish priorities.
- ✦ Make today's decisions in light of their future consequences.
- ✦ Develop a coherent and defensible basis for decision making.
- ✦ Exercise maximum control in the areas under organizational control.
- ✦ Make decisions across levels and functions.
- ✦ Solve major organizational problems.
- ✦ Improve organizational performance.
- ✦ Deal effectively with rapidly changing circumstances.
- ✦ Build teamwork and expertise.

**What are sample outcomes
from the strategic planning
process? How do these
differ from what we have
now?**



Please review the existing District vision statement and Board goals against sample documents.

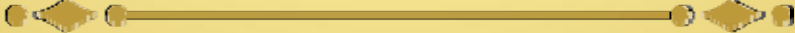
When is it not a good time to do strategic planning?



Strategic planning is not advisable when ...

- ✦ A district is in crisis and needs an immediate remedy.
- ✦ The organization lacks the resources or commitment of key decision makers to produce a good plan.
- ✦ Implementation is unlikely.

Discussion Questions



- 1. What would the Board want from a strategic planning process?**
- 2. What are the pluses/minuses of doing a strategic plan now?**
- 3. Is this the time to do a strategic plan?**