Developing and Maintaining the School Strategic Plan

Andrew Hilliker

President, Stella Maris Academy, Duluth, MN

MNSAA Board Treasure, Team Chair, and APR Reviewer

Andrew.Hilliker@stellamaris.academy

Goals

What is a Strategic Plan

Why is the Strategic Plan Important

Strategies for Developing the Strategic Plan

Timeline

Quality Strategic Plan Requirements

Required Structure of Strategic Plan

Example Strategic Plan

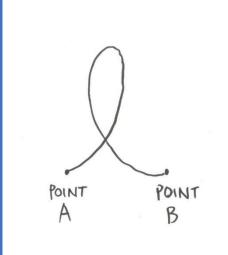
Maintaining the Strategic Plan

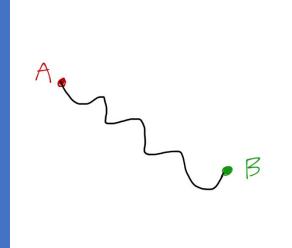
Post Onsite Visit

Disclaimer

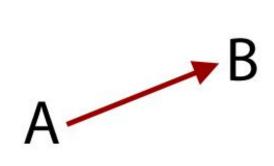
Every school's governance, environment, and community functions differently.

Be mindful that there are multiple routes from "HERE" to "THERE" – keep *your* **mission**, **students** and **stakeholders** in sight at all times when considering the ideas presented in these slides.





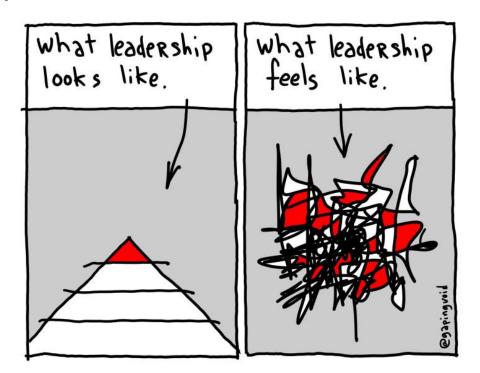




What is the School Strategic Plan and Why it is Essential

A visionary roadmap of objectives, strategies and action steps that takes your school from 'now' to 'future'

Where your school wants to be and how you are going to get there



To avert the feeling of chaos in our work as administrators / teacher leaders and provide a plan to make our school's future bright(er) for the kids we get to serve.

Process for Development

Define School's Current Reality Strengths and Challenges from MNSAA Self-Study Analyze Annual Surveys of Stakeholders (parents, donors, students, staff, and anyone else who values your mission and function)

Develop Community Support, Understanding, and Buy-In

Integral to have a Steering Committee comprised of a variety of members (respected staff, board members, donors, students?, parents)

Communicate, Seek Input, and Respond

Create School Strategic Plan and Share Does it meet MNSAA Standards for a Quality SSP?
Has your school community been made aware of the final draft of the SSP?

Suggested Timeline for SSP Development



Analyze Strengths /
Challenges from
Self-Study and
Stakeholder Surveys

Fall 2024

Share Strengths and
Challenges with
Stakeholders and
accept feedback for
consideration.
Consider: Listening
Sessions, Meetings,
Video Presentations,
Etc. to share.

November

2024

Utilize Steering
Committee to draft
objectives and action
steps that are student
driven, reflect school's
current reality, and
reasonableness
considering human
resources and
available means.

December 2024



Complete final editing and begin promoting final draft to stakeholders (parents, committees, donors, appropriate public entities, website parishes / congregation etc.)

January 2025



Invite your Onsite
Visiting Team in to
validate your
Self-Study and your
School Strategic Plan.

Use your Team Chair!

Spring 2025

A Quality SSP Is:

Valid

- Does SSP reflect current reality of school?
- Seek outsiders (principal's, community members) to check your tunnel vision.

Connected

- Are the challenges in your self-study addressed?
- Review, review, and re-review your self-study; highlighter investment.

Supported

- Do all those that care for and support your school know the initiatives within the SSP?
- Think about who your school will need to accomplish the goals within SSP.

Visionary

- Does your SSP take you into the future?
- Avoid the to-do list.

Reasonable

- Are you and your team able to accomplish the goals in the SSP
- Challenge yourself, but don't set up for failure.

Focused

- Are students at the heart of improvement?
- Ask, "Will this objective benefit the kids I get to serve everyday?"

Required Components of SSP

Objectives

"End Result"

- Far reaching statement of where you want to be as a school.
- Can this really ever be attained?
- Does this objective require numerous accomplishments to be attained?

Strategies

"The Recipe"

- Concise statement that works to accomplish the objective.
- Start with a verb!
- Requires defined action steps to come to fruition.

Action Steps

"The Ingredients"

- Indicate who is doing what and when to reach the strategy
- The finite roadmap for the Objective.
- Steps are chronological and sequential

Example of SSP

ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN

(OBJECTIVE 1) St. Joseph's School will meet the academic needs of each student.

(STRATEGY 1) Develop a vertically aligned curriculum Pre-K through 8th grade.

	Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
(Action Step 1) Form a Curriculum Committee comprised of teachers representing various grade levels.	Spring 2014	Principal	Teacher committees have been established and are actively working to develop an updated and standards aligned curriculum.
(Action Step 2) Create a curriculum mapping template to be used for all subject areas.	Spring/Summer 2014	Curriculum Committee	A curriculum driving committee has been established by administration and teachers. This committee developed a web-based template that allows teachers to input information throughout the academic year. This will allow ease in communication to stakeholders as well as maintaining the ability to adjust when necessary.
(Action Step 3) Collect curriculum map data utilizing the template designed in action step 2. Language Arts (14-15) Science (15-16) Specials (P.E., Music, Art, Technology) Social Studies (16-17) Math (17-18)	Years are noted in parentheses of action step 3	Curriculum Committee	Timeline per content area has been adjusted to accommodate St. Joseph's School's specific need and text cycle reality. Faculty teams are working to update and align the English Language Arts Curriculum during the 2014-2015 academic year, including ensuring assessments are appropriately providing documentation for student progress. Specialist classes (Art, Physical Education, Music and Technology) are being aligned by those PLC teacher teams over the next two academic years. Religion will be addressed on a Diocesan level over the next 2 years.
(Action Step 4) Analyze and align curriculum to ensure written curriculum is expressly reflective and tied to state standards. • Language Arts (14-15) • Science (15-16) • Specials (P.E., Music, Art, Technology)	Summer of year noted	Curriculum Committee	

Maintaining School Strategic Plan

Structured Maintenance

Annual Progress Report (completed in June and submitted to MNSAA APR Review Team)

Living Document to meet unexpected realities of school

Intrinsic Value

Road map for leadership (bigger than one person or position)

Directs resources to an agreed upon plan and purpose that will support students

Stability for inundation of ideas presented to leadership of school

Ideas

Make part of board/advisory/donor meetings, State-of-School Report, and development plans

Print, Laminate, Post, Mark-Up

Make part of Evaluation of self and/or governance

After Your On-Site Visit

Onsite Team Visits School

Chair Meets with Administrative Team Team's Report is received by MNSAA Director for review

MNSAA Board responds to Team's Report

Responding to Team and Board Actions

(Accredited Status)

- Bring your Steering Committee back together to review the feedback and report from MNSAA
- You will respond to MNSAA's Team Report and possibly have a timeline of evidence to provide pending visit.
- Amend SSP if necessary
- Share with your community and stakeholders

What's Clear?

What's Not?

Other Thoughts?

