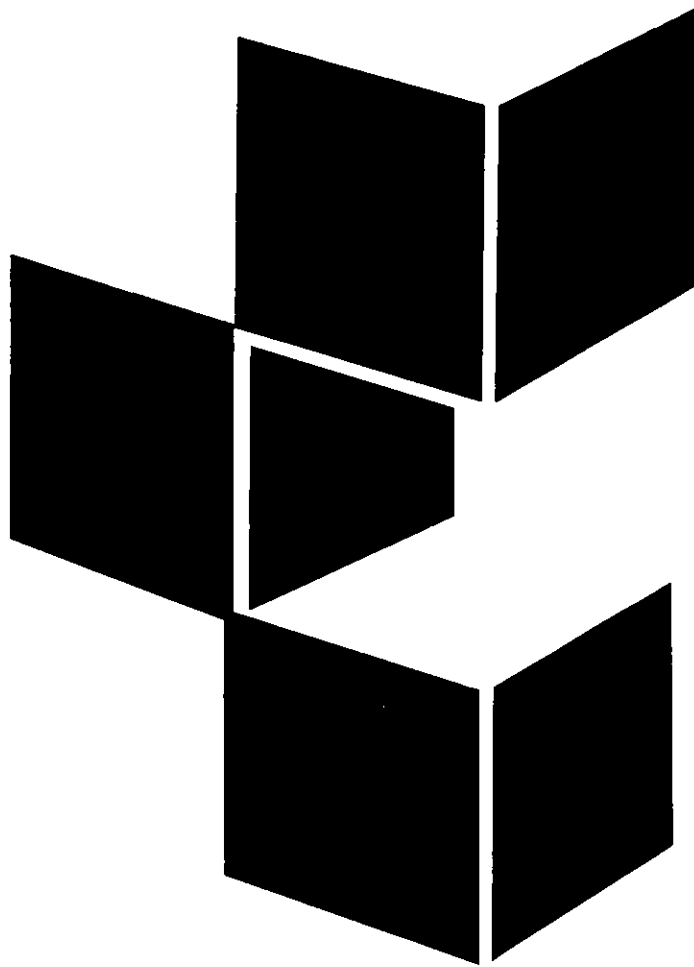


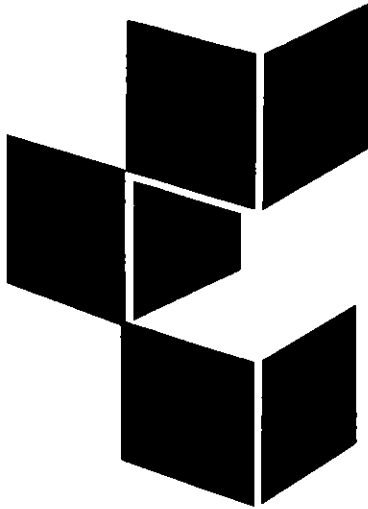
CRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION



LONG-RANGE PLAN

2007 - 2012

ADOPTED: MAY 14, 2007



During the 2006-2007 school year, the Long-Range Planning Committee for the Cranford Public Schools met to formulate long-range plans for the school district. The committee consisted of professional staff, Board of Education members, parents, students and other community members. Chaired by Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Albert E. Mussad, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, the committee revised the district's previous long-range plan by reaching consensus about students' needs and educational priorities. The long-range objectives and action plans were adopted by the Board of Education on May 14, 2007.

The long-range plan was developed to shape the district's future and support its continuous improvement efforts. While the objectives and action plans represent desired outcomes, we realize that fiscal realities may influence their level of attainment. By using this document to help formulate specific district and school goals each year, and by monitoring annual progress toward attainment of the plan's objectives, the Board of Education and district/school administration will ensure growth opportunities for all Cranford students.

Mission Statement

*T*he Cranford Public Schools will provide an education in a vibrant learning community that encourages a passion for lifelong learning. Students will acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to be contributing, responsible and caring members of our society.

Belief Statements

*W*e believe that the Cranford Public Schools must:

- nurture self-respect and respect for others
- foster academic excellence and a strong work ethic in all our students
- encourage individual success by enabling each student to maximize his or her gifts, talents, abilities and interests
- prepare students to be productive citizens and meet the challenges of an ever-changing global and technological society
- develop critical, creative and analytical thinkers who have the ability to make decisions and communicate effectively
- foster an understanding of and sensitivity to all diversity
- encourage civic responsibility and service to others
- develop the ability for students to work cooperatively
- promote education as a shared responsibility among students, parents, teachers and the entire community
- stimulate an appreciation of the arts
- foster, promote and model healthful lifestyles
- develop students' ability to self-reflect
- provide students with the skills to establish goals and ways to achieve them
- model responsible environmental impact
- teach for understanding to enable relevant, real-world and interdisciplinary applications for all learners
- seek continuous improvement



Long-Range Planning Objectives

Objective 1: By June 2012, district curricula, instructional practices and professional development will reflect current research and "best practices" that foster academic excellence and provide each student with educational opportunities to achieve his/her potential.

Action Plans:

1. All Cranford teachers will have participated in the teaching for understanding seminar and/or school-based training related to teaching for understanding.
2. Cranford Public Schools will continue to offer quality professional development opportunities for all teachers to attain or surpass the standards developed by the New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards Board.
3. Staff will contribute to the development of individual education plans for each student to maximize his or her gifts, talents, abilities and interests.
4. The district will continue to examine "best practices" and develop curricula that foster life-long learning skills and the skills necessary for the effective transition into the workplace and/or post-secondary education.



Objective 2: By June 2012, the climate of the Cranford school community will reflect an understanding of and sensitivity to all diversity, including but not limited to cultural, racial, religious, socioeconomic, gender and sexual orientation.

Action Plans:

1. Evaluate present programs and activities to identify areas of strength and weakness relative to the goal.
2. Formulate an articulated program based on the results of the evaluation.
3. Provide teachers with annual staff development related to the goal.
4. Provide opportunities for student interactions with people of varying differences.
5. Plan units/lessons that will reflect opportunities for interactions among students of diverse backgrounds.

Objective 3: By June 2012, all staff and students will have appropriate skills in, understanding of, and access to technology.

Action Plans:

1. Incorporate technology into all curriculum revisions and new curricula to increase instructional effectiveness and student achievement.
2. Annually increase the proportion of teaching for understanding technology-infused classrooms in each school and broaden access to technologies in each school.



3. Maintain on-site just-in-time technical support and availability of in-class instructional support.
4. Provide technology professional development sufficient to meet the instructional, administrative, and support needs of all staff.
5. Establish and annually fund a technology renewal plan that ensures sufficient annual upgrading of present technology equipment and software.
6. Beginning in the primary grades, develop lessons/units that reflect the use and integration of technology skills such as proper keyboarding techniques and research skills into classroom activities to support student learning.

Objective 4: By June 2012, all district students will demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the arts.

Action Plans:

1. Evaluate the arts programs, curricula, lessons and student work to ensure alignment with national and state standards.
2. Investigate and promote opportunities for extended arts activities beyond the classroom.
3. Continue to offer arts inclusion training for all teachers to better enable their abilities to reinforce the natural "bridges" between the arts and other subject areas.
4. Investigate, develop, and increase curricular-related arts education activities with the community, such as "Family Art Night" and "Partners in Education."
5. Examine opportunities to use the arts as a means to develop a deeper understanding of diverse cultures.
6. Expand the arts programs to include theater, dance and film.



Objective 5: By June 2012, the scope of communication will broaden to enhance involvement of parents/guardians, community members, staff members and students.

Action Plans:

1. Explore a more efficient way to update school and district websites and e-mail communication with parents/guardians.
2. Update the district's telephone system and directory.
3. Develop a timeline for parent/guardian use of Pearson Centerpoint.
4. Use media such as local newspapers, TV35 and the community website to promote school events open to the public.
5. Expand the district newsletter to include highlights of past and future school activities.
6. Establish school-based parent education committees to plan and implement presentations on topical matters related to social, emotional, or physical needs of children.
7. Promote and support parents and other community members participating as volunteers in schools.

Objective 6: By June 2012, character education programs will be enhanced through the thoughtful partnership between home and school that balances character education and academic achievement.

Action Plans:

1. Encourage the use of conflict resolution skills within each school community.



2. Encourage information sharing of character building efforts that involve staff, students, parents and other community members.
3. Promote each school's "Code of Conduct," which addresses pertinent character development programs such as anti-bullying and conflict resolution.
4. Expand the role of each school-based Climate Committee, comprised of staff, parents and students, to include such purposes as:
 - involving the school community in supporting the character education curriculum; e.g., Lions-Quest, Olweus Bullying Prevention
 - planning and implementing activities/programs/events that promote a positive school climate
5. Continue to provide a parent component of character education, offering parent meetings and guest speakers.
6. Ensure that character education is included within the framework of the academic curriculum through activities that include but are not limited to:
 - Lions-Quest training for all new K-5 classroom teachers and middle school physical education teachers
 - authentic service learning experiences for all students
 - teacher collaboration to develop interdisciplinary character education units

Objective 7: By June 2012, the district will continue to develop and implement a comprehensive school counseling program to foster students' academic, personal/social and career development.

Action Plans:

1. As part of the district's commitment to the systemic delivery of school counseling services, investigate the feasibility of hiring additional school counselors and/or student assistance counselors for K-12 students.



2. Continue to provide services to students regarding career awareness and other post-secondary opportunities.
3. Continue to develop appropriate transitional programs between grade levels (K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12; post-secondary).
4. Establish, encourage and support activities that foster pre-K-12 students' personal/social development.

***Objective 8:** By June 2012, the Cranford Public Schools will maintain and increase "reach out" programs to solicit funding and other resources from private, business and/or corporate entities.*

Action Plans:

1. Continue to educate and inform the staff about grant opportunities and sources of private funding.
2. Encourage staff members to pursue grant and other funding opportunities with the assistance and support of the Instructional Support Specialist/Manager of Grants and Special Projects, school administrators and program supervisors and coordinators.
3. Develop a publicity plan to inform Cranford residents about grants and private funding secured by the district.

***Objective 9:** By June 2012, the district will continue to provide for the ongoing care, modification, rehabilitation and servicing of all school buildings, furnishings and grounds, to insure their continued function and the health and well-being of staff and students, and to accommodate educational and community programs.*

Action Plans:

1. Periodically conduct a comprehensive assessment of the district's facilities to determine where improvements, corrections and enhancements are needed.



2. Develop, on an annual basis, a plan for facility improvements in priority order in conjunction with the district's budget-building process.
3. Acknowledging the age of its school buildings, the district will review and assess facilities and infrastructure annually. A preventative maintenance plan will be implemented and reviewed annually.

Objective 10: By June 2012, the Cranford Public Schools will adopt an environmental plan with the specific goal of optimizing opportunities to reduce, reuse and/or recycle materials used in the operation of all district buildings.

Action Plans:

1. Utilize the district's Environmental Education Committee to study the environmental impact of materials used and practices currently in place relative to reduction, reuse and/or recycling of materials.
2. Charge the committee with the task of developing and implementing a plan for:
 - a robust recycling program in all district buildings
 - a decrease in the amount of waste generated in each district building
 - an increase in the use of **environmentally safe products**
3. Continue ongoing efforts to educate staff and students about responsible environmental behavior.



Long-Range Planning Committee Members

2007-2012

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