



HOPATCONG BOROUGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Goals

22-23 School Year

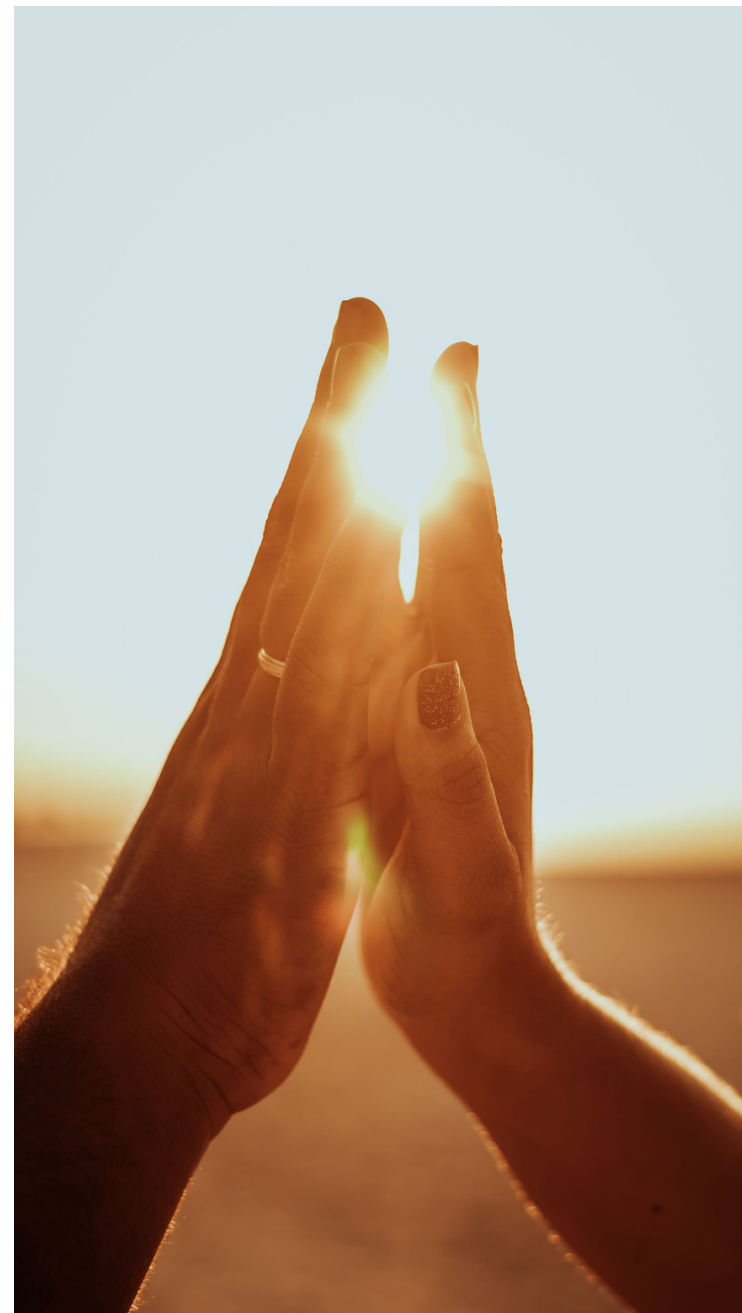


Vision & Mission

Created in August 2021

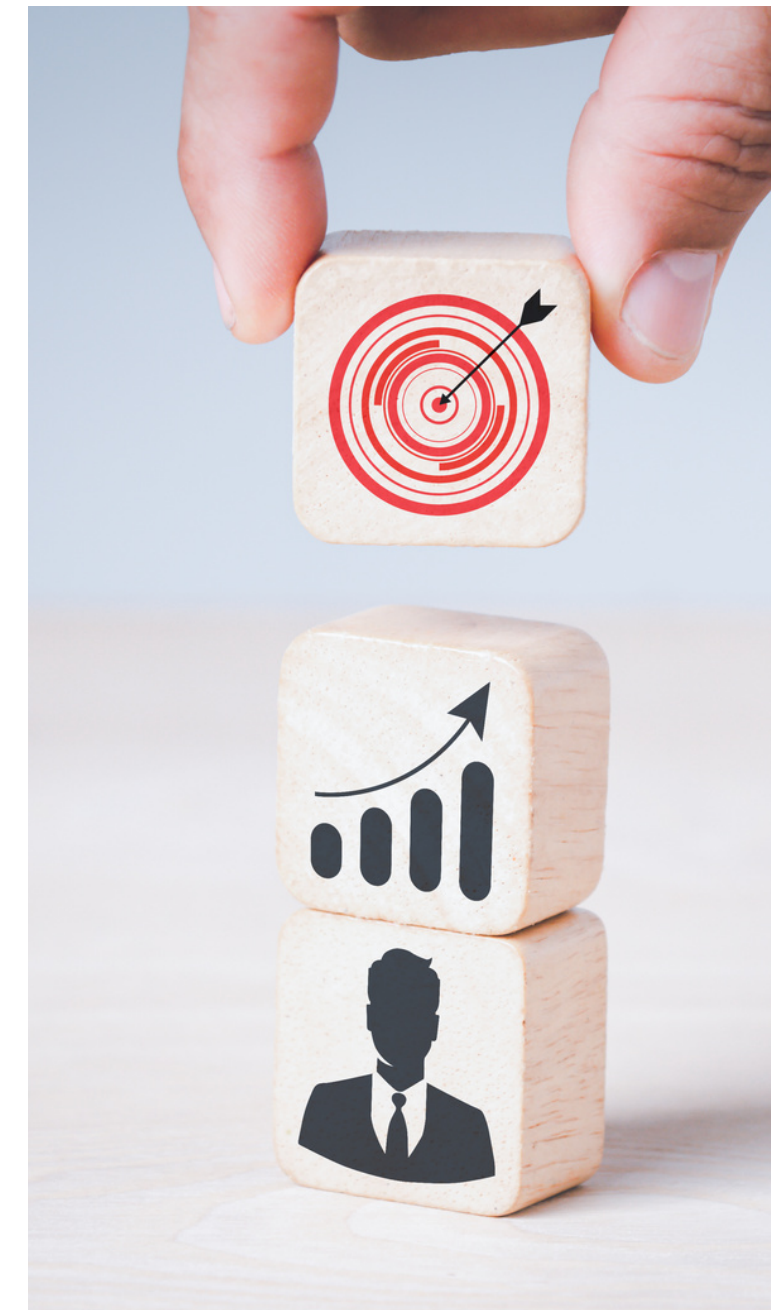
Vision

Hopatcong empowers students to blaze their own trail through trust, tenacity, and teamwork



Mission

Hopatcong provides a thorough and efficient education, which focuses on the whole child and builds upon the unique talents and interests of each student. We expect excellence from our entire faculty and staff as we prepare our students to compete at the highest level in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, and in their pursuits after graduation. We understand our roles as partners with parents in educating children and commit to working with the community to provide added value and pride to all those who call Hopatcong home.



21-22 BOE Goals

01

The Board of Education is committed to supporting programs and initiatives that overcome learning loss and help students to succeed academically.

02

The Board of Education will support programs and initiatives which improve school climate, student engagement, student wellness and ensure school safety and security.

03

The Board of Education will continue to investigate alternate means of fiscal responsibility to provide students with a thorough and efficient education in a financially responsible manner

04

For the benefit of the students, the Board of Education will communicate and foster relationships with the larger community to create learning opportunities and partnerships.

05

The Board of Education will continue to evaluate and implement campus enhancements that support student learning and their academic experiences.

HOW DID WE DO?



Goal #1



- **IXL** provides opportunities for our student to learn online through lessons and tutorials designed to meet them where they are and improve their individual progress toward grade level standards (or even provide acceleration) based on individual performance in live time. Analytics data is provided to track student progress and student usage.
- We had IXL for English, Math, SS, and Science this entire year.
- For the next four years we will continue with English and Math

PAPER

- **Paper** will provide students with 24/7 live tutoring. This will help give student the support they need outside of school while they study or complete homework and can be used during school as an "extra set of hands" for the teacher.



- This year we further streamlined our **RTI** process (which is a process by which students who are struggling academically are provided formal additional support through referrals by teachers or parents and given 6–8 week academic improvement plans) by adding it to our Frontline system. This allows ease of access and collaboration among staff and for the easy sharing and tracking of data.

Goal #1 (cont.)



- In light of not having had state testing for a few years, **Performance Matters** is a way to provide data to teachers to track their students' progress within the standards. Benchmark assessments are mandatory for our teachers in Performance matter three times a year for Math and ELA. They are optional in other subject areas. The benchmark assessments are almost always used as a part of a teacher's SGO.



- Through a partnership with FDU we have several teachers that just completed their **Orton Gillingham** certificate. Through that process we have had the opportunity to provide additional tutoring to our struggling readers and have given our teachers skills to provide this high level service.



- Some students do not learn as well online and are not able to benefit as well from the other supports. As such, we have used grant money to provide **pods** to students to work after school and through the summer 1:1 or in a small group with a teacher in-person. This has led many of our students to avoid failing classes or needing to repeat grade levels. We have also used pods to comply with s905 legislation in situations which require compensatory education for special needs students.

Goal #1 (cont.)



- By educating our 3 and 4 year-old students through the high quality preschool programs afforded them through **Preschool Expansion**, we hope to narrow the preparedness gap in Kindergarten and provide students the skills needed to be successful.

Areas For Continued Growth

- *Longitudinal Data on Improvement – this will come in part from State testing data and from viewing progress for students with IEPs in meeting their IEP goals.*
- *Students have shown growth this year, but are still significantly behind state benchmarks. While many districts through the state are also experiencing significant learning loss, we will need to track the data to see if our rebound is similar to other schools or if we are falling further behind.*

Goal #2



- Through our partnership with **Tri-County Behavioral Care**, we provided 63 total in-house counseling sessions for at-risk students in Hopatcong High School and Hopatcong Middle School.



- Through our continued partnerships with **The Center for Prevention**, we have received many Social-Emotional Learning supports free of charge, including -- just to name a few -- *Lions' Quest*: a 10 week SEL program for all 3rd through 6th grade students, *We're Not Buying It (WNBI)* -- a marijuana prevention program for all 6th grade students and *Footprints for Life* for all 2nd grade students. We are having even more expanded programs for the Middle School and High School this year.



- We have been able to bring in **guest speakers** this year, after not having them for over a year prior. These speakers -- such as Keith Hawkins (pictured) and Duane West, have shared SEL messages with our students on how to overcome bullying and how to maintain and nurture healthy relationships with other students and build a positive school climate.

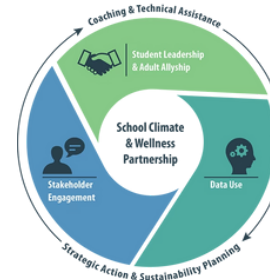
Goal #2 (cont.)



- **In-house transportation** is not only an effort to save money, but an opportunity to provide a better transportation experience for our students -- one that is safer, more reliable, and more in line with the mission and vision for our district.



- **Outside partnerships and clubs** returned this year, including our Middle School partnership with the National Winter Activity Center and our Orchestra Club, offered through a partnership with Elite Prep Academy.
- The NWAC opportunity was made possible through the Warm Jackets Fund Grant and the orchestra club was made possible through \$35,000 in instrument donations from Elite Prep. They also provided free tutoring!
- The Rotary has supported the Archery program which has helped to create an opportunity for our students to partner with the NASP.



- **School Climate** remains an important issue. Surveys were collected from students, families, and staff on school climate, stakeholder meetings were held, and -- in addition to the partnerships mentioned above -- in-district solutions such as SEL days were formed.

Goal #2 (cont.)

Areas For Continued Growth


- *Longitudinal Data on Improvement will need to be tracked this year.*
- *Loss of some key staff members (resignations, non-renewals, retirements, tragic death) may hurt morale and climate.*
- *Lack of administrators presents challenges -- particularly at the Middle School and High School.*
- *COVID presented some challenges in terms of students coming back "in-person" this year after not having had it for a while (anxiety, social pressures, etc.)*

Goal #3

- **Best Choice Nursing:** saved us \$20,000 compared to having a Roving Nurse.
- **Bussing:** Byram School District recently renewed their contract with Byram Bus for next year. It was about double the cost of their previous contract. Moving to a plan to handle this ourselves will save money and potentially make money in the future.
- **Additional Finance Meetings** were held with the Operations committee to ensure that all questions were answered and that as many possibilities were explored and investigated.
- **Special Meetings** were held including a long-term strategic planning meeting in April to explore ideas for long-term financial planning and sustainability including ideas on selling land and buildings, re-configuring the district, going to referendum, and exploring shared services.
- **Exploring Shared Services:** Mr. Hallenbeck has built upon shared services with the town to save money (e.g. equipment use, fuel, plowing, salt, etc.). We have also explored partnerships with other districts in an effort to both save money and improve the quality of the educational experience for students.
- **Investigated Consolidation and Send/Receive:** We have taken many proactive steps toward exploring all options with other districts that might provide our students with the best education. We hope to continue this research through a feasibility study in the future.
- **Non-Renewals:** Unfortunately, several teachers were non-renewed due to budget constraints.
- **Preschool Expansion:** Through P.E.A. we have been able to off-set current salaries of staff members working with Preschool.
- **Facilities Director:** We were able to save about \$60,000 by not replacing the Facilities Director with a full-time position.



Goal #3 (cont.)

- **Orthopedic Institute:** We have pursued creative solutions such as providing advertising space in return for money (\$3,000) and services (doctors at home football games).
 - Mr. Hallenbeck continues to work to trim costs through finding more efficient ways to accomplish the same tasks and by negotiating with vendors and using state contracts (e.g. printers, chromebooks, paperless processes, grants, etc.)
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Areas For Continued Growth

- *While much progress has been made, there is still a lot to do in this area. We must make difficult and definitive decisions once we receive the results of the feasibility study. The study should cover two important areas: 1) Would our district be able to vacate students in grades 2–3 from Tulsa and adequately fit them in other buildings through reconfiguration? and 2) might it be helpful to enter a send/receive relationship with another school district to provide a better education for our students at a more reasonable and sustainable cost to the tax payers?*
- *We must continue to monitor the Tulsa roof and all facilities to ensure that all students and staff are safe regardless of any efforts to save money.*

Goal #4

- **COVID Testing:** Worked with the county office, NJDOE, and outside vendors including Rover Labs and LabQ to provide free COVID testing for our staff.
- **COVID Efforts and Communication:** Managed to keep the district open with minimal interruptions through the year and kept in close communication with parents regarding changing protocols
- **Committee of the Whole Efforts:** We had several committees of the whole in an effort to be more transparent and build trust in the community.
- **Recording of BOE Meetings:** We began streaming meetings and archiving the recordings on our website to increase community awareness of BOE processes and school happenings.
- **Focus Groups and Talk to Me Tuesdays:** These initiatives represent an effort on the part of the BOE to increase community engagement and to hear from all stakeholders.
- **Elite Prep Academy:** Efforts are underway to find opportunities to partner with the Hudson Maxim School of Music and find ways to help each other not just amicably co-exist, but thrive.
- **Rochkind Foundation:** Our students, through this partnership, now have the opportunity to pursue interests in construction. This is an example of partnering with the public.
- **Cosmetology Clinic:** Our students provide services to community members, particularly senior citizens, and have received rave reviews and repeat clients!
- **Senior Center Visits:** The superintendent, high school principal, and high school band have visited the Senior Center several times this year to give updates on the State of the Schools and to entertain with performances.
- **Concurrent Relationships:** Through our partnerships with FDU, Seton Hall, and SCCC we have added 13 new course opportunities for dual credit and now have about 14% of our students earning dual credit.
- **Senior Awards Night:** Over \$50,000 was donated in scholarships to our seniors from community organizations, reflective of the continued partnerships we have with the community.

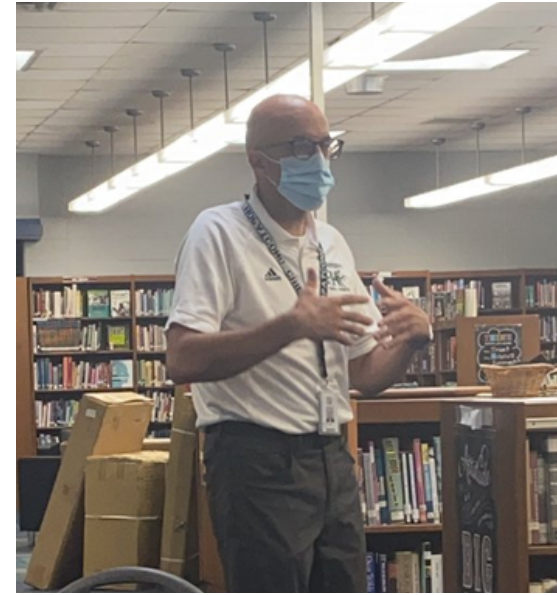
Goal #4 (cont.)

- **Optics Class:** We were able to run an Optics class for free due to our partnership with SCCC. The teacher taught one period a day in Hopatcong High School all year.
- **Community Petition:** We engaged the community through a petition that gained nearly 600 signatures to express our displeasure over the \$8.4M state aid cut.
- **Social Media:** We continue to maintain social media account in the district to engage the community with good news.
- **Podcasts:** The superintendent released podcasts twice a month to spotlight a student or staff member doing great things in the school. This is accessible on the school district website.
- **Communication with Town Council:** The superintendent, BOE members, and business administrator have communicated with the Mayor's office on shared services, big-ideas, and strategies to support budget concerns and sustainability.

Areas For Continued Growth

- *The live streaming of meetings, archived meetings, Talk to Me Tuesdays, Mr. Gruenfelder's Focus Group, and a few single issue meetings throughout the year -- particularly once we have a feasibility study -- should help with continued improvement in this area.*
- *Presence at Town Park days, Beautification Days, and State of The Schools meetings should also help.*
- *Talks are in the works to create a more professional podcasting set, where we could do a quarterly long-form state of the schools with the superintendent, business administrator, BOE president, committee chairs, and special guests.*

Goal #4 (cont.)



Goal #5

- **Beautification Efforts:** One of the frequently mentioned problems with facilities is that some of the areas around the campus have begun to look "run down." Due to budget constraints, we are not always able to make big improvements. But we have sought out opportunities to use wraps to improve the look of the campus and improve morale at a low cost. This can be seen when you come in the front driveway and see "Home of the Chiefs" on the fence and the direction map at the top of the driveway.
- **Security Enhancements:** We recently updated security cameras, our access points for staff to enter the buildings with their IDs, and installed man traps in each building to prevent intruders from accessing the schools. A presentation was recently made at the June BOE meeting together with the Hopatcong Police.
- **Mold Mitigation:** We mitigated the mold crisis in the fall by having the school cleaned, air scrubbing, air filtration systems, tree trimming, and treating the school with dehumidification systems, all while finding a creative way to open part of the HS for in-person child care and virtual learning so that students had a safe place to learn if parents could not be home with their children during the in-person schooling interruption.
- **Athletic Training Room:** In response to the community concern voiced during multiple athletic parent meetings held by the superintendent, the athletic training rooms represents an upgrade that will provide not only support for our student athletes but a beautiful room at the front of the entrance to the gym from the outside door, which will improve the overall look of the school. It also is a great space for our new Athletic Trainer.
- **Tennis Courts and Pickleball:** This was something purchased through the last bit of cell tower money and helped to greatly improve our facilities but also provide a needed resource for the community.

Goal #5 (cont.)



Areas For Continued Growth

- *Continuing to make improvements considering the budget cuts will be a challenge.*
- *Looking at ways to do Community Beautification Days may be one solution that will help in this area.*
- *The science labs at the HS should be complete this summer which will have a big impact.*

22-23 Goals



In previous conversation the idea of repeating the goals from this past year but adding some specific action steps or points by which to measure success has been suggested.

What are some areas within each of the goals that we would like to refine?

What would we like to see?



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