



Hanover-Horton School District

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Mr. John Denney-Superintendent
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August 25, 2023

Dear Comet Families,

What a great first week! I always love watching the buildings come back to life each year. With the new school year underway, I wanted to share two updates with you. The first update is that our Board of Education and the Administration have partnered with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) to develop a three- to five-year Strategic Plan for our district. The process will include community and staff input events, data collection, and other efforts to create a shared vision and goals for the future of the district and strategies to achieve them. Debbie Stair, M.N.M.L., Assistant Director of Leadership Development at the Michigan Association of School Boards, will work with us for the next few months to complete the strategic plan.

Stakeholder feedback will be an important part of the planning process. Community members, parents, students, teachers, and all district staff members will have the opportunity to give input on the strengths of the district, opportunities for improvement, barriers to implementation, and their vision for the district. Stakeholder input, along with essential district data, provides the basis for the district to choose approximately five priority goals to be implemented over the next three to five years.

There are many benefits to completing the strategic planning process. The most notable are:

- Provides integrated, important input from community and staff
- Presents a succinct and graphical picture of the district's current status
- Sets focused strategic goals that identify target areas to improve student achievement
- Clearly delineates the role of the Board of Education and the superintendent/staff in strategic planning
- Uses data to set goals and make important decisions
- Helps identify areas to allocate increasingly scarce resources
- Aligns Board priorities with school improvement processes

More information will be shared as the details are finalized. Our community input sessions will be scheduled in early to mid-October. If you wish to provide feedback without participating in one of our community input sessions, you are also able to share your thoughts using an online survey that asks the same questions. Please follow this link to complete the survey at any time: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8ZJLKH9>.

The second update for you deals with a decision of mine. I have made the difficult decision to step down as the superintendent at the end of this school year. The new strategic plan will provide the district with a great tool to utilize as they find the perfect candidate to lead our district into the future. Many details will be sorted out over the coming months related to the process and timing the Board of Education will follow in the search. Details will be communicated as we work through this year. Decisions will still be made based on what is best for our students, staff, and community. I have been beyond blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with such a great staff in a wonderful community and to work with so many amazing students over the years. Now just feels like the right time for the district, my family, and for me to make this change. We all thank you for the support given to us over the years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are all looking forward to another great year!

Go Comets!

John Denney
Superintendent