STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Developing the strategic plan was a collaborative process and purposeful collection of stakeholder input focused on developing the direction of our school district. During 2016-2017, the Baldwin County School District (BCSD) received a grant through the College and Career Academy initiative and the financial investment made by The Development Authority of the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County, as supported by the Ford Next Generation Learning (FNGL), to guide the strategic plan development process. The framework of the Ford NGL methodology evaluates essential practices within three researched-based strands:

Strand 1: Transforming Teaching and Learning

Creating meaningful learning experiences that enable students to learn and apply academic, 21st century, and technical knowledge and skills to real-world challenges and that equip them for success in college and careers.

Strand 2: Transforming the Secondary School Experience

Creating and maintaining the career and interest-themed academies and the collaborative culture, structures, and practices necessary to transform teaching and learning and to capitalize on community engagement.

Strand 3: Transforming Business and Civic Engagement

Engaging employers, educators, and community leaders in building and sustaining transformed secondary schools that promote community growth and prosperity by preparing students for future work and citizenship.

Using this framework, the district leadership began the process in September 2017 by creating an Executive Strategic Planning Stakeholder Committee of current leaders from business and industry, higher education, civic groups, school and district level administrators, and FNGL facilitators. In addition, from September 2017 to May 2018, the team conducted numerous planning sessions, community forums, work sessions and discussions through Local School Governance Teams (LSGT). The purpose of these extensive meetings was to gain an understanding of the strengths and opportunities for district growth from the perspective of both internal and external stakeholders.

Using the essential practices of the three strands as a roadmap, the stakeholders formed sub-committees to identify and prioritize focus areas for the most impact on continuous district wide improvement. As a result of the effective collaborative process, three focus areas were identified: **student achievement, school and community partnerships, and recruitment and retention of high performing staff.** Within each area, the sub-committees developed specific goals, strategies, measurements and timelines to drive the future decisions of the school board and the actions of the school district. In addition, the mission, vision, and beliefs statements were also updated to focus and communicate the direction and actions of the school district.

We believe this new five-year strategic plan, beginning in FY 2019, captures the perspectives of the community and school district's diverse stakeholder groups by translating them into targeted focus areas for continuous school improvement. With those targeted areas, educating students who will graduate college and career ready and become contributing members of our local and global communities remains our mission.