

Pocantico Hills Principles Vision Committee

April 23, 2013

Administration

Valencia F. Douglas, Superintendent

Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant
Superintendent

Stanley T. Steele, Principal

Adam Brown, Supervisor of Curriculum
and Technology



Board of Education

John Conrad, President

David Wilens, Vice President

Joan Cusanelli, Trustee

Frederic Rickles, Trustee

Emily Segal, Trustee

Background

- The Principles Vision Committee was an outgrowth of the Five Year Strategic Plan.
- It was composed of parents and community members, administrators, teachers, and students.

Committee Members

- Valencia Douglas, Chair
- Stan Steele, Chair
- Adam Brown, Chair
- Jennifer Vizcaino
- Charlie Minton
- Pat White
- Ted Sabety
- Sheila DePaola
- Amie Doane
- Mario Suarez
- Lisa Levy
- DJ Owen
- Jack Starkey

Committee Goals

- Develop a broad set of “**Guiding Principles**” that we value as a District.
- Identify “**Essential Skills**” that all students should possess by the time they graduate.
- Begin to develop examples of the academic, social, and ethical “**Implications**” for teachers, parents, and students when Principles are connected to Essential Skills.

Committee Goals (cont'd)

- Answer the questions: *What does this mean? What is expected? What could this actually look like?*
- See the **Principles**, **Skills**, and **Implications** together as clear, actionable guides for positive change.
- Stay committed to core values and not test scores.

Structure

- There are **7 Guiding Principles**
- There are **5 Essential Skills**
- Each Skill is connected to each Principle
- Each connection creates **3 Implications:**
 - Teacher* Implications
 - Student* Implications
 - Parent* Implications

Our 7 Guiding Principles

1. The Common Core Standards are only the first step toward academic achievement and student growth.
2. Technology should be a tool that supports the growth of reasoning skills and critical thinking.
3. Joyful and passionate teaching and learning should set the tone for our school environment.
4. Collaborative teams must promote personal accountability, broad skill exposure, and cohort understanding and acceptance.
5. Perseverance and determination are essential characteristics of student growth and should be fostered thoughtfully and with support.
6. Community partnerships provide opportunities to promote communication and global awareness.
7. A strong sense of ethics must ultimately come from within, and we must develop and nurture that growth.

Our 5 Essential Skills

1. Self-Advocacy and Self-Direction
2. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving
3. Communication, Relationships, and Socialization
4. Global and Community Awareness
5. Ethical Learning and Decision-Making

Next Steps

- Develop examples of the different Implications for each Principle/Skill connection.
- Share the work with the school community.
- Use the Principles and Skills to drive decisions and set priorities for the District's policies and all initiatives.
- Identify our challenges and develop solutions through this lens.
- Showcase our strengths and highlight our accomplishments through this lens.

Thank you!

Questions and Comments