

During the first meeting, the meeting attendees were asked to respond to the following prompts for reflection and visioning.

**1. I believe the goal of this task force is to ....**

- a. Students prepared for life, career & college, marketable skills, work experience and financial support
- b. Figure out what it will take to us back on track
- c. Think outside the box
- d. Help define a vision for renewed focus on educational identity
- e. Help shape and advocate Benson's future
- f. Create 5 year road map
- g. Improve student and community pride in Benson
- h. Make sure Benson has everything they need to achieve goals
- i. Help community members know why there's NO place like Benson
- j. Generate increased enrollment programs and pride
- k. Prioritize and focus

**2. I want the district leadership to...**

- a. Be open to innovation. Step out and create a new model
- b. Expect Benson high school to be a model for urban high schools everywhere
- c. Support the curricular changes with appropriate human and fiscal resources
- d. Support change and be involved in the movement
- e. Allow flexibility and creative freedom (within reason) to the planning process
- f. Support the vision of the taskforce with resources needed to create and implement the vision
- g. Publically back Benson in our efforts to change. Equally represent and support Benson in a positive manner.
- h. Think about tweaking open enrollment

**3. I want Benson High School leadership to...**

- a. Keep fighting for our school and our kids. Continue to push forward even when they feel they are alone (you're not)
- b. Be innovative, creative and allowed to move Benson forward.
- c. Be community advocates for school and students
- d. Provide students access to unique learning opportunities
- e. Feel valued too
- f. Be looking forward aware that change is an opportunity to reinvigorate effectively communicate every part of the planning process
- g. Listen
- h. Promote market and engage in students career choices
- i. Unite, all staff pointed in same direction
- j. Fully engage parent, student and community – consistently

**4. I want the Benson community to...**

- a. Support students in any endeavor
- b. Be in the seats at school events (athletics/drama)
- c. Continue to support curricular ventures through work – lace learning for students
- d. Embrace the history and achievements of the school
- e. Feel like an integral part of students education
- f. Be an integral part of the school life at BHS
- g. See Benson as an innovative, open community school
- h. Be the cheerleader for their school
- i. Advocate, support
- j. Be proud of what Benson stands for
- k. Embrace Benson and show support and realize its value to the students as well as the community
- l. Become a feature of its innovation and commitment to excellence
- m. Recognize the value of career choices and the world of work

**5. I want the greater Omaha community to...**

- a. Shed positive light often on the Bunnies
- b. Embrace the Benson tradition
- c. Rally behind the future of Benson excellence
- d. Be an important part of creating Benson's future as the best high school in the state
- e. Support, advocate
- f. Support sports programs and everything Benson
- g. See Benson for the opportunity and not the negative perceptions (x 2)
- h. Value Benson's students as much as suburban students
- i. Sing the positives that BHS has
- j. Contribute to Benson to becoming a truly remarkable educational venue
- k. Understand the difference between the school and the negativity of the area – the two are NOT the same

**6. I want Benson students to...**

- a. Recognize that they can have a future and their time at Benson will help make that happen
- b. To be excited to learn in new ways and to have a very bright future
- c. To have access to unique learning opportunities
- d. Experience being unique and valued
- e. Be proud of where they go to school
- f. Be highly engaged in all facets of the high school experience
- g. Engage in career choices to ensure their future graduate with hope for future
- h. Hold themselves accountable both in and outside of the classroom
- i. Be motivated by and make the most of their opportunities

- j. Continue to be a great example for their school
- k. Know and believe that they are as great as any other student in the metro

**7. My concerns regarding Benson High School are...**

- a. Lack of financial resources to provide AP classes
- b. Attitudes of uninvolved faculty
- c. Current reputation of a struggling school
- d. How to become known for unique and innovative programming
- e. Updating facilities to be truly impressive
- f. Lack of student engagement
- g. Are they able to find programs that will restore
- h. Lack of parental engagement
- i. Location, stigma of neighborhood are they open to what direction they may be encouraged to go
- j. Enrollment
- k. Lack of support by OPS

**8. What is Benson High School's greatest strength?**

- a. Great staff, small size
- b. Small size
- c. A unique culture of wonderful students
- d. A staff committed to innovation
- e. Community/family atmosphere
- f. Family ties (generations attend and attending)
- g. It is located in a community that is growing and restoring its image
- h. Diversity and location in the community which it can build on
- i. Teacher and coaches passion for their students
- j. History and alumni
- k. Community that is engaged with its success
- l. Staff and alumni pride and support

**9. What is Benson High School's greatest weakness?**

- a. Student population, low enrollment
- b. Incorrect assumptions and perception
- c. Open enrollment – low student population
- d. Not sure what focus is here, perceptions about violence in neighborhood?
- e. Lack of support from stakeholders/people who believe false perceptions @ Benson
- f. Finding who they are
- g. Not valued by OPS
- h. Lack of student engagement perpetuates false, negative perceptions

- i. Funding to sustain AP courses with low enrollment

**10. What is the single most important thing to accomplish in the next 6 years?**

- a. Become a high school known for special excellence in \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Be the provider of career choices
- c. Community perception of Benson becomes positive and encouraging
- d. Prepare kids for college and careers
- e. Increase enrollment and community recognition
- f. Students graduate fully prepared for college and career with as close to a guarantee of job or business as possible
- g. Students regard Benson High School as the place to get their education
- h. Create more access for better opportunities for ALL kids
- i. To restore the student numbers at Benson with quality programs
- j. Increase enrollment while providing effective career and postsecondary
- k. Create a dynamic school with students engaged with community partners

**11. It is 2020 - what does student success look like?**

- a. Students are 100% employable/ready for work
- b. Strong school and community working together
- c. High graduation rate and realistic plans for those graduates
- d. Students can do whatever they aspire to
- e. Graduates; college ready; school support/community involvement
- f. Graduating with a plan already in motion – skills, internships, opportunities for real world
- g. Graduation on path to career
- h. Students are prepared for any postsecondary opportunity
- i. 100% prepared for life, careers and college
- j. Students with real world employment skills and aptitude to give back to the community of Benson/Omaha
- k. Students graduate with career goals, relevant experience and a plan
- l. Alumni giving back to Benson

**12. It is 2020 – what does learning look like at Benson High School?**

- a. Increased enrollment of highly engaged students
- b. Active learning with purpose
- c. Flipped classrooms, more technology
- d. Students working on business related projects
- e. State of the art education copied by the rest of the country
- f. Options for all types of learners (traditional/vocational/college bound) – same goal for all – personal success after high school
- g. Dual enrollment options, career academies
- h. Innovative environment. Destination school. Redefine high school experience
- i. Students are highly engaged in “career focused” learning

**13. It is 2020 – what are the relationship(s) between Benson High School and the postsecondary (employment, military, and/or education) community?**

- a. Benson students will be doing internships and postsecondary coursework
- b. Benson will be the standard for all schools measure of postsecondary success
- c. Individuals that represent these relationships will have nothing but positive things to reflect upon
- d. Seamless connections
- e. Benson and higher education show true partnerships for innovation and excellence
- f. Students will experience these opportunities while in high school and seamless transition upon graduation
- g. All kids have jobs as a result of their education
- h. Set the best example of an integrated educational experience
- i. Sustainable internship programs that lead to real career tracks