

2018 Strategic Planning		
Title	Idea	Exit Outcome Area
Allowing children to learn differently	I think Becker could do a better job at recognizing that not all children learn the same. For instance, my child can get distracted easily, there are tools used such as fidget spinners that allow the child's body to keep busy and allow their mind to keep learning. Some teachers have recognized this with allowing exercise balls to sit on, allowing the child to lay on the floor in the back of the class for example. These are the classes my child excelled most in and had less behaviors.	Students will become self-directed learners, self-disciplined, and autonomous workers, while being critical thinkers with a drive for innovation and problem solving.
Early Childhood Programs	Our family has benefited greatly from the Early Childhood programs through ECFE classes, Small Wonders, School Readiness, and special events. We really appreciate the amazing staff at Becker, their interest in helping children and families, and the variety of classes, times, and activities they offer. Consider investing more space than is currently being added for EC and other programs that are restricted due to space right now.	Students will demonstrate proficiency of core academic standards by meeting or exceeding developmentally appropriate benchmarks for academic competency.
Classes and Learning	Fund more classes such as those focused on other languages, ancient history, engineering, manufacturing, machining, and small and large engines. more generally: STEM classes -Stay away from Common Core -Ensure teachers allow for respectful and informed discussion and debate -Explore all sides/point of views of history in history classes	Students will have the opportunity to pursue expertise in areas of personal academic or career interest.
Work with all students	Work at preparing those students who don't do well in regular classroom settings for life beyond Becker. For example, there are so many options for students with great GPA and class ranking to enroll in AP classes, college at school and/or PESO. What about those students who do great in robotics or construction technology or web design? How come none of these classes can count toward college credit (Vo Tech)? How about working with Wright County Vo Tech or St. Cloud Vo Tech to offer programs to these kids that will count for something after high school? I feel these kids are overlooked, but I feel they will be the some of the most successful after BHS	
Focuses Beyond Math and Reading	I expect that Becker Schools will help ALL students feel valuable, smart, and unique. Too often, in school districts, there is a focus on math and reading due to high stakes testing. However, many students have amazing talents that, if not successful in math or reading, never feel they are worth much. I hope that Becker keeps this in mind and the unintentional messages sent to kids when all decisions about a student's schooling ultimately come down to math and reading success.	
Activities	Becker is attentive to many activities and offers a variety, whether it be arts, athletics, clubs etc. They work hard to represent all of these and help to connect students together and aid in school pride.	

Specialization	I feel that Becker High School does a great job of allowing personalization and flexibility with classes and schedules. All the courses offered are varied greatly between the content they cover; any student is able to pick and choose the classes that they feel will benefit them in later years and cater more closely to what they would like to pursue in college. Having a diverse pool of classes is useful as well as greatly appreciated, as it allows for exploration of different career ideas.	Students will have the opportunity to pursue expertise in areas of personal academic or career interest.
Device distractions	This generation is inundated with screen time, 24/7. I don't think it's beneficial to allow cell phones in the classroom, as they cause additional distraction. Our children have devices at home and now school issued, they need help focusing. When corrective action is being taken at home, there is still the school issued iPad being used for homework and possible distraction.	Students will effectively use technology to function in a knowledge economy.
Standardized Testing versus Social Skills	I am concerned at the large amount of time, energy, and focus that is put on standardized testing. I have heard through that the district is going to put more time into testing prep. These tests do not fairly represent individuals. I would like there to be more focus on developing social skills as this is what potentially makes or breaks our students as they enter the working world. Please check out the following link. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/12/20/the-surprising-thing-google-learned-about-its-employees-and-what-it-means-for-todays-students/?utm_term=.78d1f3c615d9	Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively apply life skills.
Enriching Lives and Engaging in Community	My expectation for my daughters' education is that educators focus on things to do not things to learn. I want them to learn how to play music, to solve problems, to connect with others, and to have fun. I believe they need daily experiences that involve art, language, fiction and non-fiction books, and interaction between their peers. I want their educators to be involved in the community, not only working in the community.	
Mental Health Support	726 has worked to address the growing concerns of our students' mental health. The addition of a counseling intern at the HS was helpful should be continued due to the increase in support needed for students. For example, there have been about 35 suicide risk assessments these last few months that often are time consuming.	The district will properly maintain up-to-date school environments where students are physically and emotionally safe and secure.
Mental health	I notice the attention to mental health things and appreciate it. More speakers/topics like Heather Forbes would be a good thing, throughout the year. Some skills on how we can communicate better with our children.	
Positive School Spirit	Becker School District and its staff have done a great job of fostering and promoting positive school spirit. I feel that students have tremendous pride in our schools, and that staff and the district are very supportive of the students here.	
Sense of Community	I love the sense of community within our district. Any time I walk into one of the four schools, I feel welcomed. Whether they are janitors, food service workers, teachers, etc., the staff does a great job of being personable and relatable. I love seeing staff at sporting events, musicals, and other school events. Having staff like these has made my school career much more enjoyable.	
Connection, social, emotional and mental health - 2	Becker could invest more time into school-wide social/emotional learning, and making connections among students, within the school and community. I do not believe Becker does a particularly poor job in this area, but this needs to be more of a priority to help address mental health, build emotionally secure students and overall, help send more well-rounded students out into the world.	

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Bullying	There is a lot of bullying that happens among the boys and no one cares. They are bullied through middle school and high school and no one will say anything. They pee on each others cars. This is ridiculous	
Mental health needs	Id like to see a part time counselor hired for the high school (or shared between the HS MS). The mental health needs are higher than ever. This takes away from other aspects of our job that are also very important. College and career readiness is critical but doesn't get the attention we'd like it to because of the mental health concerns/crises. We were trained on how to give suicide risk assessments over the summer and have done approximately 35 so far this year.	
Additional School Counselors needed	With the amount of needs in all 3 areas that school counselors work with (Academic, College/Career and Personal/Social (Mental Health)), there is a great need for additional school counselors. It would be great if an additional school counselor could be added (whether it be shared between middle school and high school or solely high school).	
Connection, social, emotional and mental health	My expectation of the Becker School District is that they are providing space and time for students to have opportunities for connection with each other (working on social skills), staff, and their community as a whole. In light of traumatic school situations, it is a perfect time to shed light on how Becker is doing in providing students with time, teaching students how and showing students what it means to connect. Also, much need for social/emotional learning and mental health support.	
parent involvement and communication	Emails and Seesaw app with pictures, reminders of important dates, homework deadlines, books to read, curriculum outlines, goals, etc. Teachers provide their email address, phone number, and link to seesaw and continually remind us to let them know if we need anything. Ease of scheduling conferences online. Volunteer opportunities. Bulldog tickets- sending them home so our kids can share the story about what they did to earn them	Administrative Means
Student Meeting Space	I think the high school should have a designated student meeting space where different student organizations can conduct meetings, etc. If one room was dedicated to this, it would keep (or at least reduce) meetings from having to take place in classrooms and teachers from having to come in early. We have a beautiful TLC that I believe could be used for this purpose.	Administrative Means
Option for continued summer learning camps	I think it would be so great if the kids had the option to continue learning/ work on areas of academic struggle during the summer. My kids are in the primary school and I know they would love to do like an English or math camp at the school during the summer. Not only to keep skills fresh from the previous year but also to help them going into the next grade level.	Administrative Means
Do better ideas	Less 1/2 days; the early outs are really disruptive to parenting / work schedules. Either have a full day off, or full day of school. In the last 2 weeks now, we have 2 Fridays with half-days. Can't they be combined to just have one full day off for students? I think schools should be on a same schedule, either trimesters, or quarters, or semesters. Conference times could align better, It can be staggered across schools by a week or two.	Administrative Means