Our mission at New London Local Schools is to work with and unite community resources to provide continuously improving academic, extracurricular and work-related programs designed so that all students can achieve a successful level of performance. We are successfully enacting this mission through our strategic plan and have been making great strides in completing many of the objectives we first implemented for the 2020-2021 school year.

Over the past two school years, we've been focusing on our six goal areas that were established based on collective stakeholder feedback; communication, facilities/safety and security, climate/culture/wellness, finances, academic achievement, and business operations/human resources.

Among our achievements thus far, our district has made significant headway developing clear systems and expectations for all forms of internal staff communications and established a comprehensive external communications program, as well as an effective system for alumni outreach and engagement.

We've also made progress with our climate, culture and wellness goals, identifying systems, processes and policies to increase student ease and access to school counselors and mental health professionals while consistently promoting available resources to students and parents. Additionally, we've implemented a balanced approach to whole-child development that values high-level achievement in concert with student wellness and social-emotional development.

From a financial perspective, we're achieving our objective to research shared service models with neighboring school districts to explore cost reduction and enhanced resource allocation.

When it comes to academic achievement, we are moving forward with providing continuing professional development opportunities aimed at advancing traditional teaching practices. We are also performing an internal audit of student programming, including course track options, specials, electives, remedial and advanced tracks and special education.

This is only a snapshot of our progress. There's so much more we've already achieved through our dedication to carrying out the goals of this plan. If you'd like to take a more in-depth look at our accomplishments thus far, please visit our website at https://www.nlschools.org/OurStrategicPlan.aspx.

We understand the importance of maintaining a consistent focus on the many components of our strategic plan, as it will continue to drive decision-making and resource allocation for our district. As always, we want to consistently communicate and provide progress updates so you can celebrate our successes with us and see that our commitment and focus remain clear.

Our district continues to move in a positive direction as we follow the targeted action steps in our strategic plan to reach our final objectives for the betterment of our schools and our community.

Brad Romano, Superintendent New London Local Schools