

# TOOL BOX

## VISIONING

### **‘What if...?’ Scenarios: Thinking Outside the Box**

‘What if’ scenarios suggest how different circumstances might impact the future. Your strategic planning team has developed a series of ‘What if...?’ scenarios based on the strategic issues your school faces now and in the near term. They are:

‘What if...?’ Scenario 1

What if \_\_\_\_\_?

‘What if...?’ Scenario 2

What if \_\_\_\_\_?

‘What if...?’ Scenario 3

What if \_\_\_\_\_?

#### *Directions:*

1. Choose a ‘What if...?’ scenario to process. Discuss the scenario based on the following questions:
  - What does this future look like in detail?
  - What are the positives and negatives of this future scenario? Is it mostly a positive or mostly a negative scenario?
  - What do you think about this scenario? How do you feel about it?
  - What would cause this scenario to happen?
2. Affecting outcomes of the scenario with strategic choices: brainstorm a list of possible outcomes indicated by the scenario.



- How might this scenario unfold if we do nothing?
  - How might this scenario unfold if we emphasize...?
  - How might this scenario unfold if we improve...?
  - How might this scenario unfold if ...?
3. Arrive at consensus around what would be a satisfactory resolution five years from now of the question posed by your chosen “what if” scenario. This is your vision.
  4. Develop a list of the four to six most significant outcomes you would see if you realized your vision as indicated by your chosen scenario and its resolution. These are your goals.
  5. Work your vision and goals into a five-year plan using the template below.

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