



## Creating a Strategic Plan for the Denville Township Schools

### District Mission Statement

The Denville School District's mission is to educate and empower all students to excel.

### Session 2 of 3

#### Developing a Vision for the Denville Township Schools in the Next Five Years

On February 21, 2017 Denville Township Schools administration, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Denville Township Schools in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Charlene Peterson and Matt Lee from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the January 12, 2017 meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for five years, and returning to find the Denville Township Schools on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption "21<sup>st</sup> Century Success." The participants were asked to envision what was written in the magazine article that warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your district that are succeeding? 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

Participants then gathered in seven randomly assigned groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. Each group's outcomes were shared with all meeting participants. The session concluded with the identification of common threads throughout the groups' work and four broad goal areas for the next meeting.

### Group Work

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all consensus points are recorded and posted on the district's website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

**Red Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Denville Takes the Journey"**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
<b>Facilities</b> – more classrooms to allow for smaller class sizes which will allow for flexibility of accommodating different needs and opportunities for the students (meaningful engagement, responsive, safe, soothing, etc.)	<b>Students</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic minded, take ownership, responsibility of thought.</li> <li>• Allow them a safe space to fail</li> <li>• Journey of learning</li> </ul>
<b>Technology</b> – adequate and up-to-date but balanced with interpersonal skills.	

**Blue Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Investment Paid Off!!"**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Coding – weekly special	Students as educators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership/open minded</li> <li>• Critical thinking/confidence</li> </ul>
Product Development/Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Expo program at VV</li> </ul>	Cross-grade/cross-school collaborations
Civic projects in every classroom	Maintain balanced lifestyle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid too much technology</li> </ul>

**Black Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "The Hub of Innovators"**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Strong recruitment of the best and brightest	Producing the innovators of tomorrow with the social skills necessary to "get it done."
Bringing in experts to make kids motivated about any given topic.	More casual environment

**Pink Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Denville Schools Value Community"**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Strong Civics for a strong community (understanding of Government)	Meeting students' needs – thinking outside the box
Using Technology to make stronger collaborative communication	

**Yellow Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Future Ready"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Safe, happy space/"Learning Environment" (change room layout). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future citizens - Green</li> </ul>	Science/Engineering/Math concepts (jobs)
Real problems (applied teams/aligned)	Variety – Inclusive – Worldly – Collaboration (roles/skillsets)
Coach each other	Leadership skills/opportunities – harness group synergy
Adaptable (fast pace)	Resilient

**Orange Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Teaching to the Whole Person"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Bridging the labor gap	Bringing professionals into the learning environment
Hybrid learning options – streaming classrooms, virtual classrooms	Language development – Latin, Asian-based languages
Civics Education	

**Silver Star Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Exploring the World"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Direction based on aptitude	Teaching critical thinking
Hands-on inquiry	"Emphasis on the real!" – options and pathways
Character Education – social/emotional	Makerspace
Cultural competency	Physical/emotional safety
Sourcing (research/media skills)	Flexibility

**Common Threads Identified by the Group:**

Social Skills	Student learning and curriculum
Civic mindedness	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Leadership and Ownership of Learning
Foster community	Well-rounded Student
Professional development	Aptitude
Facilities/Class Sizes/Security	Love of learning
Responsive Learning environment	College and Career Readiness
Technology	
Creative thinking	

**Broad Goal Areas:**

**Four goal areas** emerged from the common threads identified by the group at large:

- Student Learning and Curriculum
- Well-rounded Student
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership and Ownership of Learning
- Facilities/Class Sizes/Security

**The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

During the March 7th meeting we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each goal area that emerged from Session 2, and related objectives for each goal area.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!