



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Jefferson Township Public Schools

District Mission Statement

All students are held to the highest standards for academic, social and ethical behavior. They are motivated to learn, self-assured, and confident individuals. Students are prepared to apply their skills and knowledge as productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

Members of the educational community are facilitators of learning who work cooperatively and support students. The educator differentiates instruction while encouraging inquiry-based learning, critical thinking skills, and community based activities. Instruction focuses on practical and technological problem solving applications.

A diverse curriculum provides opportunities which promote student learning. The curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary connections and a global perspective. Student assessments provide continuous feedback on achievement of benchmarks which align with learning outcomes, state, and national standards.

It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

Session 2 of 3

Developing a Vision for the Jefferson Township Public Schools in the Next Five Years

On October 20, 2016 Jefferson Township Public Schools administration, staff, parents, board members and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for Jefferson Township Public Schools in the next five years.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Patrick Tierney. Charlene Peterson and Matt Lee from New Jersey School Boards Association facilitated the strategic planning process with an overview of the September 26, 2016 meeting and an introduction to the visioning exercise that the group would be undertaking.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for 5 years and returning to find Jefferson Township Public Schools on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption "21st Century Success." The participants were asked to write a title for the magazine article and to envision what was written in the article that warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your school district that are succeeding? 21st century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

Jefferson Township Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Approximately 50 participants then gathered in five 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 themes 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.

Black Dot Group

Title of Article: **“Jefferson is the Proven Future of Education”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Revenue Generating	Top-rated achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-year college • SAT scores • Scholarships
Recruiting top talent and sustaining staff	Record-breaking extra curricular/arts (K-12)
Offers unique and abundant programs (GT/Spec. Ed)	Competitive school trade programs – onsite technical school
Model technology program 1:1	Highly integrated community – Parent alumni (generations return)
Progressive curriculum – encourages critical thinking	Highly motivated students because of state-of-the-art facilities

Red Dot Group

Title of Article: **“Colleges and Employers Beg for JTHS Graduates”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
To use and develop cutting edge technology	To integrate fine practical and performing arts
STEAM to foster and increase students’ real-world problem solving abilities	To create sustainable school buildings
School culture to foster an environment that improves student social/emotional learning and cultural acceptance	To promote interpersonal skills
To provide experiential opportunities for real world authentic learning scenarios	To create a systems-based interdisciplinary approach

Jefferson Township Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Green Dot Group

Title of Article: **“Infinity and Beyond”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Develop (digital) learners who use information to create and innovate and who accept and understand that knowledge is constantly changing	Support social-emotional with character education
Provide the technology to support this type of digital learning (1:1)	Enable our students to be competitive in the market places (communication and collaboration)

Yellow Dot Group

Title of Article: **“Jefferson Township Students – Always a ‘Step Ahead’ of the Rest”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Jefferson students use technology to communicate globally	Jefferson students contribute to the community
Jefferson kids are always one step ahead – prepared for next level (kids teach kids)	Jefferson students are engaged problem solvers
Jefferson students <u>are</u> living the belief statements	Jefferson students embrace a healthy Zen lifestyle (mind/body/soul)
Jefferson students have a passion for lifelong learning	

Orange Dot Group

Title of Article: **“Emphasizing Mind, Body and Spirit in a Technological World”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Investigative and curious	Creative problem-solvers
Moral and ethical	Discerning/good judgement
Mindful and self-aware	Adapt and adjust
Tolerant world view	Time managers
Self-motivated	Self-regulators

Common Themes

The group identified the following common themes that surfaced in the identification of district strengths, challenges, and visions:

- Community involvement and global awareness
- Innovation
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Student growth

Jefferson Township Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- College & career pathing/readiness
- Social and emotional wellness
- Experiential learning
- Communication

Broad Goal Areas

Four goal areas emerged from the common themes and were agreed upon by the group at large:

- Student Achievement
- Technology
- Climate and Culture
- Finance and Facilities

Next Meeting

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Monday, December 12, 2016

7:00 – 8:30 pm at Jefferson Township High School's Media Center

During the December 12th meeting we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each of the four goal areas that emerged from Session 2, and related objectives for each goal area.

Please join us, even if it is your first time to attend. Everyone is welcome!
We look forward to seeing you!