



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Mullica Township School District

Mission Statement

In an effort to prepare students to be college and career ready, the mission of the Mullica Township School District is to celebrate diversity by creating an emotionally and behaviorally safe learning environment where academics and the arts are esteemed.

Session 2

Developing a Vision & Initiatives for the Mullica Township School District

On December 9, 2021, Mullica Township School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, sixteen (16) in all, came together for the strategic planning initiative. The topic for the second evening focused on developing a vision and initiatives, toward achieving that vision, for the Mullica Township School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Andrew Weber, Superintendent. Facilitator Mary Ann Friedman, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), was introduced and provided an introduction to the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on creating a shared vision for the Mullica Township School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 5 years, returning to Mullica Township and seeing their school on the cover of TIME magazine. The article is about Schools that Succeed. In addition to the current programs already in place in Mullica Township, what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your schools that are succeeding? Participants were encouraged to think “big picture.”

Participants gathered in randomly assigned groups, two groups in total, to develop a shared vision and initiatives. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from Meeting #1, strengths and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

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 website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

Brown Dot Team:

Title of Article: “Mullica – Preparing Future Leaders”

Initiatives:

- 1. One-platform district (for communication purposes)**
- 2. HVAC – Facilities**
- 3. SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) / PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Support) – bullying prevention / character education**
- 4. 21st Century Skills / Skills for the Future (collaboration, working together in the future workforce)**
- 5. Accelerated programs**
- 6. Inclusive learning / Inclusion classes**

Light Blue Team:

Title of Article: “Mullica: Where Every Student Succeeds”

Initiatives:

- 1. Offering HS (High School) level courses in MS (Middle School)**
- 2. Expanded outdoor classroom spaces**
- 3. Modernize Media Center / Science**
- 4. Focus on SEL / Wellness (start in Pre-K)**
- 5. Encourage critical thinking / trades**
- 6. Extend STEM programs (all + weekly)**
- 7. Make the garden a great part of the curriculum**
- 8. Make website / newsletter more clear**
- 9. Offer opportunities for public speaking**
- 10. More organized communication (uniform)**
- 11. Career exploration – start at early grades**
- 12. Inter-grade level mentoring / peer support**
- 13. More hands-on learning (i.e., Home Ec. / Shop)**
- 14. Build in time in school day for creative exploration**
- 15. Expand teacher PD (Professional Development) and inter-grade level planning**

Mullica Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Following each small group's reporting out of their group's consensus points the large group identified the following **common themes**:

- SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)
- Communication
- Facilities
- Accelerated programs / STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)
- Career programs / options

Examples of Goal Areas were discussed:

- Student Learning / Achievement / Success / Whole Child
 - College & Career Readiness
 - 21st Century Skills
 - Technology
 - Professional Development (PD)
 - Equity
 - Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- School Culture & Climate
- Safety & Security
- Health & Wellness
- Communication
- Community Engagement
- Facilities & Finance

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

- 1. Student Development**
 - a. Student Success**
 - b. Staff Professional Development**
 - c. Staff Support**
- 2. Communication**
- 3. Finance & Facilities**
- 4. Climate & Culture**

Mullica Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm, Mullica Township, Cafeteria.

Sign-in begins at 6:15 pm.

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the January 18th meeting, we will review the outcomes from Meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives) and develop the strategic planning goals and objectives for the Mullica Township School District.

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

Please RSVP by calling *the Superintendent's Office*.