



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District

Mission Statement

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District educates and empowers our community of individual learners to be successful citizens of the world.

Meeting# 2

Developing a Vision for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District

On October 19,2021, Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents and community members, ninety-three (93) in all, came together to initiate strategic planning. The topic for the second evening focused on developing a vision and initiatives, toward achieving that vision, for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent and Board President, Karen Kulikowski. Facilitator Gwen Thornton 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 Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 3 years, returning to Scotch Plains-Fanwood and finds their district on the cover of Time Magazine. The article was about Schools that Succeed. In addition to the current programs already in place in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District, 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, ten 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

Room#: 150

Title of Article: “Curriculum, Instruction & Technology”

Vision	Initiatives
	Interactive boards for proper instruction
	Curriculum & technology should work in concert to drive differentiated instruction
	Digital citizenship included in curriculum
	Replace some text/workbooks with online materials that can be differentiated
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	Keep kids in district by surveying parents including exiting families
	Include research – streamlining and digital bibliography
	Age-appropriate tech

Room#: 151 & 152

Title of Article: “SPF makes great strides towards fostering a supportive, inclusive and more empathetic school community.”

Vision	Initiatives
	Celebrating/encouraging diversity in all forms throughout the district
	Maintaining & expanding training in non-traditional career paths
	Embolden students to advocate and lead
	Establish environment where learning through failure is supported

Room#: 153 & 154

Title of Article: “Scotch Plains-Fanwood Connecting the Curriculum to the Real World!”

Vision	Initiatives
	Create experiences that show students the real-world applications of what they’re learning. Partner with local companies and corporations
	Bring more real-world applications into the classroom
	Field Trips to labs, corporations where students see science, math, etc. in action
	Partner with corporations for guest speakers, visits, labs
	Enrich vocational/skills-based programs where students can learn marketable skills
	Visualizing flexible / alternate schedules
	Align K-12 club participation

Room#: 155

Title of Article: “High Impact Applied Learning”

Vision	Initiatives
	Project based learning (experiential learning) integrated across the curriculum
	Leverage community stakeholders for programming
	Comprehensive Civics education
	Increase diverse curriculum K-12 – literature, history
	STEM/STEAM connecting with the community
	Bring back Middle School Sports – more inclusivity
	Increase World Languages and culture in Elementary School
	Career Education K-12 – Life orientation/skills

Room#: 157

Title of Article: “In SPF, Even the Sky Isn’t the Limit”

Vision	Initiatives
	Environment – feeling valued, safe, inviting, inclusivity, comfortable, inspiring
	Empowerment – learning is personalized, diversity, strong foundation
	Enthusiasm – student-led, community connection, choice, passion

Room#: 164

Title of Article: “At Our Best but Sill Improving! SPF”

Vision	Initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional intelligence • Post-Graduation options • Communicate student outcomes to gain support (keep community aware) • Research of current curriculum ex. (Everyday Math) – Assess use of “Best in Class” and material (Social Studies – Diversity & Inclusion) • Infrastructure preparedness

Room#: 165

Title of Article: “SPF Creating Global Citizens from PreK & Beyond”

Vision	Initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happiness • Personal interaction • Celebration of diversity in ALL forms • Green buildings & Sustainability • Civics • Empathy & cohesiveness • Counselors in all schools – more accessible • Universal PreK & Aftercare • Dual enrollment • Career readiness – trades • Multi-modal communication

Room#: 171

Title of Article: “SPFSD Community – a Model of Resilience, Equity and Inclusion”

Vision	Initiatives
A learning community that exhibits resilience and confidence. Students demonstrate the ability to work together through real world applications to overcome adversity. They will be advocates for social justice grown out of a community that values collaboration, diversity, equity and compassion.	

Room#: 174, 175, 178

Title of Article: “Innovative District Honors and Prepares Whole Child for Global Citizenship Through Community Involvement”

Vision	Initiatives
	More representation of minorities in staffing
	Seeing ‘Teachers of Tomorrow’ program expanded – bringing under-represented groups back through curriculum, library and staff should reflect diversity of student body
	Media centers as hubs of the community
	Safe place – socially, emotionally, psychologically
	Every child represented in the curriculum
	Expand Green Dot program to younger age, repeated more frequently by comfortable and welcoming environment, place for people to come together to talk
	Growing critical consumers of information
	Media Centers as service to community
	Move STEM electives to elementary school level
	Expanding extra-curriculars – clubs, sports, at schools so available to all
	Civics education to start earlier
	Opportunities for children to know how to speak for themselves/advocate for themselves

Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

	Intramural, non-competitive sports program – before care/after care solution
	Community collaboration, e.g., police after-school program
	Challenge students at all levels
	Connections across curriculum
	Expansion of real-life skills (e.g., budgeting) starting earlier
	Pathways to civic involvement
	Preparing for real-world citizenship
	Whole child
	Inclusivity, diversity
	Honoring ourselves and one another
	Community involvement/connectedness

Room#: 177

Title of Article: “SPF Effectively Adapts to the New and Changing Future by Developing Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Global Leaders and Learners to Assist Growing our Community in a Positive and Healthy Environment”
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Vision	Initiatives
	Develops inclusive, resilient and creative global leaders/learners
	Diversification – critical review of history curriculum - can we teach it sooner
	Building skills for students and teachers to have “candid dialogue” that honors all points of view
	Better communication of the many small steps that are during massive change (transparency)
	Create great learners not great test takers
	Bridge the gap of home vs school – communication of civility
	Prepare for post high school-life preparedness
	Critical review of the use of technology
	the district uses past events, issues, and attempted solutions, to adapt them to the current needs by incorporating the students in the creation of new plans for the future, as they know what they need best

Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

	the reevaluation of curriculum to encompass all learning from the very beginning, while being considerate and accepting of all
	the awareness of the changing aspects of our environment by communicating it to all

Following each group reporting out on their consensus points, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

- Experiential Learning
- Global Citizenship
- Supporting the Staff
- Inclusivity and Empathy
- All students honored, celebrated and encouraged
- Career Exposure- Support different Pathways to Success

- Community is the foundation
- Diversity-appreciation that is inclusive of all
- Transparency and communication
- World History-all ages and cultures
- Whole Child/SEL/Health and Wellness
- Support Services
- World language expansion earlier grades
- Building future citizens-civics
- Student Voice and Agency
- Infrastructure and facilities
- Equity throughout the educational system-review at all grade levels PreK-12
- Develop well-rounded empathetic individuals
- Partnering with the community

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

- 1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
- 2. Educating the Whole Child**
- 3. Facilities and Infrastructure**
- 4. Community Partnerships and Communication**

Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:00 pm, Terrill Middle School, Auditorium.

Sign-in begins at 6:30 pm.

Meetings start and end promptly.

During the November 16th meeting we will review the outcomes from Meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives) and develop the strategic planning goals and objectives for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.

The strengths and challenges, vision and initiatives will be grouped by goal area for the November 16th Strategic Planning Meeting #3.

Please join us. We look forward to seeing you!

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