



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Hamilton Township School District

Mission Statement

The Hamilton Township School District is dedicated to creating a safe, secure, and welcoming educational environment for all. We will inspire our diverse community in realizing their optimal potential as lifelong learners and responsible members of our community.

Vision Statement

Believe we can...Together

Session 2

Developing a Vision for the Hamilton Township School District

On October 24, 2023, Hamilton Township School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, twenty-four (24) total, came together for the second strategic planning meeting. The topic for the second meeting focused on developing a vision and initiatives for the Hamilton Township School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Zito. Facilitator Michelle Kennedy, from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), was introduced and provided an overview of the strategic planning process and the focus of the evening's activity.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. Participants watched a video that allowed them to think about the future we are preparing our students for, and the skills needed for future success. We then envisioned the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) selecting the Hamilton Township School District as the model district for success in advancing student achievement. The task is to produce a Podcast sharing Hamilton Township's success, which will broadcast throughout NJ and globally as part of the NJDOE roadmap to success in education. The Podcast is to talk about what is taking place in the Hamilton Township School District that made it possible for the district to become the model district for success in advancing student achievement - What does the Hamilton Township School District's desired future look like in 3-5 years from now, where everyone is succeeding, and there are no barriers?

Participants were encouraged to think about the big picture with money not being a concern and no restrictions.

Participants gathered in self-assigned groups, four (4) in total, to produce their Podcast, which included the name of the Podcast and highlights of what was taking place to achieve success at Hamilton Township School District. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from meeting #1, strengths and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussions, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the entire group of meeting participants.

The following information 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 strategic planning process.

Small Group Work – Visions Highlights of forward thinking to 3-5 years, Podcast Names, and identified Goal Areas:

Table 1:

Podcast Name: HTSD is Happy to Help Students Succeed

Highlights:

- Extracurricular Activities lend to teaching the whole child
- Agents for Change expansion
- Continued collaboration with GEHRSD introduce to 6-8
- How do we embrace AI...what does it look like Pre-K-8
- Culture and Climate - a great place for staff to work and sometimes play.
- Cutting edge technology including 1:1 technology Devices
- Social Emotional, Physical, and Overall, Health focus
- Collaboration between Community and Schools
- Career and Life Readiness

Table 2:

Podcast Name: We ARE HTSD - We are Holistic Thinkers Supporting Diversity

Highlights:

- Expanded in house health, wellness, and mental health programs
- Fully integrated curriculum - applied to school and real world problems
- Innovation Labs
- Individual Learning Paths
- Choice Learning / Student Voice
- Leadership Development (Including ownership, personal accountability, and entrepreneurship)

- Technological opportunities & advancement with mentorship and focus on positive use of tech
- Nutrition - w/Student learning and involvement (healthy meals)
- Small Community programs & Parental Education
- Consistent, safe, reliable Transportation

Table 3:

Podcast Name: Laying the Foundation for Life, College, and Careers

Highlights:

- Financial Responsibility
- Restorative/SEL Practices
- Family and Community Engagement
- Inclusive Practices
- Focus on Practices over Programs
- Preschool/Early Childhood Programs
- Computer Literacy
- Upgrade Facilities/ Safety
- College & Career Preparation
- Nutrition

Table 4:

Podcast Name: The HTSD Experience

Highlights:

- Peer Mentoring Program
- Community Outreach/Student Volunteering - Retirement Facility Buddies, Community Clean-Up
- Inclusiveness in Sports and Clubs
- Family Engagement Workshop/Activity Series - Partnership with Community Organizations (PD, Library, ACCC, Greater Egg, Scouts)
- Career and Tech Integration with Families and Students - Partner with Labor Unions
- Annual Field Trips - Outdoor Experiences
- Authentic Life Skills and Experience for Students - Tech/Shop/HomeEc - Local Business Partnerships (Zoo, Nature Center, Home Depot, ACCC (Culinary), AtlantiCare, Joanne's)
- Kindness Ambassadors
- High Staff Retention/Satisfaction
- Student Led Learning and Conferences

Five goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large.

1. Student Learning Experiences
 2. Wellness
 3. Culture and Climate
 4. Community Engagement
 5. Finance and Facilities
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The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

**Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 5:00 pm
William Davies Middle School
Sign-in begins at 4:45 pm.**

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

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and perspectives during the first and second Strategic Planning meetings. We appreciate your participation!

During the November 30th meeting, participants will review the outcomes from meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives). We will use the five (5) goal areas identified at meeting 2 to start the roadmap to write an overarching goal statement per each goal area and 4-5 accompanying objectives to support that goal statement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to self-select a goal area in which they would like to participate!

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

Please RSVP by calling the Superintendent's Office

Thank you!