



## **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Florham Park School district**

### **District Mission Statement**

The Florham Park Public Schools are committed to the achievement of individual academic excellence through high quality teaching and learning and community involvement. This results in students being well prepared to meet future educational challenges and to contribute to society. They will achieve these goals in accordance and alignment with the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards which guide our academic instruction.

### **Session 2 of 3**

#### **Developing a Vision for the Florham Park School District in the Next Five Years**

On March 6, 2017 Florham Park School District 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 Florham Park School District in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Charlene Peterson and Kathy Helewa from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the February 6, 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 Florham Park School District 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 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 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.

**Pink Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Rewiring Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"**

| <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                                                                              | <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Creative problem solving – using workshop model in all subject areas                                     | Community outreach projects – socially responsible and responsive |
| Public speaking (TED Talks), storytelling                                                                | Global citizens                                                   |
| Making 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning more accessible to parents and students (communication at home) | Facilities that support 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning         |
| Socially and emotionally healthy students                                                                | STEM lab, fine motor skills, hands-on learning                    |

**Blue Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Florham Park, a Lesson Plan for Success"**

| <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                 | <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Flexible Learning (ability and/or interest) | Childcare onsite                        |
| STEAM                                       | The Whole Child – Outdoor Learning      |
| Collaborative Model                         | Share Services (Educ.), (College, H.S.) |
| Faculty Articulation                        | SMART Building                          |
| Professionalism ↑ (Inviting meeting place)  | Meaningful Homework vs. No Homework     |



**Black Dot Group: Title of Article: "Rooted in Tradition, Branching Toward Innovation"**

| <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>         | <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                                          |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forensics/Debate                    | Interdisciplinary projects/PBL's                                     |
| Creative freedom in lesson planning | Successful co-teaching/team teaching                                 |
| STEAM integration/application       | Social/Emotional Learning/Tolerance<br>↳ Mindfulness → Coping Skills |

**Green Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Florham Park Schools – Growing Independent Learners"**

| <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                                                                           | <b>Vision - Initiatives</b>                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shared vision among "like" and nearby districts – promotes consistency                                | Shift gears back to content (problem-based learning) as opposed to rote learning |
| District that allows for/encourages student and teacher individuality                                 | Global curriculum with service projects and service trips                        |
| District that teaches "real world" knowledge which coincides with job prospects (e.g. coding, trades) | Foreign language program K-8 (full languages programs)                           |
| School action-based learning – kinesthetic learning                                                   | No standardized testing                                                          |
| Heavy parental involvement                                                                            | District that promotes student choices                                           |

**Orange Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Shift Happened"**

| Vision - Initiatives                                                                                                                                              | Vision - Initiatives                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technology → Learning stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research-based</li> <li>• Independence (enthusiasm)</li> <li>• Critical Skills</li> </ul> | Let standards marinate for teachers to perfect. Try not to tweak to assess the quality of a program.             |
| Awareness with Social Media. Restrictions                                                                                                                         | Reading – understand deeper and faster                                                                           |
| Late buses for elementary school clubs                                                                                                                            | Trimesters (air conditioning).                                                                                   |
| Kids in more fundraisers. Purpose of why/what/empathy. Character building                                                                                         | Education Foundation to raise funds/grants. Remove some of pressure from PTA to raise funds and find volunteers. |
| Celebrate holidays. Teachable moments/balance. Time versus group participation.                                                                                   |                                                                                                                  |

**Common Threads Identified by the Group:**

Flexible learning – creative lesson planning  
 Whole Child – student mindfulness  
 Hands-on learning  
 Shared services - collaboration  
 Focus on student individuality  
 Public speaking/forensics/debate skills

Parental involvement  
 Global citizens – local community involvement and volunteerism  
 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities  
 STEAM education

**Broad Goal Areas:**

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

- Individual Student Learning and Whole Child
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Facilities/Technology
- Community and Global Citizenship
- Professional Lifelong Learning Communities

**The third strategic planning session is scheduled for: Monday, April 3, 2017**

During the April 3rd 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!