



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Florham Park School 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 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Accomplishments and Challenges/Opportunities of the Florham Park School District?

On February 6, 2017 Florham Park School District administrators, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the strengths/accomplishments, and challenges/opportunities of the Florham Park School District. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Linda Rozek, President of the Board of Education. Melissa Varley, Superintendent, provided an informative overview of the district. Facilitators Charlene Peterson and Matt Lee, from New Jersey School Boards Association, introduced the strategic planning process and assisted throughout the process.

Approximately 50 participants gathered in four randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths/accomplishments and challenges/opportunities of the Florham Park School District through brainstorming and the sharing of ideas. After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 strengths/accomplishments and top 10 challenges/opportunities and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the district's website (www.fps.org) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Florham Park School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Group Consensus: Strengths/Accomplishments & Challenges/Opportunities

Blue Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Teacher-Led initiatives, parent viewpoints	PTA Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower # of volunteers • Communication between parent, teachers, & online (staying on top of everything)
Open community – parent events	Air conditioning
Class sizes (smaller)	Sound system BKL/Lighting RMS auditorium
Seamless transition (from school to school)	Test scores versus similar districts
Teacher openness to learn and reflect (growth mindset)	Parent involvement in homework
Committed superintendent	Home policy update – more specific
Supportive administration/principals	Inconsistency between work, activities, assignments across grade levels
PTA involvement of teachers and students	Everyone pulled in different directions
Administration very approachable for parents	Repave parking lots
Great district financial management (business administrator)	PowerSchool – teachers POV
	Media Specialist - RMS

Green Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlighted by Columbia University • Curriculum Council 	Test Scores
Technology availability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility • Virtual labs 	Are technology skills sufficient for standardized test environment?
After school clubs and activities available	Is iReady a useful tool for driving instruction?
Teachers and how much they care – positive climate in the schools	Need to advance STEM and ELA
Florham Park community is very inclusive	Facility facelift (roof, bathrooms)
Class size (18-22)	Teacher preparation time
Special Education, co-teaching model	Resources for new initiatives
Music program reinvigorated	How can we take advantage of corporate support?
Student peer teaching	Greater parent involvement in evening information sessions
Safety in building – Police, protocols	Renewable energy sources
	Engage Florham Park parents’ talents in district needs

Florham Park School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Red Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Moving to Reader's & Writer's Workshop – properly supported	Community Involvement
Professional Development	Time/volume of leveling libraries
Community involvement	Moving students to “on level”
Dedicated staff	Effective form of communication (document manager)
Board meetings - structure	Consistent level of effective homework
PTA/Admin. Exec. meeting	BWD – BLK articulation, etc.
	Reader's/Writer's Workshop - grammar
	Social/emotional focus on child

Yellow Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Teachers	Foreign Language
Technology	Shared Services
Reader's/Writer's Workshop	Keeping up with Technology & using appropriately
PTA	BWD Pick-up
BOE/Administrators	Mindfulness techniques in classrooms
Special Services Therapists	Middle school Math
Class sizes	Increased Communication/Visibility for Reader's/Writer's Workshop
The Arts & Extracurricular	

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Monday, March 6, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Ridgedale Middle School.

During the March 6th meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Florham Park School District five years from now.

The final meeting will be held on Monday, April 3 at 7:00 pm to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome, even if you were not able to attend the first meeting. We look forward to seeing you!