



Creating a Five Year Strategic Plan For Rahway

Mission Statement

“With diversity as our strength, the Rahway School Community shall provide inclusive and challenging programs to accommodate the unique needs of all students, allowing them to experience success and reach their highest potential. Our programs will prepare all students to achieve the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in the global community.”

Session #2

What is our “Vision”? What expectations and initiatives do we believe in? What challenges do we anticipate?

On Monday, February 5, 2018, Rahway School District Administration, staff, Board of Education members, parents, students and community members, thirty-three (33) in total, came together to continue strategic planning. The second evening topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Rahway School District. The meeting began with an overview of the first meeting. We then discussed the idea of moving away from the district for 5 years and coming back, only to find Rahway on the cover of Time magazine, as a “School that has Succeeded”! What would you envision happening in the school system to make this happen? Participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups to develop a shared vision.

Small groups of participants brainstormed and shared ideas together. 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 web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus

Vision 2021- Highlights from our “Cover Story”

Yellow Group

“Premium Maker-Spaces offered at Rahway PS 5th – 12th grades”

K-12 1:1 initiative

computers, software, 3D printer, facilities for MS

Math Concepts – teamwork, need, solution

Design – creativity, critical thinking, collaboration

Science Manufacturing – computer skills

Computer Skills - Marketing – proof of concept

Distribution –

Red Group

“Making Dreams Come True”

D – Diversity

Recruiting – competent and mirrors the diversity of students in our schools

Celebration of Successes

Stakeholder Representation

R – Responsible Citizenship

Traditional (good neighbor, working collaboratively with others) & Digital Responsibility

Service learning – district wide that is strongly encouraged

E – Ethics

Honest, responsible behavior

A – Academics

Meeting the needs of all learners

Well-rounded and competitive curriculum

Culturally responsive curriculum

M – Marketable Skills

Career, College and Life Planning

Green Group

“Rahway Schools Empower Students to Find a Path That’s Right for Them”

1. Secure adequate funding
2. Promote problem-solving skills
3. Programs that teach students to think, care, learn
4. High student engagement – students more involved and sharing their voices

Rahway Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

5. Active student learning – active role in the learning process
6. Challenging tasks
7. Mentorship / modeling – opportunity to connect
8. Community (business, town, professional communities) partnerships
9. Actively engage all stakeholders (planning and action)
10. Focused P.D.
11. Life Skills!!!

Orange Group

“High Expectations for All!!!”

We strive to educate students to be critical thinkers able to engage in society and compete in the global economy.

1. 1:1 technology initiative
2. Authentic learning experiences – real world connection
3. Individualized instruction – based on the needs of the student; differentiation; IEP’s for all students; continual assessment
4. Professional development responsive to learners’ cultures, learning modalities and interests – culturally competent to meet the needs of all of our students, culturally responsive
5. Courses and activities that build on students’ and the district’s strengths – adaptive curriculum
6. Equitable practices
7. Addressing the needs of the whole child – meeting the child where he/she is
8. Adaptable curriculum

Blue Group

“Rahway Schools #1 in the State!”

1. 1:1 technology
2. World language available PreK-12
3. Expanded virtual learning
4. Full inclusion all day
5. Reading specialists in every school
6. Science labs in every school including the elementary
7. Updated facilities – central air!
8. Fine & Performing Arts PreK-12
9. 12 month school year – 10 wks on – 3 off (Lowkson model!!)
10. #9 with community partnerships

Visionary Common Threads from Group Work

Teaching and Learning (includes Curriculum & Instruction; Social-Emotional Learning)

Facilities (Capacity) & Finance

Family & Community Partnerships

The third and final strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM (6:30 PM sign-in)

The challenge for the meeting will be to:

- Write a broad goal statement for each goal area-
The three goal areas that have emerged from the group work are:
 - 1. Teaching & Learning (includes Curriculum & Instruction; Social-Emotional Learning)**
 - 2. Facilities (Capacity) & Finance**
 - 3. Family & Community Partnerships**
- Develop objectives under the three or four goal areas based on the common threads from all previous group work
- Create strategies needed to reach those objectives.

Each participant will be asked to select a “goal area” of their interest and choosing. Participants may want to prepare ideas ahead of time prior to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you!