

STRATEGIC PLAN
2017-2020
Scotch Plains-Fanwood
Public Schools



...Seeking Excellence Together

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Strategic Plan Introduction

Building upon the success of our Strategic Plan that guided district improvements between 2014 and 2017, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education again utilized New Jersey School Board's "Three D (Determination, Dream and Destiny by Design) Strategic Planning Model". Gwen Thornton, our district's New Jersey School Board's Field Service Representative, facilitated the process, assisted by the district's administrative team.

Three 3D Strategic Plan Meetings were held on October 3, 16 and November 2, 2017. These meetings were open to the public. Parents, district staff, and interested members of our Scotch Plains and Fanwood communities provided valuable input. We were particularly pleased that high school students also actively participated in this planning process. At the opening meeting, Dr. Margaret W. Hayes, Superintendent of Schools, presented a State of the District 2017 Report. This PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on our district's website at www.spfk12.org

Discussions at these meetings focused on:

- ❖ Points of pride, accomplishments and achievements of the district,
- ❖ Identifying our expectations for the future of the district,
- ❖ Developing goal areas and objectives to be accomplished related to these goals.

Information compiled by the Strategic Planning Process was utilized by administration to create plans for each strategy in order to achieve the defined goals in the areas of Health and Wellness, Real World Connections Across the Curriculum, Professional Development, and Community/Parent Engagement.

The 2017-2020 Strategic Plan was adopted on December 21, 2017. This plan will be an invaluable tool in providing direction and a set of priorities for our school district to continue on the path of improving outcomes for all students.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WE BELIEVE....

Children learn best when:

- They are in a non-threatening, physically and psychologically safe and nurturing environment at home, in school and in the community.
- They are given individual attention and high expectations.
- They are provided varied instructional styles, are actively engaged and provided with feedback; the curriculum is fun and students feel empowered.

The role of the staff is:

- To recognize the potential and individuality of every child by fostering a welcoming, respectful learning environment.
- To be a connection point among children, families and community.
- To demonstrate flexibility, openness to change and willingness to take action.



The role of the family - the most important is:

- To provide a foundation for education, cultivate the desire to learn and instill independence and responsibility.
- To remain active participating partners PREK to 12.

The role of the community is:

- To collaboratively and cooperatively ensure all students can achieve their highest potential.
- To be knowledgeable about issues affecting students in order to advocate and support the right of every learner to excel.



By 2020:

Goal 1: Health and Wellness

We will cultivate a school environment where students and staff work and develop in a safe, supportive, empowering circle.

Goal 2: Real World Connections Across the Curriculum

We will offer diverse, rigorous and relevant curriculum experiences that nurture global citizens and prepare them for their academic and personal lives, while engaging their hearts and minds.

Goal 3: Professional Development

We will develop a comprehensive and coherent Professional Development vision that promotes sustained, teacher driven Professional Development to deepen understanding of selected initiatives and best practices.

Goal 4: Community/Parent Engagement

We will strengthen and extend communication at all levels within the district to engage and inform community stakeholders so that we create shared pride in the schools and garner ongoing support for academic excellence.

Strategies 2017-2020:

Goal 1: Health and Wellness

- Provide the appropriate social and emotional support that will result in resilient students.
- Enhance learning through technology to create effective digital citizens.
- Continue to strengthen the district's infrastructure to ensure a safe and secure learning environment.

- Promote an energetic and inclusive community through exposure, education and acceptance.

Goal 2: Real World Connections Across the Curriculum

- Foster respectful, literate and innovative digital citizens.
- Offer interdisciplinary, 21st century STEAM and arts integration experiences.
- Offer authentic experiences for K-12 students, inside and outside the walls of the school(s).
- Support the above objectives through
 - Flexible scheduling,
 - Innovative physical spaces,
 - Community resources, and
 - Professional development for staff.

Goal 3: Professional Development

- Assess the current use and quality of professional development time and develop alternate structures for job-embedded and sustained professional development.
- Empower and support teachers to initiate and facilitate professional development that aligns with the district's professional development vision.
- Expand and foster partnerships with experts, colleges and universities, organizations and other districts.
- Ensure ongoing communication, transparency and articulation of the professional development visions, activities and opportunities.

Goal 4: Community/Parent Engagement

- Identify best practices for communicating with stakeholders.

- Create increased awareness of student, staff and district accomplishments.
- Identify responsible person(s) to manage dissemination of information.
- Improve sense of community.

3D Strategic Planning Participants

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3D Strategic Planning Participants (Continued)

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