



Hackettstown Public Schools

Creating a Three Year Strategic Plan for Hackettstown Public Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

Building on tradition and success, the mission of the Hackettstown School District is to educate and inspire students through school, family and community partnerships so that all become positive, contributing members of a global society, with a life-long commitment to learning.

Session 1: What Are the Strengths and Achievements of the Hackettstown School District?

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, 160 Hackettstown community members, Board of Education members and school district staff came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening topic was focused on the strengths and achievements of the Hackettstown School District. We began the process with an overview of the school community as presented by your Superintendent. We then gathered in randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths and points of pride in our district.

We worked in small groups, first recording our individual thinking and then sharing our thinking with other members of our small groups. After group discussion, each group identified what points they agreed by consensus and shared with 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, we will record ALL ideas and other issues brought forward so to ensure that administration and the Board of Education will see more than just the consensus points.

Group 1:

- Small class sizes
- Academic programs and extracurricular for wide range of students
- Fantastic faculty at all schools good communicators with parents
- Instructional programs
- Collaborative teaching
- High school students have opportunities for college credits

Group 2:

- Elementary schools strong community feel
- Small class sizes parents and students feel safe

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

- Great teachers at elementary level
- K-4 is a nice range for grade levels

Group 3:

- Middle school house plan for teaming
- Teachers and programs are a strength - especially electives

Group 4:

- High school rotating schedule each day
- Administrators and teachers know the kids well
- No buses
- Instructional program

Group 5:

- Excellent level of instruction
- High school college credits
- Parent portal
- Keep it small
- After school activities engaging and excellent
- Proximity of the schools to families
- Both grammar schools are in tucked away locations

Group 6:

- Special Education Programs; particularly extended school year
- Communications are good
- Honors program is strong
- Schools do an excellent job to keep traffic flowing
- Small class sizes
- TI-GERS program and co-curricular
- Music and theater program
- Parent involvement
- Supplies are well provided at the schools
- Schools are well-maintained and clean

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Group 7:

- Communications parent and teacher; student to teacher; and parent to parent
- No buses
- Supportive staff
- Student growth is noticeable each year
- Strong academics in all schools

Group 8:

- Small class sizes
- TI-GERS Club
- ELL Program at Willow Grove
- Home Logic program-parent portal
- Standards-based report cards
- Partnering with Centenary College

Group 9:

- K-4 grammar school
- PTA involvement
- All extracurricular programs enhance beyond academics
- Centenary partnership

Group 10:

- Solid education
- Graduates get into Ivies and selective colleges
- Technology
- TI-GERS Club
- Parent portal

Group 11:

- Peer Ambassador Program at the high school
- Middle School and High School sports program
- Elementary Principals and professionalism

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

- High School block schedule
- Communications
- K -4 configuration
- Administrative visibility

Group 12:

- Collaboration between teachers; teachers and students; students and students and the community
- Small class sizes
- Grade 1 students develop an opera
- Band and chorus
- Inclusion fostered and recognized
- PLC (Professional Learning Communities) meetings
- School and community have a great relationship
- Partnership with Centenary College
- Afterschool homework club
- Diverse sports program-include multiple skill levels
- Interschool program between Hatchery Hill in Willow Grove
- Great teachers and support staff

Group 13:

- Smart boards in every classroom
- Strong communications from the school
- Strong community and family values
- Special needs program at Hatchery Hill
- Specials program at the elementary school and middle school
- Strong teacher involvement with the students and family
- Strong communication from the teachers at the elementary and middle school
- Partnership with Centenary College-especially Hatchery Hill
- Strong PTA
- Dual credit classes (college) at the high school
- The inclusion in the classrooms

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

- High School ranked number #1 in Warren County by Star-Ledger

Group 14:

- Teachers very supportive-help students after school
- Partnership with Centenary College
- Technology
- Exceptional Principals at all for schools
- Well run athletic department
- Teachers prepare kids for the next building
- Many kids involved in multiple activities
- PTA very involved
- Teachers are involved in the community
- Strong academic standards at all four schools
- High School has wide range of program offerings electives
- Writing is strongly emphasized that all for schools
- Elementary Special Education Program is strong
- School community is willing to change accept that they can always be better

Group 15:

- Affiliation with Centenary College
- Small class sizes
- Teachers are very responsive to students
- Strong high school teachers
- High School block schedule
- Principals are great
- Sports programs are good
- Life skills program for 21st century
- Parent portal-home logic

Group 16:

- Small class-size
- Community willing to tell board what's important

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Thursday, April 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the Hackettstown High School

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours and end promptly.

The challenge question for the April 11th meeting is:

“If we were here together 3 years from now, and we were looking back on the past 3 years of work, what would we want to say we are proud of having achieved in the Hackettstown School District ... what have we accomplished?”

During the April 11th meeting we will identify the improvement needs of our school district ... we will talk about our aspirations and expectations for student achievement.

We look forward to seeing you!