



Hackettstown Public Schools

Creating a Five Year Strategic Plan For Hackettstown Public Schools

Vision 2018

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 lifelong commitment to learning.

Session #2

On April 11, 2013, Hackettstown School District Administration, Board of Education members, staff, parents and community members came together to continue strategic planning. The second evening topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Hackettstown School District. The meeting began with a vision exercise called "Our Cover Story". Participants were given a magazine cover with a picture of their school on it with the accompanying title "Schools That Succeed." Participants were asked to envision coming back to the community five years from today and seeing that magazine cover. What would they want the story to say about the school district in year 2018? Participants were asked to discuss what their vision and dreams are for the district, develop a shared vision together and identify possible challenges the district may face in the process.

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 2018- Highlights from our “Cover Story”

Team # 1

VISION

- More school spirit
- Informed parents
- Happy students
- More electives
- Greater variety of assessments
- Home logic updated on a timely basis
- Positive culture and climate
- Proud

CHALLENGES

- Government mandates
- General apathy
- Maximize learning-getting the biggest bang for the buck
- Limited tax ratables

Team #2

VISION

- Tiger pride circling around the whole safe school environment
- Mac lab/improved electronics
- Promote performing arts
- sports
- happy kids

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funds
- Older facilities
- sacrifices to reach our goals-more taxes and or reduced services
- consistency in discipline
- improved communications throughout the district

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- more academic time
- need for positive outlook on change-openness to reforms
- lack of consistent use of technology by staff
- need for accountability for all stakeholders

Team #3

VISION

- Unified Regional School District
- Intro to economics basics + others
- Improved sports facilities
- Vocational training-Automotive +others
- ROTC
- Improved communication between sending districts

CHALLENGES

- Programming improvements for students in the middle school
- Better scheduling of activities in the school
- Expand the potential of Home Logic
- Better communication between students/teachers/parents and coaches
- Improve student motivation to prepare for the future
- Improve facilities-athletic facilities, science labs
- Maintain focus on management
- Stay within the budget-spend money in the best interest of the students

Team #4

VISION

- Leveraging our Future
- Successful students in college and life
- Happy Parents/students and teachers
- Improve test scores/instill a passion for learning
- Interesting learning concepts
- Space (class size)
- Safety
- Teacher education

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- Technology
- Facilities
- State testing
- Expanded curriculum
- Communication/feedback loop
- Activities
- Backed by resources
- With a balanced scale of all of the above!

CHALLENGES

- Drop in ratable tax base
- Need for building-facility space, technology and utilities
- Improve parent and school partnership
- Prepare for an increase in enrollment-new development

Team #5

VISION

- Reputation for Excellence
- Modernized School Facilities
- Focusing on Security/small class size/technology and academics
- Working on band width, hardware, PARCC, AP classes, electives and CCSS

CHALLENGES

- Balance between schools-perception of one being better and administrative consistency
- Need to listen and respond to parental concerns-probably anonymous-feedback loop
- education and training for teachers-improve instruction and safety procedures
- opportunity to share best practices with other districts
- improve safety and communication about safety

TEAM #6

VISION

- Personal success
- College and Career ready
- A rocket ship taking off with kids at the helm with top priority
- Staff/environment/facilities and curriculum
- Supported by 3 legs=elementary schools/Middle school and High School

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- The base of all=Science/arts/math/technology/reading/athletics/history/problem solving/creativity/critical thinking

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funds
- Need for grant writing
- Improve community service programs for community-meaningful student time
- Improve communication between administration, class leaders, student body
- Increase parental involvement
- Encourage more ESL parent involvement in school community

TEAM #7

VISION

- Looking at a snow globe with HACKETTSTOWN as the base
- In the hands of parents/school and community with citizenship
- Increasing technology from school to home
- Safe and secure environment
- Pride

CHALLENGES

- Lack of revenue and opportunities to share resources
- Growing ESL population-improve student experience
- Population growth
- Technology-approved bandwidth-how to use technology
- Facilities upgrade
- Offer middle school sports
- Follow up with parent concerns-enhance communication
- Use technology to publicize student in district success

Common Goal Areas from Group Work

Student Achievement

VISION

- More electives
- Greater variety of assessments
- Promote performing arts
- Intro to Economics
- Vocational training
- ROTC
- Leveraging our future
- Successful students in college life
- Improved test score
- Instilling a passion for learning
- Interesting learning concepts
- Professional development
- State testing
- Expanded curriculum
- Increased activities
- PARCC
- Increased AP classes and electives
- Curriculum aligned with CCSS
- Personal success
- College and career ready
- Creativity/critical thinking and problem solving

CHALLENGES

- Maximizing learning
- Consistency in discipline
- More academic time
- Better scheduling of activities
- Improve student motivation
- Education and training of our teachers
- Improved instruction
- Growing ESL population
- Improve student experience

Communications/Culture and Climate

VISION

- Informed parents
- Home Logic updated on a timely basis
- Improved communication between sending districts
- Communication feedback loop
- More school spirit
- Happy students/teachers/parents
- Tiger pride
- Positive culture and climate
- Unified Regional School District

CHALLENGES

- Improve communication throughout the district
- Administrative consistency
- Increase listening skills
- Share best practices with other districts
- Admin responding to parental concerns
- Expand potential for Home Logic
- Improve communication between students/teachers and parents
- Individual school perception
- Positive outlook
- Open to reforms
- Accountability for all stakeholders
- Improve community service time and make it meaningful for the students
- Increase parental involvement
- Encourage more ESL parent involvement in school community
- General apathy
- Maintain focus on management
- Improve parent and school partnership

FINANCE AND FACILITIES

VISION

- More space
- Backed by resources
- Modernized facilities
- Safe and secure environment

CHALLENGES

- Government mandates
- Limited tax ratable
- Lack of funds
- Older facilities
- Sacrifices to reach our goals-more taxes/reduced services
- Improve facilities-science labs
- Stay within the budget
- Spend money in the best interest of the students
- Improve safety and communication about security
- Need for grant writing
- Opportunities to share services
- Population growth
- Improve sports facilities

TECHNOLOGY

VISION

- Mac lab-improved electronics
- Improved technology
- Technology as a base for all knowledge
- Increasing technology from school to home

CHALLENGES

- Programming improvements for students “in the middle”
- Lack of consistent use of technology by staff
- Technology-approved bandwidth
- How to use technology
- Use technology to publicize student, in district, success

The third and final strategic planning session is scheduled for:

May 9, 2013

Hackettstown High School

Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM

The challenge for the meeting will be to:

- Write a broad goal statement for each goal area-
The four goal areas that have emerged from the group work are:
 1. **Student Achievement**
 2. **Communication/Culture and Climate**
 3. **Finance and Facilities**
 4. **Technology**

- Develop goals and objectives under the four goal areas based on the common threads from all previous group work
- Create strategies needed to reach those objectives.
- Memorialize the team work with a vision “logo”

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!

Hackettstown Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes