



New Jersey School Boards Association

Celebrating 100 years of service

413 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413



STILLWATER

Creating a Strategic Plan for Stillwater Township School District

Mission Statement

“The Stillwater Township School, a high-achieving, rural school of excellence, works in partnership with students, parents, staff and a caring community to provide every student a progressive and nurturing educational environment designed to maximize individual potential, instill self-esteem, promote citizenship and foster an appreciation for local history and a passion for life-long learning.

To achieve this end, the Stillwater Education Partners will:

1. Provide a challenging, dynamic educational program that meets the needs and talents of each individual student and enables them to achieve and exceed the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at each grade level;
2. Encourage the capacity to think critically, solve problems and work in a cooperative manner;
3. Provide opportunity for community input and advice;
4. Emphasize continuing staff and curriculum development; and
5. Utilize district resources in an efficient manner.”

Meeting # 1

What Are the Strengths, Achievements, and Challenges of the Stillwater Township School District?

On September 23, 2014 Stillwater Township School District Administration, Board of Education Members, staff, parents and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The evening topic was focused on the strengths, achievements, and challenges of the Stillwater Township School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, **Mr. Dennis Degroat**. Superintendent, **Mrs. Anna Memmelaar** presented the current “State of the Schools.” NJSBA Field Services Representatives, **Al Annunziata** along with **Robynn Meehan** discussed an introduction to strategic planning. Approximately 30 participant stakeholders then gathered in randomly assigned small group teams to identify the strengths and challenges of the Stillwater Township School District.

These teams of participants brainstormed and shared ideas together. After discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to all meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small group teams. 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

Strengths, Accomplishments, Points of Pride and Challenges

Group #1 (Red Team)

Strengths:

- Creativity
- Small class size
- Faculty
- Technology
- Building
- Security
- Special education
- Math

Challenges:

- Creativity
- Financing/ratable
- Communication (community)
- Language arts scores
- Time/professional development
- Security
- Diversity
- Lack of involvement

Group Consensus

Strengths, Accomplishments, Points of Pride and Challenges

Group #2 (Blue Team)

Strengths:

- Class size
- Teachers/staff/administration-balance
- Student achievement
- Reputation (HIB)
- Community involvement-building use, supplies
- Programs-summer school
- Incorporating community and Stillwater culture
- Security - Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA)
- Curriculum
- Attendance

Challenges:

- Technology-balance
- Test scores
- Meeting demands of new testing (state)
- PARCC
- Parental involvement
- Attendance-state aid, sickness, vacation
- Building maintenance
- Behavior-bus
- Environmental classrooms (alternative classrooms)
- Time

Group Consensus

Strengths, Accomplishments, Points of Pride and Challenges

Group #3 (Green Team)

Strengths:

- Preschool disability program
- Behavioral class program (4-6)
- Small class size
- Grade scores-standardized tests
- Community support
- Parent support/ meeting & activities
- Summer programs
- After school learning program
- Dedicated caring staff/low turnover
- Staff development programs

Challenges:

- State mandates for pensions and healthcare
- State testing requirements
- Unfunded programs/bullying and testing
- Maintaining technology
- Career awareness
- Budget balance
- School bus routes and schedules
- Social media and confidentiality

Group Consensus

Strengths, Accomplishments, Points of Pride and Challenges

Group #4 (Yellow Team)

Strengths:

- Facility
- Class size
- Low turnover-teacher
- Parent involvement
- Community
- Summer program
- Pre-school program
- Security
- Kindergarten-full time
- Start time

Challenges:

- Communication
- Security-pick up and drop off confusion
- Creativity restrictions
- Staff longevity can create budget restrictions
- Summer, preschool program
- Going green
- Finances

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Stillwater School Cafeteria.

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours and end promptly to respect our participants' time.

During the next meeting we will create a **shared vision together** for the future of Stillwater Township School District ... we will talk about our aspirations and expectations for our students and school district.

Please join us!

RSVP by contacting the district office, **Mrs. Renee Woehr** at 973-383-617, Ext. 215 or at [Renee Woehr](#).

We look forward to seeing you!