



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

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## **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 # 2 of 3**

#### **What is our Vision for the Stillwater Township School District for the next 3-5 years? What Expectations and Initiatives do we believe in?**

On November 20, 2014, Stillwater Township School District Administration, Board of Education Members, staff, parents, students and community members came together to continue strategic planning. The second evening topic was focused on creating a “shared vision” for the Stillwater Township School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, **Mr. Dennis DeGroat**. NJSBA Field Services Representatives, **Al Annunziata** and **Robynn Meehan** provided an overview of meeting one – the identification of district strengths/accomplishments and challenges. After an introduction into visioning process, the facilitators outlined an exercise. The idea presented: if you had moved away from the district and returned five years later only to find the Stillwater Township School District was on the cover of *Time* magazine as “Schools that

Succeed”, what would the district school look like. Approximately 25 participant stakeholders then gathered in randomly assigned groups to brainstorm what the district did to achieve this remarkable success. Each group came to consensus on the characteristics, elements and opportunities that will help define the future Stillwater Township School District.

After discussion, each group identified their respective consensus vision and presented it to all meeting participants. The session concluded with the recognition of common threads throughout the groups’ visions and the assimilation into four broad goal areas for the next meeting.

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 district’s website to share the work of the groups with the larger community during the course of the strategic planning process.

## **Group Consensus - “Our Visions for the Future”**

### **Group #1 (Red):**

- Better balance of free/nonacademic time
- Environmental classroom
  - Agriculture
  - Integrated classroom
  - Professional development
  - State & county resources for input
- Kitchen-culinary & nutritional programs
- Learning centers
  - Problem solving
- Theme based for the entire year
- Partnerships with local businesses
- Citizenship

**Group #2 (Dark Blue):**

- 1:1 initiative - I-pad
- Sustainability
- Face to face communication
- Student led and initiated
- Global involvement
  - Sister school
  - Awareness
  - Skype
- Charity – give back – created by individual to work for others
- Job fair –interviewing skills
- Increase physical activity
- Efficient learning
- Persistence/motivation
- Celebrate achievement

**Group #3 (Green):**

- Partnership with college or university
- More local control
- Robot learning
- Flipping classroom/virtual classroom
- Online exchange student program
- Green school

**Group #4 (Yellow):**

- **D** - Develop curiosity
  - Technology
  - Project based learning
  - Video portfolio (create)
- **R** - Resources from community
  - Cross country trail
  - Gardens
- **E** - Experiences to interact with different cultures
  - Pen pals/Skype
  - Open classes
- **A** - Add creativity to curriculum
  - School play
  - Human chess game
  - School theme culminating event
- **M** – Make time to talk, share, relieve stress
  - Circle time

**Common Threads:**

After the individual groups reported their visions, the following common threads were identified that connected all of the groups' work.

- Balance (Goal Area #1, 3)
- Culture/climate (Goal Area #2)
  - Celebrate
  - Awareness
  - Local control
- Community /Relationships (Goal Area #1, 3)
  - Resources
  - Major universities/businesses
- Global learning/awareness (Goal Area # 1-3)
  - Creative curriculum
- Technology (Goal Area #1-3)
  - Robot learning
- Sustainability/Green School (Goal Area #2)
- 1:1 initiative (Goal Area #1-3)
- Student leaders/teacher leaders (Goal Area #2)
- Communication/2-way (Goal Area #3)
- Environmental classroom (Goal Area #1,2)
  - Sustainable
  - Food
  - Gardening
- Student achievement (Goal Area #1-3)
  - Learning centers
  - Theme-based learning – entire year
- Global curriculum (Goal Area #1-3)
  - a. Flipped classroom/global classroom (virtual)
  - b. On-line exchange student

# Number in parentheses indicate correlation to Broad Goal area(s) below

**Broad Goal Areas:**

The three goal areas for the next session that emerged from the groups' work are:

- 1. Student Achievement**
- 2. Climate and Culture**
- 3. Communication/ Community**

(Infusing technology into each goal area)

**The third and final strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

**Thursday, December 11, 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:

- Develop a broad goal statement for each of the 3 identified goal areas
- Develop objectives for each goal area based on the information derived from the previous group work in sessions 1 and 2.

Please feel to attend- even if you have not been able to participate in previous meetings. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

Please join us!

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