



Garwood Meeting 2

Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

On Tuesday, October 9, 2018, Garwood School District administration, Board of Education members, staff, parents and community members came together to continue to develop a strategic plan for the District. The evening's topic was focused on developing a vision for the district and identifying initiatives that will move the district closer to the vision for the Garwood School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by the Board of Education President. Gwen Thornton, a New Jersey School Boards representative, reviewed the strategic planning process and the group activity for the evening

Twenty-five (25) participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups to identify their vision and the initiatives. After discussion, each group came to a consensus and presented those to all 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 district's website to share the work of the groups during the course of the strategic planning process.

Green Dot Team:

"The Future is Here in Garwood, New Jersey"

- **Sports**
- **Electives**
- **Technology-up to date for K-8 and is efficient**
- **Space-weather balloon, though leadership**
- **Volunteerism-community involvement**
- **Live Streaming**
- **Facilities- Security, positive environment, motivation- work hard and achieve and kids and educators love coming to school**
- **Family**
- **Children understand what's right from wrong**
- **Sense of Pride- schools, plays, concerts**

Black Dot Team

“Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve”

- **Critical Thinking-common sense for everyday thinking, real world application**
- **Adaptability and Agility-resilience**
- **Financial Literacy; Money management-knowing the value of a dollar**
- **Effective oral and written communication**
- **Social responsibility and ethics- moral compass**
- **Big fish, small pond mentality; self- awareness and perspective**
- **Cultural Awareness-understanding a level of acceptance and benefits to understanding**
- **Collaboration, common ground and consensus building**
- **Curiosity and Imagination-color outside the lines**
- **Creating effective leaders- locally and globally**

Red Dot Team:

“Seeing Superior Students”

- **Professional Development- differentiated based on need and interest and for new initiatives**
- **Parent Involvement**
- **Class Size reduction**
- **World class instruction**
- **Utilize the most current technology**
- **Maintain climate and culture**
- **Self- assessment toward Blue Ribbon status and/or School of Character**
- **Life skill program development**

Blue Dot Team:

“Authentic Learning Drives Instruction”

- **Project Based Learning**
- **Personalized Learning**
- **Cultural Awareness**
- **Responsible Citizenship- In life and on line**

Garwood School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- **Community Outreach**
- **Real World Application**
- **SDI**
- **Mindfulness**
- **Executive Function**
- **Meaningful Curriculum Development**
- **Stakeholder Support**

Yellow Dot Team:

“Small Town with the Big Heart Paves the Way for the Future”

- 10-12 kids per class with 1 regular education teacher and 1 special education teacher in every class
- Technology/Innovation-Every child has his/her own ‘device” starting in Kindergarten
- Satellite classes for subjects Garwood can’t offer (i.e. French)
- Longer school day and/ or year to allow longer recess and lunch= less homework
- Elective summer school- academic and/or electives
- Love of reading and writing
- Project based learning to enhance communications skills (oral)
- Apprenticeships for 7-8th graders to build partnerships with local businesses- corporate or trade
- Virtual field trips based on projects
- Advanced degrees paid for teacher/team building
- Broaden opportunities for conference attendance/virtual training
- ___% of students go to “Nationals” every years (academics, sports, etc.)

Orange Dot Team:

“Small Town School + Big Time Dreams= BRIGHT, SUCCESSFUL FUTURES!!”

- Expand Lincoln Links- peer mentoring
- Create school newspaper
- Create two student advisory panels (elem. and MS)
- Expand technology (virtual reality and virtual learning)
- Implement school store
- Expand I-Steem course to include all students

Garwood School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- Limit class size to 18 students
- More community nights
- Individualized Professional Development
- Life Skills for Parents

Following each group reporting out on their consensus points, the large group identified four goal areas:

- 1. Curriculum/Instruction(including 21st century skills, Professional Development and Technology)**
- 2. School Climate and Culture**
- 3. Community Outreach and Engagement**
- 4. Finance/Facilities**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

At this meeting, we will be developing goal statements and objectives for each of the goal areas.

Please join us as we work to complete this exciting endeavor!