



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Fair Lawn Public Schools

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fair Lawn Public Schools is to promote continuous improvement and high levels of learning, to foster self confidence and support success for all students. and to engender productive and humane citizens empowered by the critical, technological, and communication tools necessary to function democratically in a global society. Our expectation is that all students achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels.

Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Fair Lawn Public Schools?

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017 Fair Lawn Public School District administrators, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the Strengths/Achievements, and challenges/opportunities of the Fair Lawn Public Schools. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Eugene Banta, President of the Board of Education. Dr. Ernest Palestis, Interim Superintendent, provided an informative overview of the district. Facilitators Matt Lee and Charlene Peterson from the New Jersey School Boards Association introduced the strategic planning methodology and assisted throughout the process.

More than 40 community, parent and staff participants gathered in four randomly assigned groups to identify the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Fair Lawn Public Schools through brainstorming and the sharing of ideas. After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 Strengths/Achievements and top 10 challenges/opportunities and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the district's website (<http://www.fairlawnschools.org>) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Fair Lawn Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Group Consensus: Strengths/Achievements & Challenges/Opportunities

Red Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Performing arts – music, band, etc.	Class size
Diversity	Overcrowding
Sports programs	Borders (hard/soft)
High quality educators	Infrastructure
Amazing PTO's	Technology
Strong sense of community	Attendance/truancy
High rankings (academic)	STEM/STEAM
College acceptance	Parental involvement
Comprehensive offerings, curriculum, etc.	Communication
Special education	Workplace readiness
BOE - Master	Sustainability
Communication - live streaming, website etc.	Scheduling
	Transportation
	IEP/504 education for parents
	Consistency
	Inclusion
	Gifted/talented programs
	Houses
	New superintendent

Green Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
All staff; teachers: commitment, student focus	Growth of district: how do we continue to provide A+ education?
Technology: computers, online, library, A/C	How do we support current program and additional?
Communication: school to parents	Transition of grade 5 to middle school
Adaptable: loss of state aid	2% cap
Growth of district	Improve efficiency of budget/spending
Parents: PTO, supportive	Adjusting grade 1 to support full day kindergarten
Curriculum: strong, well-rounded, extracurricular, move forward	Supporting special education population at home school
Fiscally responsible	Adult transition (autistic program)
Levels of administrative support / PD support (specialists, supervisors)	Providing for gifted and talented: socially
Solicit from all stakeholders	How do we individualize learning with (growing) population?
	Technology changes fast
	How do we connect with businesses/industry more?
	Socializing middle school/high school

Fair Lawn Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Black Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Reputation; credibility	Vocational / trade programs
Quality and qualifications of all staff	Future ready (preparing students to be)
After school activities extracurricular, Athletics	Wider range of course offerings: early exposure, part of rotation
Music offerings early in schools	Offer choice of world languages in elementary school
Every school is a quality school	Large class sizes
Consistent curriculum	Respect for organizational theory
Positive student/school culture	Diversity and inclusivity of population
Special education programs	Social media and changing interpersonal communication
Diversity and inclusivity of population	Bullying

Blue Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Special education programs	Enrollment
Strong financial health	Technology
Extracurricular opportunities	Budget
Strong Pre-K/K Foundation	State mandates/standards
Communication, trust between home and school	Referendum
Diversity of cultures	Soft borders
Incredible teachers, healthy school climate	School lunch
Support of our students from central office, Board of Education	Vocational opportunities
Strong PTO/PTA/FLASE involvement and commitment	
Location	

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Monday, November 13, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Fair Lawn High School Cafeteria D.

During the November 13 meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Fair Lawn Public Schools five years from now.

The final meeting will be held on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome, and can fully participate, even if you were not able to attend the first meeting. We look forward to seeing you!