



## **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Northfield Community School District**

### **Mission Statement**

As the center of our community, Northfield Community School provides our children the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential and prepares them to compete and excel in the global 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

### **Session 1**

#### **What are the Strengths, Achievements and Challenges of the Northfield Community School District?**

On October 13, 2016, Northfield Community School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, Town Council members, and community members, thirty-five (35) in all, came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening topic was focused on the strengths, achievements, and challenges of the Northfield Community School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, Steve Wynne. Mr. Bartones, Superintendent, presented the current “State of the Schools” report. Facilitators Mary Ann Friedman and Kathy Winecoff, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), were introduced and provided an introduction to the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on identifying district strengths and challenges. Participants gathered in randomly assigned groups, six groups in total, and engaged in brainstorming the districts strengths and challenges. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points, “Top 10” strengths and challenges, and presented those to the full group of meeting participants. The larger group then identified “Common Themes” that had occurred throughout the smaller groups.

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.

**Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes**

**Group Consensus: Strengths, Achievements & Challenges**

**Light Blue Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
High quality T's (Teachers)	Change in student population, i.e., ESL (English as Second Language), Special Ed., enrollment #'s
+ Board support	Curriculum/Instruction, i.e., Math, PLC's (Professional Learning Communities), PD (Professional Development), PARCC
Student/Teacher ratio	Regional articulation
Data collection/use	Ed Camps (would like to see more academic structure)
Parent/Teacher communication	Character Ed (Middle School), digital literacy, service learning
STEAM/Digital lab	Cross-curricular writing
Clubs/Activities	Recess!
Facilities	Homework
Strategic Planning	
PTO/NML (Northfield Mother's League)	

**Purple Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Technology	Scheduling/times
Maker Space	Outside/Recess time
Curriculum	Enrichment/Advance placement/teaching (need better understanding of the placement process)
STEAM lab	Video/TV watching
Library time (Elementary School)	Parent involvement
Birch Grove Park	Limited space in Extra-Curricular activities
Fiscal Management	Homework – no consistency
Recycling	

**Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes**

**Dark Green Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
PTA	Differentiated instruction in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math (leveled reading instruction)
Technology	Social Emotional Learning
Ed Camp	Communication between staff and parents
SACC (School-Age Child Care)/Community Extras	Parking/Drop-off/Pick-up
The Arts	Recess (more in Elementary School)
Security	Consistency
Climate	
Parent Portal	

**Dark Blue Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Parent involvement	Loss of employment (community)
Strong security system	Economy
Small community	ESL (English as Second Language) resources
Up-to-date technology with a budget	New students transferring to district (data/student records)
Fiscally responsible	Transient population
STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)	Articulation between Elementary/Middle/High School
Creative staff	Improving website
Strong administration	Cross-curricular cohesion (creating activities in all contents)
P.T.O.	More time for PD (Professional Development)
Google District (Google Classroom, Google Docs, Gmail, etc.)	Keeping up with current technology

**Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes**

**Red Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Technology	HVAC
Facilities	Scheduling (Recess)
Community support	Economy/enrollment
Security	Traffic
Well-trained staff	Consistent vertical curriculum
BOE innovation	Balance of curriculum and state testing requirements
Flexible/nimble – resources, SACC (School-Age Child Care)/programs	Budget constraints
“Green” approach	

**Orange Dot Team:**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Teachers/School Climate (Not temperature)	Over-taxing of resources (expanding population, tuition students)
Technology	Partnership with police – traffic, Resource Officer
Facilities/Campus	CST - initial evaluation/assessment process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication and updates</li> <li>- Concerns of quick fix solutions rather than long term goals</li> </ul>
Community	
Students	
Superintendent	
Police partnership	
SACC (School-Age Child Care) – variety of programs	

## ***Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes***

Following each group reporting out on their consensus points, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

- Recess
- Scheduling
- Climate
- Consistency
- Cross-curricular writing
- HVAC
- Parental involvement
- Technology
- Traffic
- Facilities
- Communication
- Quality staff
- PTO
- SACC
- Enrollment
- Homework
- Instruction
- Local economy

**The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

**Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm, Northfield Community School, Media Center.  
Sign-in begins at 6:45 pm.**

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting we will create a shared vision together for the future of the Northfield Community School District . . . we will talk about our aspirations and expectations for our students and school district.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!

***Please RSVP by calling the Superintendent's Office  
at 609-407-4000, ext. 8506 and speak with Tina Guetzlaff.***