



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 21st century society.

Session 2

Developing a Vision for the Northfield Community School District

On February 8, 2023, Northfield Community School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, eighteen (18) in all, came together for the second strategic planning meeting. The topic for the second meeting focused on developing a vision and initiatives for the Northfield Community School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Superintendent Mr. Pete Bretones. Facilitator Michelle Kennedy, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), was introduced and provided an overview of the strategic planning process and the focus for the evening's activity.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. Participants watched a video that made them think about the future we are preparing our students for and what skills are needed for future success. We then envisioned the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) selecting the Northfield Community School District as the model district for success in advancing student achievement. Your task is to produce a Podcast sharing Northfield's story, which will broadcast throughout NJ and globally as part of the NJDOE roadmap to success in education. The Podcast is to talk about what is taking place in the Northfield Community School District that made it possible for the district to become the model district for success in advancing student achievement - What does the Northfield Community School District's desired future look like in 3-5 years from now, where everyone is succeeding, and there are no barriers? Participants were encouraged to think big picture with money not being a concern and no restrictions.

Participants gathered in self-assigned groups, four (4) in total, to produce their Podcast, which included the name of the Podcast and highlights of what was taking place to achieve the success at Northfield Community School District. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from meeting #1, strengths and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussions, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

2023 Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

The following information 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 website to share the group work during the strategic planning process.

Small Group Work – Visions Highlights of forward thinking to 3-5 years, Podcast Names, and identified Goal Areas:

Table 1:

Podcast Name: Thunder-Cast

Highlights:

- Continuation and growth of early education program
- Community based real world learning
- Provide supports for student and staff emotional needs (wellness center)

Table 2:

Podcast Name: Creating tomorrow communities with today's children

Highlights:

- Huge Community Involvement – Pre-K, ES and MS as one school/community
 - Feels like 2 separate schools
 - Middle school students interacting more with elementary students
- Facility upgrades including
 - Addition over Kinder
 - Keeping the facility modern and up to date and well-functioning
 - Update media center to accommodate student needs beyond normal classroom
 - Remain tax neutral if possible
- Student Achievement – Children learning the information needed to be successful in today's and tomorrow's world
 - Integration of special needs students with all students
 - Combine students in special continent areas like art and music
- Technology – improve communication with parents regarding access to online programming and resources available for students.
 - More opportunities for parent academies for technology available
 - Improve the school app for more functionality and more user friendly
- More Community Education for Parents
- Courtyard spaces into learning spaces

Table 3:

Podcast Name: "Fly Thunderbirds Fly" *Nurture, Communicate, Share*

Highlights:

- Attractive modern learning campus
- Customized learning with small classroom sizes
- Caring, supportive staff with high retention rates
- Capturing the essence of student driven learning

2023 Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

- Supportive families working and learning environment
- Variety of after school activities that foster creativity and wellness
- Well maintained building that prides on student safety and security
- Increasing test scores to advance and nurture student learning
- User friendly district website for easy navigation
- Community oriented
- Innovative technology including robotics and media literacy
- Shared learning experiences across content areas
- Podcast segments – highlighting grade and school level activities (type of orientation to keep families informed)

Table 6:

Podcast Name: T-B-I-R-D-S...TruBilding Inspired Responsible Drive Students (Scholars?)

Highlights:

- Community Oriented Projects
- Traditional Model and Integrated Experiential Model
- Mental, Physical, Nutritional Well-being- Balance
- Passion in achievement
- Individualized Learning Tracks
- Develop Life Skills – Home Economics
- Enhanced Field Trips
- Small Class Sizes
- Trust in your Teaching Professionals – Freedom
- Extracurricular experiences – Athletics and Clubs

Six goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large.

1. Communication
2. Student Achievement
3. Technology
4. Facilities
5. Mental Health and Wellness
6. Community

2023 Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

**Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Northfield Community School
Sign-in begins at 5:45 pm.**

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

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and perspectives during the first and second Strategic Planning meetings. We appreciate your participation!

During the March 30th meeting, participants will review the outcomes from meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives). We will use the six (6) goal areas identified at meeting 2 to start the roadmap to writing an overarching goal statement per each goal area and 4-5 accompanying objectives to support that goal statement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to self-select a goal area in which they would like to participate!

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

Please RSVP by calling the Superintendent's Office

Thank you!