



## **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 3**

#### **Developing Strategic Planning Goals for the Northfield Community School District**

On March 30, 2023, Northfield Community School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, a total of twelve (12), came together for the third and final strategic planning meeting. The topic for the meeting focused on developing a broad goal statement and supporting objectives for each of the six goal areas identified at the second meeting. Participants gathered in five self-selected small groups to work on the goal area of their choice. Two of the goal areas merged to allow for participation in all goal areas.

Participants self-selected one small group goal area:

- Student Achievement
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Community and Communications (these two separate groups were merged into one group)
- Facilities
- Technology

The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Superintendent Mr. Pete Bretones and an introduction of the Facilitator Michelle Kennedy from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), who provided an overview of the strategic planning process and the focus of the evening's activity.

The small groups reviewed the outcomes from meeting 1, strengths & challenges, and meeting 2, vision and initiatives. They began writing a broad goal statement and developing accompanying objectives that reflected their respective goal area's strengths, challenges, and visions.

## 2023 Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #3 Outcomes

**Small Group Work** - The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups.

Goal Area	<b>Student Achievement</b>
<b>Goal Statement</b>	To improve “all” student scores across every subject area
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Incentivize enrollment for online tutoring during the school year, and institute a summer reading incentive program.</li> <li>2. Decrease testing; more project-based learning.</li> <li>3. Diversified learning environments (outdoor spaces, student led/choice spaces).</li> <li>4. Online summer programming options for families.</li> <li>5. More coaching PD for teachers; collaborate with other educational agencies.</li> </ol>

Goal Area	<b>Mental Health and Wellness</b>
<b>Goal Statement</b>	To create an educational environment that allows for the mental health and wellness of all students and staff
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop an ongoing and accessible are for students and staff to unwind, relax, and share time.</li> <li>2. Create an opportunity for staff and students to set aside time for mental health.</li> <li>3. Partner with outside organizations such as Alcove Gilda’s Club, etc.</li> <li>4. Create a designated time each week to provide S.E.L. Learning.</li> <li>5. Provide designated Professional Development opportunities that focus on staff wellness each year with a focus on mental health in addition to staff needs.</li> <li>6. Encourage a collaborative partnership between home, community, and school to support students.</li> <li>7. Allow for an educational environment that allows for the mental health and wellness of all students and staff.</li> <li>8. Allow for support of all students and staff mentally and emotionally.</li> </ol>

Goal Area	<b>Community and Communications</b>
<b>Goal Statement</b>	Develop a systematic communication system that organizes information across all platforms.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify preferences for notifying parents and community of events.</li> <li>2. Develop point of contacts for each community group in order to coordinate information.</li> <li>3. Analyze communication data within school systems (emails, all calls, etc.).</li> <li>4. Increase awareness of school events via push notifications and NCS app.</li> <li>5. Create forum for feedback from the community.</li> </ol>

## 2023 Northfield Community School District Strategic Planning Meeting #3 Outcomes

<b>Goal Area</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
<b>Goal Statement</b>	Create more indoor and outdoor modernized learning environments.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have a bond referendum</li> <li>2. Revamp library space and have shelves placed in classrooms with leveled books and create a gaming area in the library; possible 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – more open areas.</li> <li>3. Building maintenance and have better cleaning protocols.</li> <li>4. Create learning spaces within the courtyards.</li> </ol>

<b>Goal Area</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<b>Goal Statement</b>	To equip students with appropriate technological tools and the requisite skills to responsibly wield them in an ever changing 21 <sup>st</sup> century world.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To create a cohesive communication plan employing district unified technologies to allow all stakeholders to be informed and involved in the initiatives of Northfield Community School.</li> <li>2. To make use of advanced technologies that audit student online activities to protect and teach appropriate digital citizenship and responsible use of powerful technologies.</li> <li>3. To continue to employ technologies to provide advanced security and appropriate monitoring for the safety of all students, staff, and stakeholders.</li> </ol>

### Next Steps

The administration will create action plans that will identify the specific tasks needed to accomplish the goals/objectives, who is responsible, the resources required, the timeline over five years, and the indicators of success.

A final report summarizing the work and input from the three strategic planning meetings and the action plans will be generated by New Jersey School Boards and presented at an upcoming Board of Education meeting for consideration by the Board. We invite all participants and interested stakeholders to attend.

### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the strategic planning process. The input of every participating member has shaped the outcome of the plan. The district now has a five-year roadmap that reflects the aspirations of the various stakeholders for Northfield Community School District's students.