



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Keansburg School District

Mission Statement

The Keansburg School District shall graduate students with educational opportunities in college and career readiness. All stakeholders will set rigorous expectations for all students in the classroom, including co-curricular activities, attendance, tardiness, and discipline.

Vision

The Keansburg School District shall prepare students for life's abundant opportunities in college or careers in a safe, rigorous, and nurturing educational environment.

Session 2

Developing a Vision and Initiatives for the Keansburg School District

On May 23, 2023, Keansburg School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, thirty-five (35) in all, came together to continue with the strategic planning process. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, Mr. Matthew Kitchen. Mary Ann Friedman from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was introduced and explained the strategic planning process. Translators were available for non-English speaking parents and community members. Childcare was also provided by the district.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on creating a shared vision for the Keansburg School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 5 years, returning to Keansburg and seeing their school on the cover of TIME magazine. The article is about Schools that Succeed. In addition to the current programs already in place in Keansburg, what programs/services/curriculum/student outcomes/best practices/facilities would you expect to see in your schools that are succeeding? Participants were encouraged to think "big picture."

Participants gathered in randomly assigned groups, four groups in all, to develop a shared vision and initiatives. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from Meeting #1, strengths and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

It should be noted that the agenda, outcomes from Meeting #1 and the power point were translated into Spanish and available to everyone. Translators were also available for the activity.

Small Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

Group 1/2

Title of Article: “Keansburg Comes Together”

Initiatives:

- Attendance / late / accountability
- Class size / staffing increase / staff diversity
- Community involvement and parent involvement
- Social Media
- Mental Health
- Behaviors
- Transiency → orientation program for new students and families

Group 3/4:

Initiatives:

- Increase parent involvement. Support and collaborate with administration, teachers and support staff
- Tiered Behavioral Supports (Peer Mediation, Restorative Practices)
- Review Code of Conduct (look at consequences for parents and students)
- Review Cell Phone and Technology policies
- Increase communication between all stakeholders (parents, students, staff, administration and Board of Education)

Group 5/6:

Title of Article: “It Takes a Village”

Initiatives:

- Parents who are encouraged and motivated to be community connections
- Students see an attainable future
- Alumni mentors
- Student-led Pride Council
- Quick mental health responses for students and their families

Group 7:

Title of Article: “Keansburg: a School District That Inspires”

Initiatives:

- Students are off the streets, as they are engaged in one of their “Fine Arts” programs, i.e., music lessons, dance, acting, etc.
- Language barrier is diminished as a result of the parent programs focused on ESL (English as a Second Language) yielding more in-tune parent communication with the teachers.
- College and Career Readiness classes, complimented with academic counseling; students are focused and prepared for their future aspirations.
- Less drug abuse at the Middle and High School, as a result of the drug prevention program.
- Less disciplinary issues, resulting in exponential growth in attendance.
- More academic achievement as misuse of technology decreases, with a focus on specialized (ELL – English Language Learners, special needs) after-school programs.

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

- Attendance
- Parent involvement
- Mental health
- Behavior
- Technology
- Communication
- Academic counseling
- Staff shortage
- Code of Conduct

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

- 1. Student Engagement**
- 2. Community / Stakeholder Engagement & Involvement**
- 3. Culture & Climate (to include Safety & Security)**
- 4. Health & Wellness (students, staff and families)**
- 5. Finance & Facilities**

All goal areas will include Communication efforts.

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School, Media Center

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 June 12th meeting participants will review the outcomes from Meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives) and develop the strategic planning goals and objectives for the Keansburg School District.

Attendees will have the opportunity to self-select and work with any / all of the goal areas in which they would like to participate! Translators and childcare is available.

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

Please RSVP by using the RSVP form on the district website. Thank you!