



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Wharton Borough Public Schools

Mission Statement:

Learn to thrive in a dynamic world.

Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Accomplishments and Challenges/Opportunities of the Wharton Borough Public Schools?

On March 21, 2017 Wharton Borough Public Schools administrators, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the strengths/accomplishments, and challenges/opportunities of the Wharton Borough Public Schools. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Theresa Yeager, President of the Board of Education. Christopher Herdman, Superintendent, provided an informative overview of the district. Facilitators Charlene Peterson and Matt Lee, from New Jersey School Boards Association, introduced the strategic planning process and assisted throughout the process.

The participants gathered in three randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths/accomplishments and challenges/opportunities of the Wharton Borough Public Schools through brainstorming and the sharing of ideas. After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 strengths/accomplishments 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 (www.wbps.org) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus: Strengths/Accomplishments & Challenges/Opportunities

Red Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
PARCC scores improving	Behavior
\$ toward improving infrastructure	Funding
Students prepared for high school	Technology at home
Extra-curricular not being cut	Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language • Culture
Longevity of staff	
Preschool	
Parent Liaison	
Inclusion classes	
Diversity	
Technology	

Blue/Purple Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Technology	Scheduling (common planning)
Caring staff	Changing demographics
Positive Culture and Climate	Small district
Small district	More activities (STEAM)
Facility	Digital society (keeping up)
Teacher longevity	Integrating ESL students
Involved <u>Board</u>	Student/parents behaviors
Increase in student academic growth	Culture & Climate
Support organizations	Additional space
Parent communication – blog, app, website, marquee	Student achievement
Diversity	

Silver Star Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Increased technology – document cameras, Chromebooks, Smartboards	Study skills for younger grades
Bilingual information	Increase of parental knowledge/support (workshops?)
Study skills in Middle School	Double security door at both schools with vestibule
Security - increased	Redo stage and new chairs
Building Improvements – gym/APR A/C, new doors, playgrounds	
Low taxes	
Increased Professional Development	
Reaching all populations	

Wharton Borough Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

During the April 25th meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Wharton Borough Public Schools five years from now.

The final meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

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