



Clinton Township Schools

Creating a Strategic Plan For Clinton Township School District

Mission Statement

The Clinton Township School District, in partnership with the community, achieves excellence for each child by ensuring a meaningful and challenging educational experience in a supportive environment, developing life-long learners who are responsible and productive citizens

Session 1

What are the Strengths, Achievements and Challenges of the Clinton Township School District?

On November 19, 2014, Clinton Township School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents,, and community members, twenty-two in all, came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening topic was focused on the strengths, achievements, and challenges of the Clinton Township School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, Maria Grant and Superintendent Dr. Drucilla Clark. Facilitator, Gwen Thornton, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), was introduced and provided an introduction to the strategic planning process. Dr. Clark presented a report on the current “state of the schools.”

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, three groups in total, engaged in brainstorming the 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 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

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posted on the web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus: Strengths, Achievements & Challenges

Blue/Green Dot Group:

Strengths	Challenges
Staff	Staff Retention
Curriculum	Declining enrollment
Communication	Lack of full day kindergarten
Community Involvement (PTA, Ed Foundation)	Transition of students from a half day to full day in first grade
Children First	Common Core
High Quality HIB Program	Lack of sports fields
Special Services Programs	2% funding cap- limited funding
Reputation of Schools	Unfunded mandates
Enrichment opportunities for students	Size of district
	Opportunities for unstructured time (play, student choice)

Red/Yellow Dot Group:

Strengths	Challenges
Dedicated staff(supt., board of education)	Facilities maintenance (aging facilities)
Involved Parents and PTA	Homework balance
Safe/fun learning environment	Consistency-test scores, curriculum
Strong communication between school and parents	Website content/navigation
Inclusion	Full day kindergarten
District Technological communication	Technology support
High academic standards	Funding to support high standards
All staff have access to technology	Mandates-need for administration
Enrichment	Common Core readiness

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	PARCC challenges- “teaching to the test”
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Black Dot Group:

Strengths	Challenges
Community involvement	Aging facilities
Committed staff	Adapting to socio-economic changes
Engaged students	Maintaining educational excellence
Mutual respect	Support for increased demands of Common Core/Scheduling
High expectations for strong academic program, extra-curricular activities, enrichment and inclusion	Need for ongoing staff development
Safety Partnership with County administrator	Full day kindergarten
Engaged parents	Technology
	How to manage unfunded mandates
	PARCC
	Declining enrollment

The following **common themes** emerged:

Strengths	Challenges
Dedicated and professional staff	Full day kindergarten
Involved parents, PTA and community support	Declining enrollment
Engaged students	PARCC concerns: time, money and bandwidth

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High academic standards and expectations	Financial constraints/unfunded mandates
Safe, secure fun environment for students	Common Core - readiness and PD for staff
High quality special services, HIB and enrichment	Aging facilities

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

December 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Sign-in begins at 6:30 pm

Clinton Township Middle School

Cafeteria

Meetings are scheduled for 1 ½ hours and end promptly.

During the December 2nd meeting we will create a shared vision together for the future of the Clinton Township School District . . . we will talk about our aspirations and expectations for our students and school district.