



Creating a Strategic Plan for the North Wildwood School District

Mission Statement

In a society that is dependent on information and knowledge, equitable and universal access to technology is essential to the learning process. With the guidance of skilled educators and community members, all students will have the opportunity to become actively engaged in the learning process as they think, create, inquire, solve problems and communicate in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments. Students will emerge as lifelong learners, productive members of the workforce and citizens that can

Our District Beliefs

- The school of tomorrow will not be bound by walls or limited to a standard school day.
- The community of tomorrow will be one of continuous learning.
- Information and communication are essential tools for the process of improving our curriculum.
- Using technology ethically and appropriately, students can support their own learning by communicating with professionals and students from around the world.
- With increasing global information, students must be able to scrutinize for information validity.
- Suggested applications to incorporate effective technology use should be modeled by teachers in the classroom.
- Effective student assessment is an integral part of strong teaching methods.
- In collaboration with the other school districts of Cape May County, we are committed to maintaining the high standard of technology-infused curricula that has been established through the years of partnership, cooperation, and implementation of a shared educational vision.

Session 2

Developing a Vision for the North Wildwood School District

On February 7, 2024, North Wildwood School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, community members, and students, a total of twenty-nine (29), came together for the second strategic planning meeting. The topic for the second meeting focused on developing a vision and initiatives for the North Wildwood School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Superintendent Mr. Philip Schaffer and Strategic Planning Chair/Board Member Mr. Ron Golden. Facilitator Michelle Kennedy, from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), was introduced and provided an overview of the strategic planning process and the focus of the evening's activity.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. Participants watched a video that allowed them to think about the future we are preparing our students for, and the skills needed for future success. We then envisioned the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) selecting the North Wildwood School District as the model district for success in advancing student achievement. The task is to produce a Podcast sharing North Wildwood's success, which will broadcast throughout NJ and globally as part of the NJDOE roadmap to success in education. The Podcast is to talk about what made it possible for the North Wildwood School District to become the model district for success in advancing student achievement - What does the North Wildwood 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 about the big picture, with money not being a concern and no restrictions. Participants gathered in six (6) self-assigned groups to produce their Podcast, which included the name of the Podcast and highlights of what was taking place to achieve success at North Wildwood 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 them to all meeting participants.

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:

Podcast Name: Back to Basic

Highlights:

- North Wildwood has recognized the need for essential Life Skills. We are committed to expanding home economics & industrial arts programs.
- NWSD is also committed to giving students the opportunity to pursue extracurricular skills like music, art, and theater during and after school and during summer.
- After school Clubs, i.e. math club, chess club, camera club and other specialties.
- Exposing students to real world occupations and situations through field trips and presentations from professionals and successful trades people.

Podcast Name: Pencil to Paper

Highlights:

- Basic Life Skills - please and thank you. Parenting - look in the eye.
- Fully integrated curriculum - applied to school and real-world problems.
- Come together as a community.
- Tradition with new ideas - "It is just different" - It works. - - - Special Place - This is
- Foundation – Roots

Podcast Name: Flying Falcon: providing educational opportunities to soar with through success.

Highlights:

- Technology Workshop for parents (tutorial sessions for parents to access the district's technology)
- Community beautification projects -beach, park clean up, etc....
- Community pride:
 - Community and school history
 - Personal connections and alumni visitations
- Life skills partnership:
 - Career education
 - Job placement
 - Job and career fair
- Enrichment program
 - Enhanced field trips
 - Access to high school classes
- Expansion of extracurricular activities outside of athletics
 - Clubs, field trips, arts and sciences, theatre

Podcast Name: Birds at the Beach

Highlights:

- Educational Field Trips
- Technology
- Small Class Sizes
- Community Support/Outreach Island school interactions i.e. Organized Chaos
- Teacher/Student interaction outside classroom
- Student Well-being
- Extracurricular Activities
- Natural Resources
- Facilities cleanliness aesthetics
- Safe neighborhood, low crime, facilities camera technology

Podcast Name: Vision for the Whole Child

Highlights:

- **Continue great community school partnership.**
 - Expand curriculum
 - Connection to our community with more Field Trips
 - Experiential Learning – Immersive (5 senses) Learning
- **Expand Summer Programming**
 - Strengthens community
- **Wellness Center**
 - Nutrition
 - Mental Health
 - Medications
- **Life Skills Curriculum (age appropriate)**
 - Civics
 - Financial Literacy
 - Home Economics
 - Technology
- **Prepared for Top Tier University (i.e. Algebra)**

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

1. Holistic Student Approach
2. Community
3. Mental Health and Wellness

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 pm
Margaret Mace School Library
1201 Atlantic Avenue Entrance**

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 6th meeting, participants will review the outcomes from meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives). We will use the three (3) goal areas identified at meeting 2 to start the roadmap to write 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 at 609-522-1454* or email pschaffer@mmace.com for more information. *Walk-ins are welcome!*

Thank you!