

# **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Bethlehem Township School District**

Our Mission

## **Session #2 of 3**

### **What is our “Vision”? What expectations and initiatives do we believe in? What challenges do we anticipate?**

On Tuesday, February 26, 2018 Bethlehem School Administration, staff, Board of Education members, parents and community members, came together to continue strategic planning. The second evening topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Bethlehem Township School District. The meeting began with an overview of the first meeting. We then discussed the idea of moving away from the district for 5 years and coming back, only to find our schools on the cover of Time magazine, as a district of “Schools that Succeed”! What would you envision happening in the school system to make this happen? Participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups to develop a shared vision.

Twenty-one (21) participants brainstormed and shared ideas together. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points 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 posted on the web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

## **Blue Dot Group**

Article Title: "A Safe Place for Learning Starts From Within"

### Key Initiatives:

- Character education that goes beyond the classroom
- Students participating in community service projects
- Multi-age mentoring programs in academics and character ed.
- Student safety ensured by state-of-the-art security procedures / systems
- Close-knit sense of community by increased involvement (tie-in the families)
- Team approach to evaluating misconduct
- Consistent discipline
- Teaching students mindfulness

## **Red Dot Group**

Article Title: "Steppin' It Up"

### Key Initiatives:

- Continuity to communicate feelings (Second Step Program)
- See Something ~ Say Something
  - School and home = TEAM EFFORT!
  - Better reporting
- Teachers are REQUIRED to be trained and maintain their training in conflict resolution (and parent training too)
- Increase counselors and/or a resource officer to identify issues
- More proactive to prevent any negativity
- Kindness Overload
- "Caught Being Caring"
- Consequence Continuity (Home and School)
- Parents encouraged to use school as a resource

## **Green Dot Group**

Article Title: "BT Students Affect Positive Change on a Global Scale"

### Key Initiatives:

- Interactive Learning / Hands On (outdoor education, etc.)
- Current Technologies / Digitalization
- Attention to Social-Emotional piece / component
- Community Engagement (outreach programs, civic-mindedness, empathy, etc.)
- Exposure to Careers / Role Models (what the student's interests are)
- Physical wellness & safety (understand situational awareness)
- Parent Engagement
- Communication Skills (participate in larger groups, verbally interact)
- Re-evaluate means of assessment
- Additional special education support

## **Orange Dot Group**

Article Title: "NJ's Best Kept Secret - BTSD children achieve civic and scholastic success year after year."

### Key Initiatives:

- Service projects foster civic pride (senior centers, gardening, capstone projects)
- Technological application (not just hardware but to communicate, collaborate and create)
- Social and verbal communication skills and interactions
- Develop questioning and critical thinking skills (inquiry/problem based learning)
- Creative problem solvers (local, state, country, world)
- Authentic writing program (consistent through grades)
- Safety and security of buildings / grounds
- Many cross generational activities / events to bring community members together
- Beautiful buildings and grounds
- Diverse and plentiful, multi-disciplinary activities to broaden / peak student interest

From the above outcomes, and the work from our previous meetings, common themes emerged, from which we identified the following four goal areas for the Bethlehem Township School District Strategic Plan:

**Goal Areas from the Common Threads**

- 1. Safety & Security**
- 2. Community Engagement**
- 3. Social-Emotional Learning**
- 4. Well-Rounded Educational Experience**

**The third and final strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

Monday, March 19, 2018

The challenge for the meeting will be to:

- Write a broad goal statement for each goal area-  
Develop objectives under the four goal areas based on the common threads from all previous group work
- Create strategies needed to reach those objectives.

Each participant will be asked to select a “goal area” of their interest and choosing. Participants may want to prepare ideas ahead of time prior to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you!