



Stanhope School District Is Creating a New Three-Year Strategic Plan

The 3D Strategic Planning Process: Dream, Determination, and Destiny by Design

Session 2: What Are Our Vision for the Stanhope School District?

On the evening of Wednesday, **May 25, 2022**, members of the Board of Education, parents, community members, and staff came together to continue strategic planning for the District. The evening's topic was our unfettered aspirations for the Stanhope School District and its students.

After warm welcoming remarks from Board President Gil Moscatello, Kathleen Helewa of NJSBA recapped for the group the purpose and methodology of creating a new Strategic Plan for the District. We then were asked to imagine — what if, in three years' time, at the maturation of the strategic plan we are creating, Stanhope was a nationally-recognized school district for providing an outstanding education for its students? What if the national media was writing about Stanhope so public school districts nationwide could emulate what happens *here*?

We discussed the literacies of 21st-century learning (Student-Centered Learning for the Whole Child (subtheme: Social-Emotional Learning), Educational Professionals (Staff), Enrichment, Increase Community Engagement, et al.), and the “4Cs” – Critical thinking (problem solving), Communication (understanding and communicating ideas), Collaboration (working effectively with others), and Creating (producing high-quality work). We also looked to the District's Vision Statement to note the values and aspirations that inform what underlies 21st-century learning in Stanhope.

We then gathered in four small groups to “write” a news article that would detail our hypothetical success. The groups were asked to come up with a title for the article and determine key points for the article. In this exercise, we were asked to disregard any real-life restrictions that could be barriers to achieving our visions for Stanhope School District. Groups used a consent process, and were randomly assigned and adjusted for a balance of stakeholder viewpoints.

The information that follows is the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all meeting outcomes are listed in this memo and will posted on the District website for the wider community.



Group 1

Title: "Believe you can and you will!"

Key Visions:

- Modern facilities – Science, STEM, Pre-K – storage
- Up to date technology
- Full time Staff – Music, choral-instrumental, STEM, Foreign language, Family science, Art
- Activities with grades/outside school
- Developing Middle school experience
- Wellness – Mental Health
- Academic Challenges

Group 2

Title: "Education Vision Realized in Stanhope, NJ."

Key Visions:

- Student drive multifaceted curriculum
- Student-centered health & wellness initiatives
- Maximize community support & engagement
- Innovative solutions/staffing infrastructure
- Industry tie-ins for student learning career enrichment

Group 3 work is on the next page



Group 3

Title: “Fostering Growth through Independence and Interdependence.”

Key Visions:

- Communication
 - Advanced notice reminder
 - Central dashboard/shared calendar
- Collaboration
 - Using community resources to add practical reinforcement
 - Cross grade collaboration
 - Diversity and collaboration with other local districts state county USA cross county
- Creator
 - Building real life hands on kinesthetic
 - More balance
 - Better technology
 - Hands on learning using technology to enable innovation
 - (Building shelter example)

Group 4

Title: “Small Town Community Excellence We Would LOVE to see...”

Key Visions:

- We imagine there will be opportunities for full-time employment for specials and related services CPT/OT/ST, Music, Art, Stem, Library, STEM/GT
- We would LOVE to see more extra-curricular opportunities for all levels like Talent Shows, Science Club/Fair, Robotics, Drama, Sports (with other districts?)!
- We would love to have more consistency & longevity of paraprofessionals & ancillary staff being offered competitive salary to neighboring districts
- We would love to enter “Stanhope School” in Google and see really positive news – especially with improved focus on mental health & taking into account social media pressure
- Mental and physical health as a focus in the fore front of the curriculum

Recap continues on the next page



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After the small groups shared their work with the large group of all participants, robust discussion ensued about shared visions and the common themes that were emerging in conjunction with the work from meeting #1. We agreed that the following themes would be appropriate goal areas for Stanhope School District's new three-year strategic plan:

- Curriculum and instruction
 - Specials
 - Extra-curriculars
 - ↑ Activities
- SEL – Mental Health
- Communication & Connections
- Facilities & Technology

Superintendent Steve Hagemann gave closing remarks and all present were thanked for the excellent work and courageous conversations, which will serve to push Stanhope School District and its students into a successful future.

Our next step is to use the work from our previous two meetings to write draft goal statements and supporting objectives for Stanhope's new strategic plan. Participants will self-select the group and goal area in which they would like to work. Our third and final meeting will take place during the public meeting of the Stanhope Board of Education on **Wednesday, June 15, in the Valley Road School gymnasium. Pre-register by calling (973) 347-0008, ext. 4102. Check in will begin at 6:45pm, and the program will begin promptly at 7pm.**

The Stanhope Board of Education enthusiastically is giving all stakeholders the ability to use a consensus-based process to chart the District's course for the next three years. This is an authentic opportunity for all voices connected to our school to be offered and listened to. Returning and new participants from every facet of the Stanhope community are welcome at our final meeting. Student participation is especially appreciated!

The Stanhope School District Board of Education and Administration greatly appreciate your participation and good work in this crucial endeavor. We look forward to seeing you at our final meeting.

Please plan on joining us for our final meeting on June 15, beginning at 7pm in the Valley Road School Cafeteria. Attend with a friend!



Stanhope School District: Preparing today's students for tomorrow's world!