



New Jersey School Boards Association

Celebrating 100 years of service

413 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

Northern Highlands Regional Creating a Strategic Plan For Northern Highlands Regional High School



Mission Statement

The members of the Northern Highlands community--students, faculty, administration, staff, parents, and other community members--will:

- * Provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment dedicated to human development.
- * Use shared decision-making to create a harmonious environment.
- * Create a community committed to academic excellence and the highest ethical standards.
- * Care about all individuals of our community, their growth and development, their ideas and aspirations.
- * Create an administration that efficiently and effectively serves the needs of students and faculty with the best interests of the school in mind.
- * Foster a highly motivated and innovative staff that inspires students to discover and perpetuate the joy of learning.
- * Involve parents, community, and businesses in the educational process.
- * Perpetually evaluate and adjust the educational process to ensure its relevance to current and future needs.
- * Incorporate conceptual and technological advances both as the object of learning and as tools to facilitate learning.
- * Provide appropriate facilities, materials, equipment, and time for effective learning and teaching.
- * Emphasize the importance of physical and mental well-being by creating an environment that encourages healthy choices and positive self-esteem.
- * Encourage students to appreciate and contribute to our culturally diverse society.
- * Provide an intellectual and cultural environment that is optimal for learning, creativity, and independent thinking.
- * Enable all students not only to master a common core of knowledge and skills, but also to use that knowledge creatively to solve real-life problems.
- * Promote pride in ourselves and our community, and foster school spirit.

Meeting # 2 of 3

What is our Vision for the Northern Highlands Regional High School District for the next 3-5 years?

On February 11, 2016, the NHRHS District Administration, Board of Education Members, staff, parents, community members and students came together to continue strategic planning. The second evening was focused on creating a “shared vision” for the NHRHS School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by **Dr. Beckerman**, NHRHS Superintendent. NJSBA Field Services Representatives, **Al Annunziata** and **Charlene Peterson**, provided an overview of meeting one – the identification of district strengths/accomplishments and challenges/opportunities. After an introduction into the visioning process, the facilitators outlined an exercise. The idea presented: if you had moved away from the district and returned five years later to find the NHRHS District was on the cover of *Time* magazine as “Schools that Succeed”, what would the district school look like? Approximately 46 participant stakeholders then gathered in five randomly assigned groups to brainstorm what the district might have done to achieve this remarkable success. Each group developed a vision for such remarkable success and outlined the necessary characteristics, elements and opportunities that would help define the future NHRHS District.

After discussion, each group then presented its vision to all meeting participants. The session concluded with the recognition of common threads throughout the groups’ visions and the assimilation into four broad goal areas for the next meeting.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all group-generated points are recorded and posted on the district’s website to share the work of the groups with the larger community during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus - “Our Visions for the Future”

Group #1 (Red dot Team) - “Northern Highlands: Going Back to Basics- Moving Towards the Future”

1. Global perspective/informed global citizens
2. Technologically advanced
3. Civic minded
4. An informed and savvy consumer of information
5. Strong communication and collaboration skills

Group #2 (Dark Blue dot Team) - “Northern Highlands: A Place for Living, Learning and Connecting with the World”

1. Teachers who are facilitators/mentors; interactive with students; flexible and adaptable collaborators
2. A curriculum that is dynamic and progressive, promotes creativity, challenging, globally connected
3. Students and graduates who are socially conscious, globally aware, independent thinkers, creative, innovative, self-directed, capable, and confident
4. Environment that is fluid, nurturing, safe and supportive
5. Facility that is state-of-the-art (i.e. structure and technology, Wi-Fi)

Group #3 (Green dot Team) – “Students Guide the Course”

1. Personalized learning
2. Open and flexible spaces
3. Revamp grading and assessments
4. "Comfortably uncomfortable"
5. Exercise careful judgment (social, civic, technology, educational)

Group Consensus - “Our Visions for the Future”

Group #4 (Black dot Team) – “Highlands Finds the Ultimate Balance”

(Keep up with the technological world while maintaining a balance of wellness and social skills)

1. Expansion of technology education
2. Digital citizenship for the 21st-century society
3. Global awareness
4. The ability to effectively research
5. Elite non-academic environment
6. Expansion and integration of community service

Group #5 (Light Blue dot Team) – “Building Lifelong Learners”

1. Students with high digital literacy
2. Students with greater independence/autonomy
3. Fostering an environment of resilience
4. Fostering a global citizenship/awareness
5. "Whole child approach" and "open classroom"

Broad Goal Areas:

The five goal areas for the next session that emerged from the groups' work are:

- 1. Critical Literacy & Life Competencies (Student Success)**
- 2. Personalized Learning**
- 3. Technology**
- 4. Learning Spaces**
- 5. Global Citizenship**

The third and final strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7:00pm at the NHRHS Auditorium

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours and end promptly to respect our participants' time.

During the next meeting we will:

- Develop a broad goal statement for each of the 5 identified goal areas
- Develop objectives for each goal area based on the information derived from the previous group work in sessions 1 and 2.

Please feel to attend- even if you have not been able to participate in previous meetings. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

Please join us!

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the district website at:

<http://www.northernhighlands.org/Page/5542>