

Looking Forward 2022

Pitman Public Schools
Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

Strategic Visioning/Planning Process

- Summer 2016 - contracted with consultants, planned multi-tiered process
- December 2016 - community/parent and student surveys (300+ respondents)
- January - April 2017 - Strategic Visioning sessions (42 member team, 4 monthly sessions)
- Summer 2017 - Final reports submitted by consultants, district leadership and BOE develop multi-year goals, objectives, and strategies

Strategic Visioning Process

- January 2017: Identify district/community values
- February 2017: Review of the district's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- March 2017: Imagining educational futures - meeting the needs of the PHS Class of 2030
- April 2017: getting to the dream of 2030 within the context of 2017-2022

District Mission and Vision

- Mission: *Building on our unique traditions, the mission of the Pitman School District, in partnership with families and our community, is to educate all students through exceptional learning experiences to be discerning, ethical, confident citizens. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels.*
- Vision: *To be the best school district in South Jersey.*

District Values

- Safety
- Closeness, connection, intimacy
 - small size is a positive (Class sizes, schools, town)
- Culture of engagement
 - Person to person; community to school; parent to teacher; etc.
- Reputation for a generally high quality of schools, educators, and of preparation of our children for their future
- Sense of Commitment

Strengths of the District

- Families

- Good teachers
- Neighborhood schools/small walking district
- Principals/admins/BOE/leadership
- Communication
- Safety

- Students

- Sports
- Teachers
- School climate/comfortable/friendly environment
- Math
- English

Challenges of the District: Areas in Need of Improvement

- Families

- Buildings/Facilities - air conditioning
- Technology
- Curriculum - alignment, rigor, etc.
- Communication
- Teachers/Administration

- Students

- Facilities - bathrooms, cleanliness, etc.
- Technology
- Science
- Lunch/food service
- Teachers/Administration/staff

Opportunities for the District

- Less emphasis or eliminate

- High stakes testing/PARCC
- Football/Sports
- Physical education

- Start doing/do more

- Improve/enhance technology
- Teach Life Skills/Financial Literacy
- STEM programs
- Career exploration/vocational/individualized programming

Threats to the District

- Declining enrollment
 - demographics
- Competition for students
 - GCIT
 - choice districts
 - private schools
 - homeschooling
- Funding
 - State aid reductions (adjustment aid phase-out)
 - Local tax base
 - Federal grants reduced
 - Other revenues

Educational Futures

Preparing the PHS Class of 2030 for a productive future

What are we trying to produce?

- Perhaps: Personal growth? College and career ready?
Leadership for global community?
- Definitely: Prepared for a world that will be different in significant ways from the world we now inhabit

Educational Futures

- Evaluation of Emerging Careers
- Identify required “hard” and “soft” skills for future careers
- How do schools adapt to meet the need?
 - Expanded learning ecosystems
 - Personalization of learning - learning playlists, DIY credentialing
 - Restructured learning organizations - what does school look like?
 - Unbounded learning - space and time redefined
 - Role of educators redefined
 - Blending learning landscapes within communities

Key Takeaways

- The strengths of the district are rooted in close, positive personal relationships
 - Reflective of the town's vision of itself
 - Community to school; families to teachers/school leaders; teachers to students; others
 - Small size is a plus
- Strong support for investment in facilities to meet student/community needs and desires
 - Update/modernize buildings
 - Safety = major concern
 - Technology-rich learning environments
- Desire to see greater community partnership beyond school walls
- Key areas of priority:
 - Career exploration/real world skills - experiences
 - STEM
 - Technology

District Goals (2017-2022)

- Goal #1: Provide a superior, comprehensive educational program with a range of opportunities that fully prepare students for college, careers, and a productive life in the future.
- Goal #2: Create and maintain safe and dynamic environments for teaching and learning.
- Goal #3: Create a culture of community engagement and support for the district's mission.

Goal #1: Provide a superior, comprehensive educational program with a range of opportunities that fully prepare students for college, careers, and a productive life in the future.

- **Objective 1.1** - Implement instructional and assessment best practices in support of a rigorous curriculum.
- **Objective 1.2** - Develop an enhanced program of student personnel (guidance) services, with a focus on post-secondary aspirations, preparation and implementation.
- **Objective 1.3** - Develop and support revised, updated, and integrated technology curricula and instructional practices that emphasize critical thinking and design principles.
- **Objective 1.4** - Develop and implement collaborative learning experiences that extend beyond the walls of the school and support achievement of student learning standards.

Goal #2: Create and maintain safe and dynamic environments for teaching and learning.

- **Objective 2.1** - Develop and implement an updated long-range plan for maintenance and capital projects to maximize the comfort and teaching/learning capacity of students and staff members.
- **Objective 2.2** - Develop and implement a new campus master plan that transforms current learning spaces to become modern learning “ecosystems”.
- **Objective 2.3** - Implement school security upgrades (per state security audit recommendations) to ensure that schools are as safe as possible for students and staff members.

Goal #3: Create a culture of community engagement and support for the district's mission.

- **Objective 3.1** - Continue to strengthen the district's financial position (responsive and responsible to taxpayers)
- **Objective 3.2** - Boost enrollment and retention of resident students through robust marketing aimed at keeping high school students in district, and attracting more non-resident tuition students to the district.
- **Objective 3.3** - Develop/update communications plan, robust marketing initiatives, district branding, and media relations to inform and engage families and the community
- **Objective 3.4** - Develop partnerships and opportunities to support student learning and community engagement

Related Planning Activities

- February 2017 - present: examination of facilities needs (capital improvements and long-range maintenance) to determine feasibility for potential referendum and/or other actions
- July - October 2017: demographic study, including enrollment projections and housing turnover analysis
- October - November 2017: Task Force to evaluate district configuration models and recommend possible changes that best fit future educational needs within current/future funding environment