



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Avon-by-the-Sea School District

Mission Statement

The mission of Avon Elementary School
is to cultivate in students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes
delineated in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Contents Standards and
necessary to become happy, healthy, productive adults
and informed, responsible citizens;
to foster a desire to be independent, lifelong learners and problem solvers
who are able to adapt to societal changes;
and to empower students to take an active role
in the democratic process in order to positively impact their families,
their communities, their country and the world.

Session 2

Developing a Vision for the Avon-by-the-Sea School District

On April 20, 2023, Avon-by-the-Sea School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, fifteen (15) in all, came together to initiate strategic planning. The meeting began with a welcome from Mr. Bill Bing, Board President. Mary Ann Friedman from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was introduced and explained the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on creating a shared vision for the Avon-by-the-Sea School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 5 years, returning to Avon-by-the-Sea and seeing their school on the cover of TIME magazine. The article is about Schools that Succeed. In addition to the current programs already in place in Avon-by-the-Sea, what programs/services/curriculum/student outcomes/best practices/facilities would you expect to see in your school that is succeeding? Participants were encouraged to think “big picture.”

Participants gathered in two randomly assigned groups to develop a shared vision and initiatives. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from Meeting #1, strengths, and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. 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 district website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Small Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

Group #1:

Title of Article: “Collaborating By the Sea”

Initiatives:

- Expand and extend relationships and partnerships throughout the community
- Investment in facilities
 - Science / Labs
 - Athletics
 - Classrooms, offices (add)
- Increased opportunities for social, athletic, and academic collaboration across sending districts
- Increased investment in academic achievement through professional development
- Greater sustainability and environmental consciousness

Group #2:

Title of Article: “Avon Excels with Innovative Programs”

Initiatives:

- More opportunities for Project-Based Learning
- Coordinating student-centered activities with the sending districts
- Utilizing grants as much as possible
- Increased safety & security
- Improvements to facilities
- Exploring the offering of Scholarships to help diversify and increase class sizes
- Increased collaborative planning time for teachers

Following each group reporting out on their consensus points, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

- Project-Based Learning utilizing community members
- Cross-curricular projects
- Increased opportunities for students and teachers (curricular, athletics, extra-curricular)
- Facilities improvements
- Sustainability opportunities and practices – recycling, composting, supporting local businesses, etc.)

Four goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large:

- 1. Student Experience**
- 2. Finance & Facilities**
- 3. Community / Stakeholder Involvement & Engagement (including communications)**
- 4. Climate & Culture (to include Health & Wellness – students and staff)**

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm,
Avon Elementary School, Cafeteria
Sign-in begins at 6:15 pm.**

Meeting 3 is scheduled for 2.0 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 May 16th meeting participants will review the outcomes from Meetings 1 & 2 (strengths & challenges, vision & initiatives) and develop the strategic planning goals and objectives for the Avon-by-the-Sea School District. We will also review and possibly revise the district Mission Statement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to self-select and work with any/all of the goal areas 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. Thank you!*