



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Mendham Borough School District

District Mission Statement

The mission of the Mendham Borough Public School District is to prepare all of our students for their future roles in society. We strive to provide an educational program that enables all students to acquire knowledge and to assume constructive self-direction to their fullest potential. The district is committed to education of the highest quality, aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and continuous improvement of programs and teaching strategies.

Session 2 of 3

On November 13, 2018 Mendham Borough School District administration, staff, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The second meeting's topic focused on identifying district strengths/points of pride, challenges/opportunities, and creating a shared vision for the Mendham Borough School District in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Charlene Peterson from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the October 9, 2018 meeting. The purpose of the November 13 session was to continue gathering information to be used in the development of big ideas/goal statements by addressing "where the district is now," and "where the district should be five years from now."

Participants worked in four blended stakeholder groups to brainstorm the top ten district strengths/points of pride, challenges/opportunities, and visions for the year 2024. To begin the visioning portion, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for five years, and return in 2024 to find the Mendham Borough School District on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption "21st Century Success." The participants were asked to envision what was written in the magazine article that warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum/ student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your district that are succeeding?

Each group's outcomes were shared with all meeting participants. The session concluded with the identification of three broad goal areas that will guide the work for the next meeting.

Group Work

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's website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Table 2:

(Table 1 was folded into other 4 groups.)

Visions – Year 2024	Visions – Year 2024
Deliver a model of Global Digital Citizenship that begins early and is sustainable	Create the optimal balance between traditional educational tools and the digital age (on a grade-by-grade level)
Establish a dynamic learning environment	More opportunity for choice: cross-age learning, establish independent-like study
Integration of core subjects	Education connects to real world in a meaningful way – student engagement

Strengths/Points of Pride	Challenges/Opportunities
School to Watch	Keeping up with change
National School of Character	How to unearth the resiliency in a child
SEAD – Social, Emotional, Academic Development	How to deliver the daily needs of every student relative to time
MV offers “Advisory”	Satisfying the requirements of the many
HES offers “Pillars”	Teacher-to-student ratio
	Department of Education
	Assessment
	Collaborative environment - availability

Table 3:

Visions – Year 2024	Visions – Year 2024
Focus on “whole person” – academics, mental health, character development	Exposure to global society – cultural immersion
Use of cutting-edge technology	Emphasis on problem solving – data analytics, information management

Strengths/Points of Pride	Challenges/Opportunities
1:1 Chromebook initiative	Declining enrollment
Lions’ Den/revitalized media center	Budget/fiscal constraints
Makerspace(s)	Diversity of learners/support for special needs students
3D Printers	Keeping current with technology, curriculum, and connected to high school
Accessibility to new technology	Balancing technology and inter-personal (human) skills
National School of Character	Increasing global awareness of cultures outside of Mendham, NJ
Multiple re-designations: “Schools to Watch”	Civic responsibility
Extensive upgrades to facilities	
Google Classroom	
Extensive extra-curricular opportunities	
Continuing high achievement on testing	

Table 4:

Visions – Year 2024	Visions – Year 2024
Empowered moral and ethical navigators of information	Balance of creative spaces that cultivates exploration
Maintaining school culture and safety and security	

Strengths/Points of Pride	Challenges/Opportunities
Recognition of Schools – National School of Character, School to Watch	Maintain technology to change in atmosphere
SEL (counselors district-wide)	School safety
Related Arts/Athletic Programs	Maintaining faculty and staff longevity
Involved HSA	Changing trends in pedagogy
Community Outreach/Kids Care	Maintaining and updating facilities
1:1 Chromebook (grades 3 – 8)	Budget management
School Safety Enhancements	Information fluency/ navigating information and online sources
Updated and Well-Maintained Facilities	Tools/resources to meet diversity

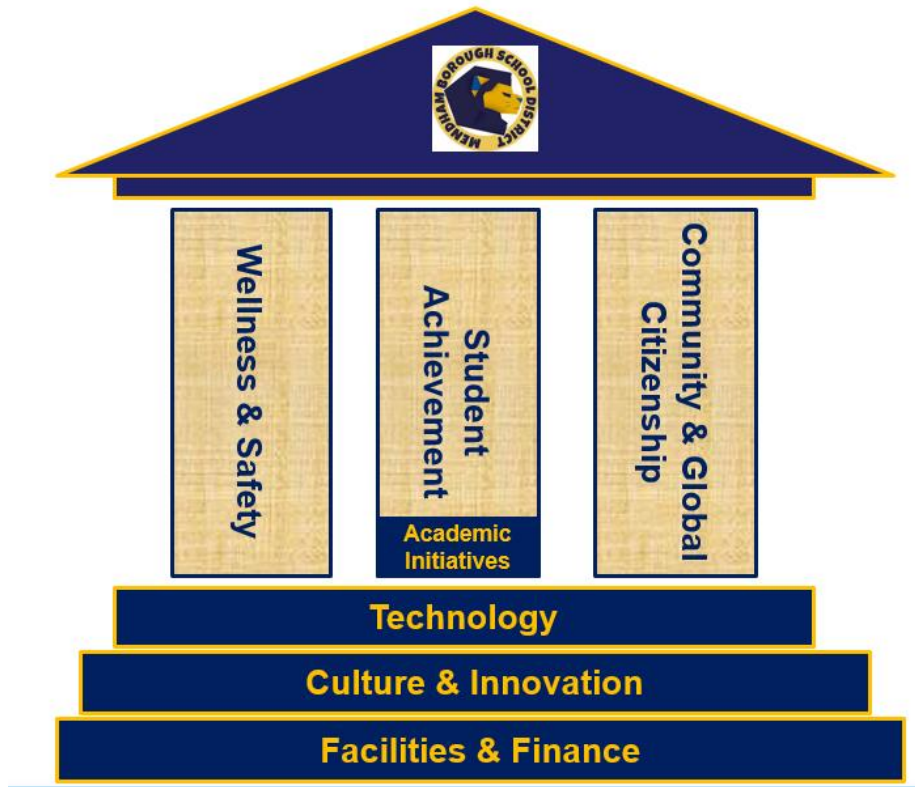
Table 5:

Visions – Year 2024	Visions – Year 2024
Interactive, collaborative classrooms	Teachers more as facilitators of learning
Sharing services	Utilizing community with expertise, inviting to share in school programs, activities – especially community members without school-aged children.
Establish a community outreach program/ coordinator	Make the schools a true hub of the community.

Strengths/Points of Pride	Challenges/Opportunities
Technological resources	Making health offices at least ADA complaint. Have counselors near health offices or combined “health and wellness.”
Quality of teachers and administrators (staff) – all personnel	Upgrade facilities: gym – air conditioning, science labs
HT – School of Character	Legislative and regulatory mandates and restrictions
MV – School to Watch	Cost containment
Supportive community	Unhealthy relationship among stakeholders
Safe, secure, and conducive environment	Declining enrollment/potential for variability in student grouping
Collaborative continuing education	Effects of social media
	Balance between technology and media

Broad Goal Areas:

The group at large identified three goal areas, each with three common elements as depicted below:



The third strategic planning session is scheduled for: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

During the December 4th meeting we will use the outcomes from the group work (Strengths/Points of Pride, Challenges/Opportunities, and Year 2024 Visions) and develop big ideas/broad goal statements for each goal area – Wellness & Safety, Student Achievement, and Community & Global Citizenship

Please join us. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!