



The Stillwater Elementary School District

Is Creating a New Five-Year Strategic Plan

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

Session 3: Translating our Vision for the Stillwater Elementary School District into Goals & Objectives for our Strategic Plan

On the evening of **March 5, 2020**, a cross-section of our stakeholders--community members, parents, educators, school district administrators, and members of the Stillwater Board of Education--came together at the Stillwater Elementary School for our final strategic planning session. Over the course of three meetings, our work delineated the strengths and challenges of the school district, our unbridled visions for the Stillwater Elementary School for the next five years, and finally, translating that work into draft goal statements and supporting objectives for the new Strategic Plan.

After a warm welcome from Board President Pro Tempe Shannon Nothstine, we recapped the outcomes from our second meeting, which established the four goal areas and underlying sub-themes for the new Plan. Reviewing the full outcomes from the first and second sessions, we individually parsed the data points from the “Strengths & Challenges” and the “Visions” and categorized the data into the related goal areas. We then, as a large group, reviewed the process for writing a broad, overarching goal statement and supporting objectives. Participants then broke into small groups, one per goal area, with each individual self-selecting the group in which to work. Using a consensus process, the small groups employed the data points and their own individual awareness and expertise to write draft objectives and a goal statement for their goal area. That work was reported out to the large group at the end of the evening, to the great satisfaction of all assembled.

On the following pages is a summary of that work. As always, the District’s Mission Statement guided our endeavors.



Goal #1: Teaching & Learning

Goal Statement: To create a positive learning environment where there is a balance between technology communication and interpersonal communication that will foster and promote creativity, while facilitating a growth mindset.

Objectives:

1. Create responsible digital citizens through direct imbedded instruction.
2. Enhance students' thoughts and feelings to develop empathy and interpersonal skills.
3. Through problem-based learning, students will use critical thinking to become lifelong learners.

Goal #2: Global Citizenship

Goal Statement: To create global citizens who are educated and active stewards of the Earth.

Objectives:

1. Create authentic experiences in all subject areas.
2. Develop student service projects in each grade level, both school- and community-based.
3. Utilize life literacies and key skills standards to increase digital citizenship, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, technology literacy, global and cultural awareness, and information/media literacy.
4. Increase and improve sustainability efforts through environmentally conscious initiatives.

Goal #3: Community

Goal Statement: To build and strengthen stronger communications between students, staff and community members to create lifelong learning.

Objectives:

1. Create productive citizens through school-wide community service projects.
2. Increase public relations with all stakeholders.
3. Expand open communication of community and belonging within the schools.
4. Build relationships between students and community members to develop social skills and civic awareness.

(Goal Area #4 is on the next page)



Goal #4: The Whole Child

Goal Statement: To develop a culture of kindness, respect, and tolerance to promote and enhance creativity and facilitate a growth mindset.

Objectives:

1. Expand social/emotional learning and life skills program to impact the whole student body.
2. Encourage critical thinkers by highlighting their gifts and interests.
3. Increase students' ability to advocate for their learning experience.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Nothstine expressed her deep gratitude on behalf of the Board and Administration for everyone's support of the Stillwater Elementary School, and for their student-centered work on the Strategic Plan, all which express the values of the Stillwater community so well.

Next Steps

The above Goal Statements and Objectives will be used directly to create the Stillwater Elementary Schools' Strategic Plan for the years 2020-2025. Superintendent Kochis will review all of the above work to create a plan ready for Board approval. The plan will be printed in document form by the New Jersey School Boards Association, and will be delivered to the Stillwater Board of Education for formal acceptance and vote at a BOE meeting in the near future, date to be announced. The Administrative Team, led by Superintendent Kochis, will develop action plans for all areas of the Strategic Plan over the next five years. The Board and Administration will rely on the new Strategic Plan when setting annual District and Board Goals.

It has been a pleasure to join such a dedicated group of individuals who so ardently support the students and stakeholders of the Stillwater Elementary School. We are certain that this unique plan will productively guide the District over the next five years in alignment with the community's vision for its students. Your good work and dedication are exemplary!





New Jersey School Boards Association

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Stillwater Township Elementary School

Stillwater, NJ



OUR MISSION STATEMENT: The Stillwater Township School, a high-achieving, rural school of excellence, works in partnership with students, parents, staff and a caring community to provide every student a progressive and nurturing educational environment designed to maximize individual potential, instill self-esteem, promote citizenship and foster an appreciation for local history and a passion for life-long learning.

To achieve this end, the Stillwater Education Partners will:

- Provide a challenging, dynamic educational program that meets the needs and talents of each individual student and enables them to achieve and exceed the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at each grade level;
- Encourage the capacity to think critically, solve problems and work in a cooperative manner;
- Provide opportunity for community input and advice;
- Emphasize continuing staff and curriculum development; and
- Utilize district resources in an efficient manner.