



3D Strategic Planning
“Determination, Dream and Destiny by Design”
SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 17, 2024 - Meeting #1 - Outcomes

Mission and Philosophy

Our mission is to provide an educational program of excellence in which all students achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels for the purpose of developing responsible graduates who are emotionally, academically, technically and vocationally competent and prepared for the future. SCVTS is proud of its ability to develop high quality Career and Technical Educational programs for a diverse group of students in Somerset and other neighboring counties.

We are committed to excellence and equity through our admission policies and broad access and inclusion of diverse populations through our multi-faceted recruiting efforts.

**What are the Strengths, Achievements and Challenges
of the Somerset County Vocational-Technical School District?**

On October 17, 2024, Somerset County Vocational-Technical School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff and parents, came together to initiate strategic planning. The meeting began with welcoming comments from Mr. Robert Presuto, Superintendent. Patti Rees from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was introduced and reviewed the strategic planning process. Mr. Presuto then presented the current “State of the Schools” report.

We then gathered in three small groups to identify the strengths and points of pride in our district and community, and to brainstorm what opportunities and challenges the school district faces. Each group identified their “top 10” (or thereabouts) list of strengths and challenges for the district, which were then shared with the large group of all participants. Underlying all of our work is the District’s Mission Statement.

The information that follows is the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all meeting outcomes will be listed in this memo and will be posted on the district website for the wider community.



GROUP 1

STRENGTHS

- Capacity to motivate students - because they are interested in the programming, education becomes more meaningful for students
- Camaraderie - cross-department collaboration (e.g. Culinary Arts asking graphic arts for menu) - Interdisciplinary
- Long-term relationships between staff and students (sometimes 4 years) where students are seen
- Social Emotional / Mental Health Support Strong - Linkages

CHALLENGES

- Communications between sending district and SCVTS - harder for scheduling shared time students for sending schools
- Scheduling to get all graduation requirements - shared time student - losing period for a period of time for - offering online option, physical education class
- Why don't we know where 30%+ students are going after graduation
- Stigma related to vocational technical school - trade programs
- Hard for a middle school student to consider a trade / career for an adult
- Socially difficult for students to leave their home school.

GROUP 2

STRENGTHS

- CTE → tuned into industry trends/future
- Technology / Equipment
- Staff
 - Willing to evolve
 - Passion for subject
- Teachers are well-supported
- Student culture
- Location/facility
- Safe environment

CHALLENGES

- Scheduling → share time blocked schedule
- After school activities, etc.
- Marketing trades effectively?
- Full time student academics → what do we offer that the sending district doesn't?
- adding/changing/eliminating programs based on projected future need / future relevancy
- Connection to industry/community
- Ability to compensate faculty/staff

GROUP 3

STRENGTHS

- We have dedicated staff, all teachers are certified, very unique expertise and industry experts
- Supportive administration
- Environment that is safe where students can learn and practice with hands on tasks with the right equipment
- Partnerships with RVCC and local businesses



- Curriculum is up to date not only with DOE requirements but also with codes and certificates for trainings
- Very well-structured PTO

CHALLENGES

- Need a job board for positions for kids, maybe this could be a website (almost like Indeed)
- or an actual job board
- Need a college/career counselor
- Improve maintenance in shops
- Improve/revise budgets for individual CTE areas

Thank you for your commitment to Somerset County Vocational-Technical Schools!

Be sure to visit our website soon to review all of tonight's outcomes.

Our next meeting is set for 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 21, 2024, at Somerset County Vocational Technical Schools High School Tech Center

We hope to see you there—attend with a friend!

*Thank
You*

