



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Morris School District

Meeting 3 Outcomes
Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Morris School District to empower each student to ascend academically, socially, and emotionally by providing equal access to continuous opportunities for achieving academic excellence, developing meaningful relationships, and becoming future ready.

Session 3 of 3 - Developing a Broad Goal Statement and Supporting Objectives for Each Goal Area

On October 30, 2024 Morris School District parents, students, board members, staff, administration, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The third and final meeting's topic focused on the development of a broad goal statement and four or so supporting objectives for each of the goal areas. These goals will represent a shared vision for the Morris School District over the next five years.

Board president Katie Cole welcomed everyone and then Charlene Peterson from New Jersey School Boards Association facilitated the strategic planning process. The group was provided with an overview of the previous meetings and then the goal writing process was introduced that included the connection to the work from the first two meetings, the components of a goal statement, and the systems approach to the work with student success at the center.

Participants were divided into five breakout groups – one group per each goal area:

- Academic Programming, Teaching & Learning
- Learning Beyond the Classroom
- Building Optimal Environments for Learning
- Communication to Foster Community and Partnerships
- Career Readiness Skills

Each goal area group was tasked with writing a broad goal statement and developing accompanying objectives that reflected the strengths, challenges/opportunities, and visions relative to their goal area from the input received in Meetings 1 and 2.

Small Group Work - The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups.

Goal Area	Academic Programming, Teaching & Learning
Goal Statement	Fasten Academic excellence through inclusive and culturally responsive teaching practices ensuring that all students regardless of background or ability receive equitable access to a rigorous curriculum and diverse learning objectives that prepare them for success in a global society.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff - To create an environment where highly qualified teachers are supported administratively and given the time and flexibility to develop lessons that are creative and adhere to state standards 2. Scheduling/Articulation - Implement structures that ensure vertical and horizontal alignment of academics and SEL between grade bands 3. Academic Rigor - Provide students the opportunity to learn and maximize their potential through effective teaching strategies and curriculum targeted to each student's level 4. Diverse Learning Needs - Create a comprehensive flexible pathways that supports ESL students in their transition to general education classrooms promoting their academic and social success informed by their age and proficiency level Develop flexible pathways that allows each student to maximize their individual potential by developing their executive functioning skills, recognizing their individual talents and tailored to their individual learning needs 5. Program - Create a K-5 arts magnet school/create an academy at MHS driven by student interest/create a strand of each academy at the high school at FMS

Goal Area	Learning Beyond the Classroom
Goal Statement	To create a cohesive community that builds upon our combined strengths to offer more opportunities to learn within and beyond our curriculum resulting in objectives: more well rounded experiences and students
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alliance of extra curricular activities with the community (ie: rec organizations and businesses/corporations across schools at all levels. 2. Adding extra unstructured time throughout the day for all grade levels - more free play (younger kids) and more social time (older kids). 3. Exposure (with students in grades 9-12) and integration across all school communities to maximize retention for all students/parents in grades K-8. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More opportunities for help at times that are not academic. ● Elementary school parents having an open house/school tours to see all the district has to offer

Goal Area	Building Optimal Environments for Learning
Goal Statement	Make facility investments that improve our academic ROI (return on investment)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive infrastructure upgrades 2. Innovative learning spaces including flexible classrooms and outdoor learning spaces 3. Improve air quality 4. Explore optimal energy sources (sustainable high efficiency) 5. Preserve the historical architecture of the community 6. State of the art music and theater spaces to include other extra curricular activities and athletics

Goal Area	Communication to Foster Community and Partnerships
Goal Statement	Strengthen and foster meaningful pathways within MSD and the greater community to create informed and intentional partnerships
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate clearly, consistently and broadly the successes and happenings of MSD throughout the greater community 2. Leverage, develop and increase partnerships with local businesses, alumni and organizations 3. Implement purposeful communication strategy to establish uniform messaging that is accessible and inclusive 4. Aspire to serve as the core of our diverse community to foster connections

Goal Area	Career Readiness Skills
Goal Statement	Explore career pathways through self discovery and real life experiences, so all students are prepared for their transition from high school
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create more opportunities for internships 2. Establish mentoring opportunities with professionals and community members 3. Opportunities for students to identify strengths and interests 4. All students will create a transition plan

Next Steps

The administration/staff will develop action plans to accomplish the goals/objectives. A final report summarizing the plan will be generated by New Jersey School Boards and presented at an upcoming Board of Education meeting for consideration by the Board. All participants and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the strategic planning process. The outcome of the plan has been shaped by the input of every participating member. The district has been provided with a five-year roadmap that reflects the aspirations of the various stakeholders for the Morris School District’s students.