



# **WATCHUNG**

**BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **3D Strategic Planning**

### **“Determination, Dream and Destiny by Design”**

#### **WATCHUNG BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

#### **March 3, 2025 - Meeting #2 - Outcomes**

#### **Our Vision**

The Watchung Borough School District is committed to inspiring learners to explore, inquire, and collaborate on their joyful journey toward discovery, independent thinking, and creative problem solving. Our culture of acceptance and inclusion provides the foundation for learning and social and emotional growth. Through reflection and ethical decision-making, we continue to learn and grow, embrace differences, and prepare for an increasingly complex, ever-changing world.

#### **Brainstorming – Our Vision for The Future**

On March 3, 2025, Watchung Borough School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, students, parents, and community members, thirty-three in all, came together to for our second strategic planning meeting. Patti Rees from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was present, and Dr. Glazer and Patti Rees reviewed the strategic planning process for the group.

We then gathered in six groups to brainstorm our unbounded visions for Watchung Borough School District over the next 5 years. Each group was asked to think about what our school district’s future looks like in 2030, where everyone is succeeding and there are no barriers.

Groups were asked to title an article about the Watchung Borough School District in 2030 and identify 5-8 key visions of the district in the future, in addition to the current programs that are in place.

Article titles:

- Watchung Schools Recognized for Innovative and Adaptive Approach for Aligning with State Standards to Foundational Skills
- Watchung Schools: To Excellence and Beyond
- Curious Mind is Forever Learning
- New Jersey School District Fusing Lost Arts with Modern Technology to Empower Independence
- Watchung Symphony of Success
- Watchung Schools Achieve top 1% Academically statewide. Every Child Succeeds



Following a gallery walk and reporting out by each group, the common threads were:

- Student Learning and Achievement
- Professional Learning and Capacity Building
- Communication and Community Engagement
- School Culture and Climate

These focus areas will be the basis for our work at meeting #3 on March 26, 2025.

The information that follows is the work of the small groups organized by the identified focus areas. 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.

<b>Student Learning and Achievement</b>	<b>Professional Learning Capacity Building</b>	<b>Communication Community Engagement</b>	<b>School Culture and Climate</b>
Academic Excellence	Within a classroom, giving students agency to self-direct and collaborate on elements of their learning	Identifying expertise of volunteers (in or out of school)	System that fosters independent learning, teamwork, and collaboration
Teaching in specialized subjects (specialists in their field) Teacher effectiveness	Transitioning between schools	Communicating Achievements	Make school less digital with more collaboration among students.
Increase immersion/rigor to foreign languages	Specialized training for students and teachers to succeed	Parents University	Expand clubs/enrichment/extra-curricular opportunities and competition opportunities
Tool to monitor student progress from k-12 with a common database.	Reliable access to technology to support equitable learning and teaching	Student Advisory Panel	
More problem-based learning	Innovative teaching strategies		
All students challenged at their appropriate level	Young Leaders Academy		

Start experiential learning from the earliest grades to expose students to the greatest variety of skills			
Integrate debate. Industrial arts, nature, AI, agriculture, and culinary arts			
Sciences and curriculum (lab/experiments) (Hands on)			
Public Speaking/Debate (Elective) Model UN program			
SOAR advanced opp for growth....			
Formal pre- k program (everyone gets in)			
Robust arts and civics program and improved world language program			
Staffing to improve curriculum and instruction			
Identify core competencies and skills			

**Our next meeting is set for:**

**March 26, 2025**

**Valley View Middle School APR**

**7:00 PM**

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

Respectfully submitted by Patti Rees, NJSBA

