Creating a Strategic Plan for the South Harrison Township School District

{Meeting 2}

Mission Statement

The South Harrison Township School District in partnership with an engaged community, prepares students to become confident, capable, life-long learners and problem solvers by providing experiences in a safe, supportive and academically challenging environment. community.

Session 2

Developing a Vision for the South Harrison Township School District

On February 26, 2026, staff, administrators, parents/guardians, community members, and board members—a total of 21 participants—gathered for the second Strategic Planning meeting for the South Harrison Township School District.

The focus of this session was to develop a vision and initiatives for the future of the district. The evening began with a welcome and flag salute led by Board President Mrs. Joan Pino-Talbot. This was followed by an overview of the strategic planning process and the evening's activities, presented by Ms. Michelle Kennedy from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA).

Participants reviewed the consensus-building process used throughout strategic planning and watched a video designed to spark reflection on the evolving future of education and the skills students will need to thrive.

The main activity invited participants to imagine South Harrison Township School District as a model district that had received a prestigious award for advancing student achievement. The challenge was to create a speech telling the district's story. Participants were asked to envision the year 2031—what success would look like and what would be different from 2026. They were encouraged to think boldly, without concerns about funding or restrictions.

Participants worked in three self-assigned groups and were asked to give their speech a title and brainstorm up to ten key highlights that contributed to the district's success in 2031.

The group revisited the outcomes from Meeting #1, including identified strengths and challenges, before brainstorming their shared vision for the district's future. After rich discussion and collaboration, participants finalized their outcomes.

The following summary captures the group's work. As shared during the session, all outcomes are posted on the district website to ensure transparency and to keep stakeholders informed throughout the strategic planning process.

Small Group Work – Visions Highlights of forward thinking to 2031, Speech Names, and identified Goal Areas:

Speech Name: Immersion and Exposure
Highlights:

- Students participate in learning inside and outside of the classroom which includes real world experience immersion. For example, field trips to community businesses, presenting new logos to local companies
- Bring community into the school to get more involvement i.e. coffee shop or school store run by students, classes run at the school for community members after school hours
- All technology is state of the art for the time
- The facility is up to date which includes gym, bathrooms, recess facilities, lockers
- Choose the shared services that we want to use but not be dependent on them to survive
- Safe and secure school
- STEM class that offers opportunities for higher level thinking skills for all students

Speech Name: A student is more than just a number
Highlights:

- Financial Literacy classes (Life Skills)
- Updated technology mindfulness of future tools and advancements Social Skills (Interacting with others and adults)
- Communication Skills and Public Speaking (more presentations)
- Individualized Self Learning enrichment time based on interest. Giving the student more of a voice
- Study Skills: explore what their own learning styles are
- Computer skills: a working computer for all. Students have access to printers
- All inclusion classes for all grade levels
- State of the art facility with an Indoor Playground for indoor recess, outdoor classrooms, a theater and a tasty food court
- Leading Math, Science, and ELA scores. Hands on science for all grade levels, advanced math courses for all grade levels
- Problem Solving Curriculum

Speech Name: More than just hallways our pathway to the future
Highlights:

- Options Academically - STEAM, Robotics, science fair, world languages, Athletic program example track
- Updated technology mindfulness of future tools and advancements
- Updates with security, facility, infrastructure
- Staff development and professional development Updated curriculum
- Social Emotional learning, student centered, wellness education
- Utilities assessment for efficiencies
- Dynamic teachers, data driven instruction, supporting children's needs, supportive administration to allow students to flourish and grow. Support staff augmentation such paraprofessionals
- Administrative team supports staff growth and development to foster student development and student achievement

Five goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large.

1. Life Preparedness
2. Facilities
3. Technology
4. Curriculum
5. Community Crossover

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 6:00 pm
South Harrison Township Elementary School,
904 Mullica Hill Road, Harrisonville NJ 08039

Meetings are scheduled for 1 hour and will begin and end promptly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, insights, and expertise during the first and second Strategic Planning meetings. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

At our next meeting on March 25th, participants will revisit the outcomes from Meetings 1 and 2—including identified strengths, challenges, vision statements, and key initiatives. We will then begin shaping the district's strategic roadmap by using the five (5) goal areas identified in Meeting 2.

The task will be to draft an overarching goal statement for each goal area, along with 4–5 supporting objectives that help bring that goal to life.

Participants will have the opportunity to self-select a goal area they're most interested in contributing to.

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

Thank you!