Creating a Strategic Plan for the South Harrison Township School District

{Meeting 3}

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 3

Developing Strategic Planning Goals for the South Harrison Township School District

On March 25, 2026, South Harrison Township School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members - a total of 20 participants – gathered for the third and final strategic planning meeting at the South Harrison Township School District.

The focus of this session was to develop a broad goal statement and supporting objectives for each of the five goal areas identified at the second meeting. It is important to note that two of these goal areas were combined, resulting in four areas of focus.

Participants self-selected their small group goal area:

- Life Preparedness/Curriculum
- Facilities
- Technology
- Community Crossover

The meeting 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 focus of the evening's activity, presented by Ms. Michelle Kennedy from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA).

The small groups reviewed the outcomes from meeting 1, strengths & challenges, and meeting 2, vision and initiatives. They began writing a broad goal statement and developing accompanying objectives to reflect each goal area's strengths, challenges, and visions.

Small Group Work - The information below summarizes the work of the small groups. *(Some objectives were refined to align with the "what"-focused standards of the strategic planning format.)*

Goal Area	**Life Preparedness/Curriculum**
Goal Statement	Develop curriculum and professional development opportunities that promote higher level thinking and problem-solving skills with the intention of setting the foundation for inquisitive learning.
Objectives	1. Embed life skills into curriculum lessons. *Examples such as study skills, communication skills, financial literacy, etc.* 2. Incorporate hands on science experiments aligned with NJSLS. 3. Offer professional development opportunities strengthening teacher capacity to differentiate

Goal Area	**Facilities**
Goal Statement	Create an environment for students, faculty and community members to feel safe and secure, protected, supported and productive in order to elevate student achievement.
Objectives	1. Establish a comprehensive and modern security environment that promotes safety for all students, staff and community members. *Examples such as internal and external camera systems, access control, and a school resource officer*. 2. Create a dedicated space for miscellaneous activities. *Examples such as indoor recess, study hall, club-meetups, community members space, etc.* 3. Complete facility assessment to determine priority of needs for efficiencies to facilitate student learning in a comfortable and well-maintained environment. *Examples such as student lockers, classrooms and classroom furniture, HVAC, bathrooms, gym, sound system, etc.* 4. Review and update processes to create efficiency in resolving facility issues.

Goal Area	**Technology**
Goal Statement	To improve and update technology for an enhanced learning environment.
Objectives	1. Provide all school community with updated educational technology. 2. To make sure all students are provided with one-to-one technology. 3. To ensure we are thoughtful about the educational software. 4. Continue to have conversations and develop new processes to ensure student safety when accessing websites. 5. To provide access and stay current with the most useful assistive technology for all abilities.

Goal Area	Community Crossover
Goal Statement	To strengthen the district's relationship with the community so that students are provided with meaningful, real world learning experiences and to increase student participation and engagement.
Objectives	1. Increase opportunities for athletics and extracurricular activities for all grade levels. 2. Develop programs and events that allow community experts in the classroom, such as career day and learning opportunities from local businesses. 3. Implement an annual student lead, school-wide community service-learning project. 4. Increase activities for family engagement hosted by community experts. *Example such as a family STEAM night.*

Next Steps

The administration will create action plans that will identify the specific tasks needed to accomplish the goals/objectives, who is responsible, the resources required, the timeline over five years, and the indicators of success.

A final report summarizing the work and input from the three strategic planning meetings and the action plans will be generated by New Jersey School Boards and presented at an upcoming Board of Education meeting for consideration by the Board. We invite all participants and interested stakeholders to attend.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who participated in the strategic planning process. The input of every participating member has shaped the outcome of the plan. The district now has a five-year roadmap that reflects the aspirations of the various stakeholders for South Harrison Township School District students.