Creating a Strategic Plan for the Plumsted Township School District

{Meeting 1}

Mission Statement

The Plumsted Township School District shall inspire all students to realize their personal potential. A rich and challenging learning environment, in partnership with the community, will develop critical thinkers, lifelong learners and productive citizens in an emerging global society.

Session 1
What are the Strengths, Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities of the Plumsted Township School District?

On September 23, 2026, staff, administrators, parents, students, community members, and board members—Thirty-Three (33) participants in total—came together to begin the strategic planning process for the Plumsted Township School District.

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction from Superintendent Mr. David M. Ytreboe, who presented the current State of the District report. Ms. Michelle Kennedy of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) then provided an overview of the strategic planning process.

Participants reviewed the consensus-building approach used in strategic planning, with the evening's focus on identifying district strengths and challenges. Attendees were divided into four (4) self-selected groups and engaged in brainstorming sessions to identify strengths and challenges within the district. Each group then reached consensus on its top ten (10) strengths/achievements and top ten (10) challenges/opportunities.

The outcomes were shared with all participants as each group's spokesperson presented its findings. During the report-out, participants noted commonalities across groups, which helped identify recurring themes throughout the discussion. The following summary reflects the collective work of the small groups. As noted during the meeting, all consensus points have been recorded and posted on the district website to ensure transparency and encourage continued engagement throughout the strategic planning process.

Small Group Consensus: Strengths/Achievements & Challenges/Opportunities

Table 1

Strengths	Challenges
Dedicated staff	Communication with community members outside of the school
Student focused – Staff/admin adapt to student needs	Trust within the outside community
Small district	Funding
Community pride	Lack of courses offered at H.S. level
Town business relationships	Lack of student participation in some extracurricular activities
Academies	Decreased extracurriculars
School to work program	Curriculum resources
Improved Special Education programs	Technology advancements
Facilities/Land	Infrastructure
Safety Officer in each building	

Table 2

Strengths	Challenges
Parent Involvement	Rocket to keep the history of the district (Hall of Fame)
Kids are utilized to support schools	Land Maintenance
Administration and teachers know the kids well and are supportive (even outside of school/classes)	Students sometimes leave for bigger schools/opportunities
Passionate staff in the schools that understand the community	Small athlete teams, sometimes difficult to form a full team
Community and alumni support our schools	Large class sizes
Alumni Day	Technology
Academics	Continuity issues with staff and admins/High turnover rate
Student Opportunities	Only a small variety of electives offered
Parent volunteers	Reputation/Rumor mill of schools closing
School spirit and rich in traditions	7-12 program, some don't like the combining MS & HS
Friday night lights (community unites to support the Warriors)	Facility upgrades needed
Senior Sunrise and parking spot painting	
Kids advocating for themselves and taking ownership over their school	
Small Family feel	
Music programs are very positive	
NEHS literally paints the town	

Table 3

Strengths	Challenges
Dedicated staff	Funding
Forward Thinking & supportive BOE	Curriculum
Community Pride	Community Engagements regarding challenges
Resourceful, generals & collaborative PTO	Infrastructure (fields-underutilized buildings, HVAC)
Involved students	Security upgrades
Creativity – doing more with less	Lack of consistent and clear communication regarding directives
	Rising healthcare costs

Table 4

Strengths	Challenges
Good changes in curriculum	Not enough staff – shared staff 7-12
Interventions	Need more clubs and activities
Student – teacher rapport	Technology
Variety of middle school sports	6^{th} , 7^{th}, 8^{th} grades struggles – Academic, social, emotionally
Elementary school staff – parent communication is clear	Transportation – late busses
	Math Instruction - teachers
	Honor Roll recognition at Middle/High School

Following the reporting out of each group, the following common themes were identified through the large group discussion:

Common Themes Strengths	Common Themes Challenges
Academics	Communication with community members outside of the school
Administration and teachers know the kids well and are supportive (even outside of school/classes)	Curriculum
Community Pride	Decreased extracurriculars/Lack of student participation in some
Dedicated staff	Facility upgrades needed/Infrastructure (fields-underutilized buildings, HVAC)
Elementary school staff – parent communication is clear	Funding
Parent volunteers	Lack of consistent and clear communication regarding directives
Passionate staff in the schools that understand the community	Need more clubs and activities
Small district/family feel	Not enough staff – shared staff 7-12, some don't like combining MS & HS
Student focused – Staff/admin adapt to student needs	Only a small variety of electives offered
Student Opportunities	Small athlete teams, sometimes difficult to form a full team
Town business relationships	Technology advancements
Variety of middle school sports	Trust within the outside community

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm,
Plumsted Township School District
117 Evergreen Road, New Egypt, NJ 08533

Meetings #2 and #3 are scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the October 27th meeting, we will develop essentials and initiatives (Portrait of a Learner) and broad goal areas for Plumsted Township School District. We will discuss our aspirations and expectations for our students and school district.

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

Thank you!