



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Island Heights School District

Mission Statement

The mission of the Island Heights Grade School is to provide a safe and nurturing community where diversity is celebrated, mutual respect among adults and children is practiced, and where parents and caregivers are seen as valued partners in layering the foundation of life-long learning.

Island Heights Grade School creates an environment supportive of courageous endeavors and committed to helping all children achieve academic excellence through intellectual, creative, and physical challenges, enabling them to function as productive and successful citizens in a changing society.

Session 2

Developing a vision and initiatives for the Island Heights School District

On November 19, 2024, Island Heights District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, and community members, fifteen (15) in all, came together to continue the strategic planning process. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Mr. Timothy Rehm, Superintendent. Mary Ann Friedman and Dr. Laurie Bandlow, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) were introduced and explained the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on creating a shared vision for the Island Heights School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 5 years, returning to the Island Heights area and seeing their school on the cover of TIME magazine. The article is entitled, *Schools that Succeed*. In addition to the current programs already in place in Island Heights School, what programs/services/curriculum/student outcomes/best practices/facilities would you expect to see in your school that is succeeding and being recognized by TIME magazine? Participants were encouraged to think “big picture.”

Participants gathered in randomly assigned groups, five groups, to develop a shared vision and initiatives. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from Meeting #1, strengths and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants. The large group engaged in a “Gallery Walk” to review all small group consensus points.

Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

Group 5:

Title of Article: "The Little Sea Devil That Could"

Initiatives:

- Space – more space on school property. Utilizing underutilized areas, for example, hallways, storage rooms, and considering shared facilities with community organizations.
- Budget will support increased enrollment. Additional preschool will increase state funding.
- Parent/Community Involvement – new "Sea Devil" families will be in attendance through PTO, IHEF, and Board Meetings.

Group 6:

Title of Article: "Empowering Sea Devils for a Brighter Future"

Initiatives:

- Ample space
- Enhance funding
- Maximize student achievement
- Integrating cutting edge technology

Group 7:

Title of Article: "Nine Years of Fair Sailing"

Initiatives:

- Accommodating increased enrollment at IHGS
- Robust IHEF (Foundation)
- Special Needs in-district placement
- Enrichment programming

Group 8:

Title of Article: "Continue the Excellence!"

Initiatives:

- More flexible, permanent space (parking, classrooms, activities, etc.)
- Increase community involvement through outreach, using multimedia outlets including a dedicated TV channel, Face Book Live, TikTok, etc.
- Increase shared services with other districts – to save money, stabilize finances, smooth financial ups and downs

Group 9:

Title of Article: ""

Initiatives:

- Expansion of facilities – Library, Enrichment, Art/Music
- Healthy balance of modern tech and old school learning, low-tech approach
- Funding

2024 Island Heights School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Following each small group reporting their consensus points out to the larger group, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

- Space
- Funding – stable source of
- Enrichment, technology
- Good balance of tech and old school/hands on
- Community involvement
- Maximize student achievement

Following each group reporting out on the common themes, the larger group identified the following emerging goal areas:

- 1. Student Growth & Success**
- 2. Facilities & Finance**
- 3. Community Engagement / Involvement**
- 4. School Culture & Climate**
- 5. Safety & Security**

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm

Sign-in begins at 5:45 pm.

Island Heights Grade School

Meeting #3 is scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the December 17th meeting participants will review the outcomes from meetings 1 and 2 and develop broad goal statements, objectives and strategies for the goal areas identified above. These strategic planning goals will guide the board and district over the next 3 – 5 years.

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

Please RSVP by calling *the Superintendent's Office*.