



## Creating a Strategic Plan for the Roseland School District



### Current District Mission Statement

“We Care About What We Do”

In an atmosphere reflecting a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, we celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of the members of our school community. Our goal is to cultivate a learning environment in which our children will develop productive mind habits and successful skills of learning which culminate in academic achievement and positive self-esteem. We invite and encourage the children to explore new horizons and support them in such endeavors. We provide the necessary guidance which encourages each child to develop critical thinking skills for personal goal setting, problem solving and decision making. To these ends, the Lester C. Noecker School community remains dedicated.

### Session 2 of 3

#### Developing a Vision for the Roseland School District in the Next Five Years

On March 27, 2017 Roseland administration, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Roseland School District in the next five years. The meeting, facilitated by Charlene Peterson from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the February 13, 2017 meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for five years, and returning to find the Roseland School District on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption “21<sup>st</sup> Century Success.” The participants were asked to envision what was written in the magazine article that warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your district that are succeeding? 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

Participants then gathered in six randomly assigned groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. Each group's outcomes were shared with all meeting participants. The session concluded with the identification of common threads throughout the groups' work and five broad goal areas for the next meeting.

**Group Work**

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all consensus points are recorded and posted on the district’s website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

**Green Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: “Roseland Rediscovered Roots: Students Create a Sustainable Farm”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Self sustainable farm utilizing interdisciplinary skills	Problem solving
Collaborative process – interdisciplinary projects	Mentoring
Critical thinking	Life skills - adaptability
Nature/Wellness Health	

**Blue Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: “Open Classrooms Open Minds” “Breaking Traditional Boundaries”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Communication	Equanimity
Appropriate use of technology	Pay it forward - service
Student Centered Flexible Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration</li> <li>● Solving problems (more opportunities)</li> <li>● Lab</li> </ul>	Consistency of curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Take risks</li> <li>● Okay to fail</li> </ul>
Courtyard – use/plant garden (city green)	Love of learning
Independence	Broaden instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outside professionals in or students out →Field trip</li> </ul>
Collaborate with other schools	

**Red Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: “Creating Solutions in a Problem-Based World”**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
“A well rounded student is a student who succeeds.”	Internet – too big/email too small – need a way to connect – feel comfortable
“Let kids be kids” – ease up on the pressure	Interactive playground
Unstructured play	Exposure to more diversity – global citizens
Bringing in life skills	Social skills
Respect and appreciation of others	

**Pink Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "All 'STEAMed' Up"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Thinkers (independent)	STEAM – Regional leader philosophy
Problem solving	Collaborative – hands on
Foreign language?	Team building - projects
District collaboration/interactive	Inclusive/supportive

**Black Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Noecker Supports the Development of Well-Rounded Families and Community"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Teaching students how to become problem solvers, cultivate their curiosity and to begin to think critically. Develop greater communication skills	Parent education – connecting the tie between home and school. Empowering families to connect to children – community building Student – school – family Homework/activities/tools for communication
Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids write articles</li> <li>• Quotes from students</li> </ul>	Use Back-to-School Night to have parents experience "learning now" as a stepping stone for a discussion on educational philosophy.

**Orange Dot Group:**

**Title of Article: "Breaking Boundaries"**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
<b>Facilities</b> – open concept, outdoor classroom, hands-on learning, portable furniture	<b>Life Skills</b> →Self-sufficient/independence, critical thinking
<b>Instruction/Curriculum</b> – exploratory collaborative, individualized (versus group learning), student centered.	<b>Community Partnerships</b> – working closely with the community; providing opportunities for students to learn and give back.
<b>STEAM/Engineering/Independent problem solving.</b> Makerspace, robotics, technology.	<b>Special Education</b> – what program? Inclusive education for all students.
<b>Funding/Money</b> – Independent Resources/Budget – Private funding and fundraising.	<b>Health and Wellness</b> – Mindfulness; active learning environment; physical and mental wellness.
<b>Balancing testing with Curriculum</b>	<b>Vision for the Library/Media Center</b> – transformation of the library/media center

**Common Threads Identified by the Group:**

- Community collaboration
- Life Skills
- Preparation for future
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Character Development – social skills
- Mindfulness
- Flexible Learning
- Student centered

**Broad Goal Areas:**

**Five goal areas** emerged and were agreed upon by the group at large:

- Service and Community
- Authentically STEAMed
- Engagement in Learning
- Future Ready Curriculum and Instruction
- Character Development

**The third strategic planning session is scheduled for: Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

During the April 19th meeting we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each goal area that emerged from Session 2, and related objectives for each goal area.

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