



## Creating a Strategic Plan for the Park Ridge School District

### District Mission Statement

The Park Ridge School District is committed to the mission of educating all students to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels. The district will nurture all students to be lifelong learners, ethical and responsible citizens, and independent, productive members of a global society.

### Session 2 of 3

#### Developing a Vision for the Park Ridge School District in the Next 5 Years

On February 16, 2017 Park Ridge School District administration, staff, 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 Park Ridge School District in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Matt Lee and Charlene Peterson from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the January 19, 2017 meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for 5 years, and returning to find the Park Ridge School District on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption "Schools that Succeed." 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 school that are succeeding? 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

The various stakeholders then gathered in two randomly assigned groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. Each group was asked to write a title for the article and come to a consensus on up to 10 key visions. Each group's outcomes were shared with all meeting participants. The session concluded with the identification of common threads throughout the groups' work and four broad goal areas for the next meeting.

## ***Park Ridge School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes***

### **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 ([www.parkridge.k12.nj.us](http://www.parkridge.k12.nj.us)) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process. Individual responses for those who were unable to attend this session can be shared via an online link on the district's website.

### **Group 1: "Vision 2022"**

Key Visions – Year 2022:

- Self-directed students
- Grit / Resilience / Self-control
- Small group learning community
- Mindfulness training
- Outdoor nature classrooms / hands-on
- Focus on learning through failure
- Community involvement
- Process of problem solving and creativity

### **Group 2: "Educating, Shaping, Creating the Whole Child"**

Key Visions – Year 2022:

- 100% graduation rate
- Skill set – Perseverance and ability to adapt to change
- Problem-solving/collaboration/communication/critical thinking
- Engineering/Maker-space
- Civics – how we work/basic government for every child
- Social media responsibility – health
- Finance – for future planning
- Character development
- Foster creativity; confident
- Life skills
- Knowledge of humanity; how to know where to get information; life skills
- Stress relief

### **Broad Goal Areas:**

**Four goal areas** emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large:

- Health & Wellness
- Lifelong Learning Desire
- Communication & Leadership
- Physical Resources

*Park Ridge School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes*

**Next Meeting:**

**The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

**Thursday March 16, 2017**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm at Park Ridge High School - Little Theater**

During the March 16th meeting we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each of the three goal areas above that emerged from Session 2, and related objectives for each goal area.

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