2023-2028 Strategic Planning Summary Report
for the
Denville Township School District

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Presented by
Charlene Peterson

May 8, 2023

Thank You for Your Support and Participation

2022 Denville BOE

- Michael Andersen, President
- Dino Cappello, Vice-President
- Dr. Veno Arunajatesan
- Don Casse
- James Kim
- Dr. Clifford Moore
- Laura Wagner
- Andrea Zeydelis (2023)

Dr. Steven Forte, Superintendent

Dr. Sandra Cullis, Asst. Superintendent

Damaris Gurowsky, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Susan Marinello, Strategic Planning Coordinator & Communications Consultant

Participants:

Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

YOU *Make* a *Difference*

Thank you!

Purpose of Strategic Planning

To create a district-wide vision that will direct, motivate, and inspire all members of the school community to work together to elevate student achievement.

Benefits of
Strategic Planning

- Proactive, creative and flexible

- Provides a forum for stakeholder participation

- Ongoing cycle of planning, assessment, and decision-making that will optimize limited resources and increase communications

Components of Strategic Planning

Action Plans — The "how." Work of Administration.

Meeting 3
Dec 12
Goals Objectives — How will we get there (the roadmap)?

Meeting 2
Nov 28
Vision for the Future — Where do we want to be in 5 years?

Meeting 1
Nov 14
Information Strengths Challenges/Opportunities — Where are we now?

Mission Statement

To educate and empower all students to excel.

Meeting 1 – State-of-the-District

Presented by Administration

Strategic Plan Goals 2017-2022

- *Student Learning and Curriculum*
- *Well Rounded Students*
- *21st Century Leadership and Ownership of Learning*
- *Facilities/Class Sizes/Security*

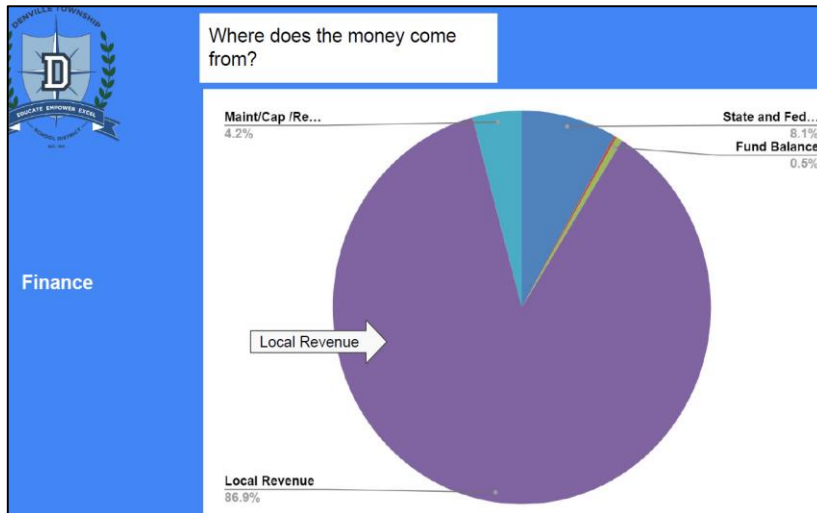*What are the problems we need to solve going forward?*

Extra-Curricular

Valleyview Middle School
- 10 Interscholastic Sports with over 175 students participating
- 19 Clubs/intramurals with over 200 students participating
- Band, Chorus, & Strings
- Musical
- Art Show

Riverview and Lakeview Schools
- 3 Clubs with over 250 students participating
- Enrichment Program over 1000 registrations each year
- 4th and 5th grade bands with over 225 students participating
- Related Arts/ Art Show
- Talent show

Finance

Where does the money come from?

- Maint/Cap /Re... 4.2%
- State and Fed... 8.1%
- Fund Balance 0.5%
- Local Revenue 86.9%

DENVILLE TOWNSHIP
2021-22 Spring NJSLA

Grade	Meeting Expectations or Higher			
	ELA % Meeting Expectations +		Math % Meeting Expectations +	
	District	State	District	State
3	60%	42%	55%	46%
4	78%	49%	62%	39%
5	88%	49%	64%	36%
6	63%	47%	44%	31%
7	86%	52%	41%	34%
8	76%	52%	14%	16%
Algebra 1	x	x	86%	35%
Geometry	x	x	96%	44%
Total 8th grade	x	x	45%	x
All Grades	75%	49%	53%	35%

Meeting 1 Small Group Work

Brainstorm

Top 10

Top 10 District

Strengths

Challenges/ Opportunities

Meeting 1 Small Group Work Excerpts

STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES/ OPPORTUNITIES
1. Student-centered learning	1. Keeping class sizes
2. High-quality Staff	2. Space
3. Students happy	3. Math supports
4. Strong parent groups	4. Technology balance
5. Extracurriculars	5. Sustainability
6. Security/SROs	6. Arts availability during day
7. Mental health focus	7. Age of facilities
8. Staff retention	8. Increasing student needs
9. Communication	9. Life skills
10. Covid/Crisis Management	10. Increasing parent involvement

Visioning Exercise

We are in the year 2028.
The Denville Public Schools is being recognized as the model district in NJ for advancing superintendent achievement.

You are the guest speaking sharing Denville's story.
How was this great success accomplished?

Year 2028

What does success look like? What is different from 2023?

Visions – Year 2028

- Student leadership
- Civic engagement
- Small class sizes
- State-of-art technology
- Flexible learning spaces
- Life skills – citizenship and financial literacy
- Student choice and voice
- Academic competitions
- More family options
- Culturally immersive experiences

Some speech titles:
"Opportunities to Innovate"
"Student Empowerment"
"What Made Us!"

Goal Areas

1. Student Success
2. Caring Culture
3. Operations
4. Family and Community Connections

Meeting 3 Small Group Work

For your group's goal area:

Strengths
Challenges
Visions

Using data from meetings 1, 2
- **Strengths**
- **Challenges**
- **Visions**

GOAL

Write one goal statement
- **Broad**
- **Big-idea**

Write 3 to 5 objectives
- **Supports goal**
- **More tactical**

2023-2028 Goals and Objectives

STUDENT SUCCESS

Provide academic curricula that are engaging, challenging,
and student-centered; empowering all learners to achieve success.

1. To design practices and structures that develop critical thinking in all areas.
2. To provide tools and authentic opportunities within the school and community for students to excel in leadership.
3. To develop and enhance existing programs to encompass all learners.
4. To expand opportunities for the exploration of the arts.

CARING CULTURE

To create a safe and comfortable learning environment that
empowers students and staff to be their authentic selves.

1. Develop a vertically aligned progression of SEL skills (PK-8).
2. Celebrate individuality through exposure, education, and acceptance.
3. Invest in consistent support to meet the needs of all learners through tiered resources and professional development.
4. Create consistent systems to nurture student development and foster upstanders across all schools.

2023-2028 Goals and Objectives

OPERATIONS

Continue to provide sustainable, safe facilities incorporating cutting-edge technology, in a fiscally responsible manner, to support modern learning styles.

1. Maintain and expand learning spaces to address the student population growth and advancements in technology as feasible.
2. Ensure that the Denville Schools continue to lead in providing safe and secure physical and virtual environments.
3. Continue to investigate methods to Increase the percentage of non-tax revenue as compared to traditional funding sources.
4. Ensure that the technology backbone of the district is able to support the entire school community and optimize facility functions.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

To increase connections between the schools, community programs, and all stakeholders to enhance positive student outcomes.

1. To build a way to reach out to the entire community (beyond the students and their families, e.g., budget/tax votes).
2. Streamline and enhance comunication coming from the school district.
3. Create relationships and partnerships with third party community facilities and organizations.
4. Find effective and creative ways to engage parents in the education and learning process.
5. Promote student involvement in civic duties and volunteerism through relatable and age-appropriate experiences.

Developing the Action Plans

Goal Statement:

Major Activities	Staff	Resources	Timeline	Success Indicators
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Work of Administration

Actions Plans Created

Excerpt from Family & Community Connections Goal:

Goal: To increase connections between the schools, community programs, and all stakeholders to enhance positive student outcomes.

Objective: To build a way to reach out to the entire community (beyond the students and their families, e.g., budget/tax votes).

Major Activities	Staff	Resources	Timelines	Indicators of Success
Explore ways to increase presentation of district information at community events	Admin Team, Staff, Consultants	Denville Education Foundation, online survey, Denville Township Library, Senior Center	Ongoing throughout 2023-2028	Posters/Fliers at local community venues, increase in district presence at community events,
Research different media (Youtube, Twitter, etc) to find most effective form of communication with families and community	Admin Team, Staff, Consultants	District Twitter page, District Youtube page, School Messenger, Genesis, online survey,	Ongoing throughout 2023-2028	Messages to families and community
Investigate submission to local newspaper with school happenings	Admin Team, Staff, Consultants	Denville Life Newspaper, Citizen, TAP	Ongoing throughout 2023-2028	School submission in location newspaper
Continue partnership with the Denville Education Foundation.	Admin Team, Staff, Consultants	Denville Education Foundation, Denville Education Foundation Teacher Liaison, Available DEF Grants	Ongoing throughout 2023-2028	Staff Liaison at each school, acceptance of grants offered by DEF

Thank You

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD: INDEED IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD