



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Edgewater Public Schools

Mission Statement

The Edgewater School District, a culturally rich community, fosters academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and intellectual curiosity, preparing our students for lifelong learning and future success.

Session 2 of 3

Developing a Vision for the Edgewater School District in the Next 5 Years

On March 19, 2019, Edgewater 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 Edgewater School District in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Matt Lee from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the, March 5, 2019 meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for 5 years, and returning to find the Edgewater 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? 21st century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

The various stakeholders then gathered in six 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.

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.edgewaterschools.org) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process. Responses for those who were unable to attend this session can be shared via the district's website

Edgewater School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Blue Dot Group: “Well-Rounded Students (Academically and Socially)”

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Student achievement - all students are performing at or above grade level
- Other options besides 4-year college carpentry, alternate opportunities use STEM
- Life skills - project-based learning, hands-on, resilience
- Best public school education to get into top colleges, phenomenal teachers, technology, etc.
- Technology - coding, meet diverse learners
- Critical thinking/leadership skills; talking to people is important/people skills/soft skills
- Trilingual education Early Education
- Supportive town/community and teacher support, reimbursed for out-of-pocket
- State-of-the-art building/schools
- Non-academic skills: how to deal with conflicts, getting to places on time, etc.

Orange Dot Group: “Edgewater Schools: Creating Strong Partnerships”

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Larger facilities - state-of-the-art and can accommodate growth
- State-of-the-art technology - smart boards
- STEAM infused into the curriculum
- Better communication between Community Center and school for coordinating after school activities
- Promote more critical thinking and problem-solving
- Classes focusing on communication, collaboration, creativity - no cell phones should be a rule
- Student created content process learning

Black Dot Group: “Edgewater Schools: Gold Coast, Gold Schools, Gold Standards” (BLING)

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Safe, secure, engaging school
- High quality teachers who are supported professionally
- Teachers who can differentiate for all level learners
- Well-run school: administrators support teachers, parents, students
- Opportunities for arts and extracurricular activities
- Teacher student ratio is low
- Out-of-school learning opportunities (field trips)
- Curriculum is CCSS and creative, involves critical thinking
- Our facilities in Edgewater can sustain our student population
- Facilities are state-of-the-art and green

Green Dot Group: “At the ‘Edge:’ Priorities for Tomorrow”

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Sale activity - 4th graders
- Sustainability
- Technology
 - Digitization
 - Safety
 - Infrastructure
 - Sufficient space
 - Hardware/software
- Academic excellence
 - Nationally ranked
 - Abundant after school programs (Int’l sports)
 - Leverages location
 - Recognize special needs (differentiated learning)
 - Ensure optimal teacher:student ratio
 - Integration of 21st century activities
 - Portfolio (digital an opportunity to showcase)
- Unity and familiarity

Red Dot Group: “Edgewater: A Forward-Thinking District”

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Inclusive school environment
- Creative, collaborative, flexible spaces
- Problem-based learning
- Divergent thinking
- Professional coaching
- Increased community involvement
- Dual language
- Collaborative teaching practices
- Makerspace/computer science/robotics
- Mindfulness

No Dot Group: “Creative Thinkers & Solution Providers”

Key Visions – Year 2024:

- Strong collaboration between school, family and community
- Active learners in an interactive and collaborative environment
- Civically engaged with universal core values (global citizens)
- Provide a progressive curriculum in a flexible setting
- Self-motivators/regulators

Edgewater School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Broad Goal Areas:

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

- Student Achievement
- Health & Wellness
- Community Engagement
- Facilities & Technology
- Culture & Climate

Next Meeting:

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (Snow Date: April 24, 2019)

6:30 – 8:00 pm at Eleanor Van Gelder School

During the March 27 meeting we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each of the five 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!