



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Oradell Public School District

Mission Statement

The Oradell Public School District, a safe and nurturing learning community dedicated to the ongoing pursuit to educational excellence, inspires life-long learning in its students through comprehensive, innovative curriculum and instruction. The District fully supports and expects the attainment the New Jersey Student Learning Standards on the part of all the students within a school environment designed to maximize student potential, develop responsible citizens, and promote respect for the uniqueness of all individuals.

Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Oradell Public Schools? What are the community's visions for Oradell Public Schools?

On Thursday, April 12, 2018 Oradell Public School District administrators, staff, Board members, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Dorothy Watson-Nichols, President of the Board of Education. Dr. John Anzul, Superintendent, provided an informative overview of the district. Facilitators Matt Lee and Charlene Peterson from the New Jersey School Boards Association introduced the strategic planning methodology and assisted throughout the process.

More than 25 community, parent and staff participants gathered in four randomly assigned groups to brainstorm and share ideas. The first half of the group activity in this meeting focused on the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Oradell Public Schools. The second half of the group activity was dedicated to creating visions for the district for the coming five year period.

After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 Strengths/Achievements and top 10 challenges/opportunities and 5-year visions and presented them to the full group of meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the district's website (<http://www.oradellschool.org>) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

**Group Consensus: Strengths/Achievements & Challenges/Opportunities
Visions 2018-2023**

Red Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Academic achievement	Meeting all needs of math learners
Communication	Size
PTA	Meeting needs of special needs students/cost
Social/emotional focus	Helping special needs families navigate the process
Willingness to try new things	Grammar and phonics
Language arts growth	

Red Dot Group: Key Visions – Year 2023

- Cultivating good citizens
- Unified school community with children at the center
- Balancing technology in curriculum to create critical thinkers

Green Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Strong community, PTA, outside assemblies	Security knowledge, trainings
Enthusiastic teachers → student, parent, staff interactions	Increased enrollment/space
Good facility/character of building	Lack of recess, “free-time”
One school: everyone knows everyone	Anxiety, mental health, wellness
Involved administration	Pressure of keeping up with technology demands “digital distraction”
Inclusive school for diverse abilities, welcoming → firetruck, NO PLACE 4 HATE	Implementation of common core, “new ways of teaching pedagogical theories”
Cultural diversity in town and school, ESL	Gifted and talented, more push in upper grades
Odyssey of the Mind	Parking

Green Dot Group: Key Visions – Year 2023

- Digitally responsible kids (minimal bullying, using technology reasonably)
- High achievement
- Consistency in staff, administration
- Social awareness, responsibility
- Diverse and accepting
- Skills and tools to achieve happiness

Oradell Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Blue Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Teacher:student ratio	Working parents
Empathetic faculty	Funding
Active parent community/PTO	Communication between districts
Extracurricular (music, etc.)	Test scores - math
Test scores – language arts	Teacher training (tech, PD, math)
Onsite aftercare	Technology curriculum
	Labor environment
	Facility - capacity

Blue Dot Group: Key Visions – Year 2023

- Stable funding
- Common skill set for 6th graders – River Edge and Oradell
- Flexible/evolving curriculum addressing the 4 C’s (Critical Thinker, Communicator, Collaborator, Creator)
- Children who deal with adversity

Black Dot Group:

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Community support/parental involvement	Budget constraints
Positive and welcoming environment (potential to blossom)	Size of the building/size of the staff/size of student body
Engaging	Meeting individual needs
Students take ownership of their learning	Keeping up with current best practices
Curious learners, inquisitive	Integration of new programming/technology
Diverse resources (financial, community support, etc.)	Balance of technology
Condition of building; physical plan	Student interpersonal relationships/communication
Safety	

Black Dot Group: Key Visions – Year 2023

- Test scores top 25% in Bergen County
- Social/emotional learning → growth
- Interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking/problem solvers
- Developing grit
- Developing self-reliance/advocating for themselves
- Sense of family/community; bully-free zone

Oradell Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

Broad Goal Areas:

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

- Student Achievement/Individualized Learning
- Citizenship, Culture & Climate
- 21st Century Skills-Based Curriculum
- Community-Wide Health & Wellness
- Facilities and Finance

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for: Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30–9:00 pm.

During the May 2 meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, participants will select a goal area to work on, and will collaborate to create a goal statement and specific objectives for each goal area.

The final meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm to review the district's mission statement.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome, and can fully participate, even if you were not able to attend the first meeting. We look forward to seeing you!