



## **Palmyra Public School District**

### **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Palmyra Public School District**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Palmyra Public School District is to work cooperatively with the available resources of home and community, including business and industry, to offer each child the educational opportunities that will enable him/her to function politically, economically, and socially in a democratic society and to fully facilitate their development within a safe and secure school environment.

#### **Session 2**

#### **Developing a vision for the Palmyra Public School District.**

On April 28, 2015, Palmyra Public School District administrators, Board of Education members, education staff, parents and community members, fifty-five (55) in all signed in, came together to continue strategic planning for the Palmyra Public School District. The topic for the second meeting focused on developing a vision for the Palmyra Public School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Palmyra Board of Education President, Mrs. Nancy Brett. Facilitators Jesse Adams and Terri Lewis, from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), were introduced and they thanked the members who participated in Session 1 for returning and welcomed new members joining the group.

We recapped the outcomes of Session 1 and reminded everyone of the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. We then moved to discussing the topic for this evening; creating a shared vision for the Palmyra Public School District. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the district for 5 years, returning to Palmyra, and seeing their 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 Time magazine article that warranted such high recognition. In addition to the current programs already in place in the Palmyra Public School District, what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would you expect to see in your school that are succeeding? Participants were encouraged to think "big picture."

**Palmyra Public School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes**

Participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups, five groups in total, to develop shared visions and initiatives. The small groups began brainstorming on their vision for the district. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

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 web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

**Group Consensus: Vision – Initiatives**

**Team One:**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
Mentoring and Partnering, Expanding our Pathways Ahead, STEAM	Positive PR
Increased SAT scores	District encourages the community to be as integrated as the student body – District <u>goes out</u> into the Community!
Seeing tests as learning experiences	Summer Programs

**Team Two:**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
More STEM stuff	Seek potential funding sources (private)/grants
More electives (non-academic)	Be proud of the district again
More Differentiated Curriculum: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving; Independent Thinking	Parent Involvement (increase)
Collaboration within Districts	Maximize student potential – Scheduling/Grouping
Articulation (Teacher Collaboration)	Middle School Building (funded by Microsoft)
Stability in Admin/Leadership	Become a school of choice – Don't lose students
Increase in college-bound students	State Recognition through Programs: Green School, School of Character
PR Boost	District Programs to entice enrollment: STEM, Partnerships with Area, Unique Classes, Performing Arts
More of a focus on learning – Less on grades	Environmental/Sustainable Schools
Keep Good Things Going – Size, Pride, etc.	

**Palmyra Public School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes**

**Team Three:**

<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>	<b>Vision - Initiatives</b>
S.T.E.A.M. is Fully Integrated and Successful	SMART BOARDS EVERYWHERE to Achieve 21 <sup>st</sup> century skill sets!
Cutting Edge Technology Labs	Physical Plant is brought up to date... Air-conditioning-outlets-Sound Systems everywhere! in Public Meeting Areas
Assortment of Enrichment Programs	Rejuvenated Character Education Involves ALL
Phenomenal Guidance Support	Service Requirement for Graduation proves our kids have been helping hands all along!
Acceptance at All-time High at four year colleges and universities	Students feel important and inspired because of their Relevant Roles in Service Projects
High Involvement of Alumni Success to Inspire	SERVICE = GOOD CITIZENS = GREAT COMMUNITY
Improved Standardized Test Scores (even though we dislike them)	Taking part in your child's community is a family affair
More Shared Leadership in all buildings (BOE-Teachers-Parents → like for strategic planning 😊)	Inspiration for our High Quality/Dedicated Staff
Better Communication – Better Website	Sustainability goes beyond our solar panels – making use of our Local Resources and taking an active role in State Programs
Administrative Consistency at ALL TIME HIGH (McBride Celebrates 8th Year in District!)	Walking District builds friendships and excitement for Learning
Interactive School Board follows overall District Vision	Focusing on our At-Risk students, intervening, keeping in District for great programs whenever possible
Constant flow of Positive Press Items keeps our reputation like that of a Private School 😊 Public Relations is Now Super Strong!	More cross-contamination of staff and focus on educating ALL about best care of kids
Keeping teaching tools current and relevant	Fun Learning for our kids with RECESS staying RECESS! Teacher assistance to cover this VALUABLE Academic Release
Cultural Diversity Programs throughout TOWN...	Parents-Teachers-Admin ALL WORKING TOGETHER for GREATNESS!

**Palmyra Public School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes**

**Team Four:**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Embracing the small community	Differentiated Classrooms
Celebrating the individual with <u>real</u> participation of all students	College Acceptance: Career Readiness and Sustainability
Partnering with the community: Food Pantry, Nature Cove, etc.	Increased AP enrollment
Going out into the world and taking advantage of resources around us	Decrease of students in remedial college courses
Authentic learning, in and out of the classroom	Higher test scores, not just state but SAT
Parental Involvement	Effective curriculum in core courses
Free access to technology – Partnerships with Community Center	Stabilized administrative staff, curriculum, goals, etc.

**Team Five:**

Vision - Initiatives	Vision - Initiatives
Become a preferred school destination	Forward thinking Technology Plan. Put technology in the classroom that kids don't get at home.
Build programming and activities that appeal to parents and students	Integrated Funding Stream (School and Community) e.g. Grants, Fundraising
Student Retention & Increased Enrollment	Strong Communication – Public Relations
At least 50% increase in retention and enrollment in five years.	Sending District: Two-Way Communication

After the reports from the small groups' consensus points, the large group brainstormed the following **common themes**:

- Student Community Engagement – active communications
- Student Achievement – STEAM, Enrichment Programs
- Technology
- Finance/Facilities/Sustainability – funding sources
- College/Career Readiness
- Consistent Admin/Staff Engagement & Professional Development

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

- Student Achievement
- Public Relationships/Community Partnerships
- Sustainability
- Educating the Whole Student/Enrichment

*Palmyra Public School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes*

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

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

**from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Palmyra High School Auditorium.**

**Sign-in begins at 6:45 pm.**

**Meetings are scheduled for 2 hours and end promptly.**

During the May 28th meeting, we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Vision – Initiatives) and develop the broad goal statements for each goal area that emerged from Session 2, as well as develop the objectives for each goal area for the Palmyra Public School District.

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

**Please RSVP to the Office of the Superintendent at 856-786-9300, X1013.**