



## **Franklin Borough Elementary School District Is Creating a New Five-Year Strategic Plan**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*(Written by Students)*

We, at Franklin School, will encourage ourselves to be respectful, honest, responsible throughout life, and help others to do the same.

### **The 3D Strategic Planning Process: Dream, Determination, and Destiny by Design**

#### **Session 1: What Are the Strengths, Achievements, and Challenges of the Franklin Elementary School District?**

On **February 8, 2018**, community members, school district administration & staff, and Board of Education members came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topics were the current strengths of and challenges facing the Franklin Borough School District.

We began the process with an overview of the State of the District as presented by Superintendent J.R. Giacchi. The contents of that comprehensive presentation, like this report, are available on the District website. We then gathered in four randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths and points of pride in our district, and to



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.881.1581 • Fax: 609.695.0412

brainstorm what opportunities and challenges the school district faces in the immediate future.

We worked in small groups, first brainstorming, then refining, and then sharing our thoughts with other members of our small groups. After group discussion, each group identified their “top 10” (or thereabouts) list of strengths and challenges for the district.

The information that follows is the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, we will record and post all meeting outcomes for the wider community.

## **Black Dot Group**

### ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- The direction of the academics (Go Math!)
- Sense of community
- Close-knit staff
- Positive vision for our future
- New Administration
- A lot of programs for our students
- Technology improvement
- Upgraded security
- Great facilities
- Nurse/Health office
- Good kids

### ***Challenges***



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.881.1584 • Fax: 609.695.0412

- Windows (old, dirty, whistling...)
- Boilers--old
- Facility upkeep
- Things are constantly changing
- Communication (still needs improvement!)
- Parent involvement
- Budget
- Needs a few more afterschool clubs

*(Continued)*

## **Red Dot Group**

### ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- Caring community
- Staff supporting staff
- Student connections
- Academic programs
- Franklin pride/historical connections  
(atmosphere of family)
- Strength/variety of academic programs
- CST resource/support
- Staff stability
- After-school programs
  - Sports
- Fiscal stability
  - Knowledgeable staff
- Parental involvement
- Parent-teacher connection
- Tech advancements



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0412

## ***Challenges***

- Enrollment decline
- Meeting needs for a diverse population
- Need for preschool/early childhood education/intervention
- More technology for K-4
- Career education

## **Orange Dot Group**

### ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- Open communication between all stakeholders
- Enrichment, music, play programs—diverse & showcase talents
- Accepting students—empathetic/open arms
- Small class sizes in elementary classes

***(Continued)***

### ***(Orange Dot Group work, Strengths, continued)***

- Consistent staff—low turnover
- Good steps made in increasing technology
- Community feel
- Franklin Pride—generations
- Staff support staff
- App is great!

### ***Challenges***

- Windows—noisy, poor condition
- Large class size in middle school
- Repeated teachers
- Transient district



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.881.ISBA • Fax: 609.695.0412

- Lack of FULL TIME aides
- Variety of parent involvement
- Drop-off
- Heat—some rooms are VERY hot!!

## **Green Dot Group**

### ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- Faculty
- Mr. Giacchi!
- Facility space
- PTO
- Open communication
- School resources (app, email, etc.)
- Safety & security
- Utilization of instructional time
- Morning meeting in auditorium
- Peer Leaders
- Extra-curricular activities

***(Continued)***

***(Green Dot Group work, continued)***

### ***Challenges***

- Participation (school meeting, PTO, etc.)
- Follow through outside of school
- Parking
- Preschool for all
- More arts & visual presence (exterior & interior)
- Affordable recreation activities



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.881.1584 • Fax: 609.695.0412

- More rec options for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under
- Demographics for funding/programs
- Outreach for children in economic disparities
- Understanding diversity
- Future construction/development

## **Blue Dot Group**

### ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- Dedicated staff/committed & creative
- Progressive/visionary leadership
- K-8 small school/less transition
- Slight increase in test scores over a short period of time
- Implementation of new programs
- Increase in character ed programs
- NO DEBT!
- Double math period
- Co-ordination w/local high school (i.e., math program)
- Open communication w/sending districts
- Autistic program
- PLC groups for teachers

### ***Challenges***

- Aging infrastructure/systems
- 40% more income/economic needs
- Scheduling programs
- Low test scores
- Too many “new” initiatives/need training

## **Yellow Dot Group**



# New Jersey School Boards Association

*Celebrating 100 years of service*

412 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll Free: 888.881.ISBA • Fax: 609.695.0412

## ***Strengths/Accomplishments***

- Cosmetic—school looks good
- Morning routine
- Staff support for each other and students
- Strong PTO
- Website/app
- Small class sizes
- Well-educated staff

## ***Challenges***

- Busing—getting children to school
- Student drop-off
- Uneaten food thrown away (could go to a food bank?)
- Lunch charge system
- After school activities (K-4)

After sharing our small group results with all the evening's participants, all were thanked for their thoughtful contributions and collaborative work.

Our next meeting is set for **Tuesday evening, March 6, at 7pm in Franklin Elementary School Cafeteria.** (Inclement weather date is March 8.) We will engage in a **Visioning Activity** to help refine our collective vision for the Franklin Borough Elementary School District, which promises to be a truly ***fun*** exercise! We encourage all to **attend with a friend!**

The Franklin Borough District Board of Education and Administration greatly appreciate your commitment and participation in helping to help create a roadmap for our wonderful district for the next three years. We look forward to working with you at our future sessions!