



## **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Allendale Public Schools**

### **Mission Statement**

The Allendale K-8 School District seeks to promote an environment where all students can learn and achieve in schools that focus on high standards for academics, talents and behavior.

### **Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Allendale Public Schools?**

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, Allendale administrators, staff, Board members, and parents came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the Strengths/Achievements, and Challenges/Opportunities of the Allendale Public Schools. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Board of Education President Amy Gundersen, who then introduced Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent who provided an informative "state of the school" overview for participants. Facilitator Matt Lee from the New Jersey School Boards Association introduced the strategic planning methodology and assisted throughout the process.

Parent, administration and staff participants gathered in four randomly assigned groups to identify the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Allendale Public Schools through brainstorming and the sharing of ideas. After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 Strengths/Achievements and top 10 Challenges/Opportunities and those were then shared with the larger group when group work was completed.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the school's website (<https://www.allendalek8.com/>) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

*Allendale Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes*

## Group Consensus: Strengths/Achievements & Challenges/Opportunities

### Group 1

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Special Education (Hilltop, LLD)	Cultural diversity
Curricular & social innovation	Behavioral expectations
Social/emotional health*	Communication & addressing the shift in demographics - Resources for new families - Resources for socio-economics - Network of ANNC dissolved
Quality of staff & admin	Expanding clubs beyond sports (arts, stem, culinary) & electives
Level of commitment form AFEE & PTO	Dig deeper into mental health
Quad collaboration & Staff collaboration	Maintaining & hiring quality staff
Student data driven decision making	Students fall through the cracks
Academically prepared for transition to next school	More individualized data

### Group 2

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Differentiate instruction	District Communication
Technology	Upper Elem. Voice
Shared vision	Opportunities beyond athletics
Kindness, Respect a priority	Basics – handwriting, typing
Academic rigor	Social Media for good
Teacher collab	Recess – Brookside - More valuable - Time
STEM	Inclusion
Innovative spaces	District Communication
Middle School voice	Upper Elem. Voice
Playworks – Hillside	Opportunities beyond athletics

### Group 3

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Support for mental health, socialization	Staffing/Hiring/Recruitment incl. Benefits - Teachers, aides, subs - Needs: Art/Spanish for eg.
Dedication of all Admin, Teachers, BOE, Community	Class sizes
*Collaborative	Mental health: - Parent training - Calming space
Unique-2 schools	Future burden of ↑ enrollment - Space, resources
Test scores	
Technology - Robust - Innovation	Behavioral development, Executive functioning

**Allendale Public Schools Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes**

Security focus	Enrichment opportunities outside school building/trips experiences to be part of
	Addressing potential increase in special needs – particularly from children born in pandemic years
	Arts, Foundational skills

**Group 4**

<b>Strengths/Achievements</b>	<b>Challenges/Opportunities</b>
STEM, Math, Lang.	Expanding enrollment & facilities
Emerging Tech	SEL work in progress - Mirror what was happening during COVID - Consistent schedule
Student learning opportunities in & out of classroom	Support/Resources for teachers
Support services for academics	Increase the ‘bell curve’ & being accepted if not a top performer
School/life balance	Difficult for students to relate to “outside world” issues/challenges
Increased SEL support	
Teachers give 110%	
Officer Alex - Increase sense of safety - (? From teachers)	

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

**Wednesday, March 9, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 pm. kicking off in the multi-purpose room.**

During the March 9, meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Allendale Public Schools five years from now.

**The final meeting will be held on Wednesday April 13, 2023 at 7:00-8:30 pm to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.**

Please join us and bring your friends. Your commitment to fully participate is important to the success of this program. We look forward to seeing you!