



## 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 2 of 3

#### Developing a Vision for the Allendale School District in the Next 5 Years

On February 15, 2018 Allendale 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 Allendale School District in the next five years.

The meeting, facilitated by Matt Lee and Charlene Peterson from New Jersey School Boards Association, began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process and the steps taken at the January 11, 2018 meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants were asked to picture themselves away from the district for 5 years, and returning to find the Allendale School District on the cover of TIME magazine, with the caption "21<sup>st</sup> Century Success." 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? The fast-changing world and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were highlighted in a video clip.

The various stakeholders then gathered in four 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.

## ***Allendale School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes***

### **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 (<https://www.allendalek8.com>) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process. Individual responses for those who were unable to attend this session can be shared via a Strategic Planning link on the district's website.

### **Red Dot Group: "The Imperfect Balance"**

Key Visions – Year 2023:

- Balance of technology
- Communication skills/working in groups
- Social/civic responsibility
- Global awareness and language skills
- Personal responsibility
- Problem-solving
- Emotional intelligence
- Wellness/mindfulness
- Safety
- Virtual learning/classrooms

### **Black Dot Group: "Back to Basics by Way of the Future"**

Key Visions – Year 2023:

- Find your passion
- Civics
- Life skills
- Environmental awareness
- More recess time (intervals)
- Altruism
- Character education
- Communication
- Other cultures
- Study abroad
- Wellness/self-awareness
- Personal accountability/responsibility

## **Allendale School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes**

### **Green Dot Group: “The Balance of Mind & Body”**

Key Visions – Year 2023:

- Authentic service experiences
- Freedom to fail
- Kids as non-conformists
- Organic teaching & learning
- Balancing technology better/appropriate usage
- Well-being classes for students
- Teacher training → encourage student well-being
- Empower teachers to make decisions
- Global citizenship
- Teaching students to be self-aware

### **Orange Dot Group: “Allendale: The Leader in Creating Healthy, Reflective, Well-Balanced Citizens”**

Key Visions – Year 2023:

- Students need to be more independent as learners. Interdisciplinary learning. Help them communicate better.
- Develop a meaningful curriculum – think outside our community of Allendale.
- Does schooling have to take place in school? Go out and work with businesses. Entrepreneurial?
- Healthy balance of technology – computers/technology to amplify learning
- Health/wellness - Counselors in each building. Better choices to make. Be ahead in this area.
- Process information on a deeper level (not just sound bites).
- Rigor – strength or weakness? Use technology to have students learn outside of school with more choice – self-directed learning (flipped classroom).
- Service learning – involve students more in these projects. Have students go out in the community.
- More tolerance and respect in the classroom for all; respect opinions and differences (stigma free).
- Civic engagement – connect as global citizens.
- Success = college? Students will need to prepare for a different economy – job market.
- Diversity → As the world population changes, are our children prepared to enter a changing world/able to work with others; changing student population.
- Finding common ground.
- Students should be reflective; who they are.
- Social justice – prepare students to be advocates for their dreams.

## *Allendale School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes*

### **Broad Goal Areas:**

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

- Student Health, Wellness & Personal Accountability
- Environmental Awareness
- Global Awareness & Service
- Technology as a Tool: The Right Balance

### **Next Meeting:**

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

**Monday March 19, 2018**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Brookside Learning Commons**

During the March 19 meeting, we will review the outcomes from Sessions 1 & 2 (Strengths & Challenges, Visions) and develop broad goal statements for each of the four 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!**