



**STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012
CHERYL MILLER-PORTER STUDENT CENTER
TEANECK HIGH SCHOOL
7:30 PM**

Dr. Ivory opened the meeting with a brief review of the January 31st and February 12th meetings, a review of the rules for this evening's activities and a reminder that this was the final meeting.

Tonight's Activity - Creating an Action Plan

ACTIVITY 1:

1. Organize table groups for carousel brainstorming
 - a. Rows of tables based on # of needs
 - b. 3 – 4 rows of tables
2. Assign need charts
3. Carousel process for:
 - a. Action steps
 - b. Roadblocks

ACTIVITY 2:

1. Needs charts back to original groups
2. Identification of 1-4 doable activities
 - a. Do not require new personnel
 - b. Require limited funding
3. Identification of 1-3 roadblocks

GOAL #1 – DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION AT ALL LEVELS

1. Enhance student assessments and differentiate assignments, performance and tasks.
2. Create a needs assessment for parents/guardians regarding personal needs.
3. Middle school student mentors and Homework Clubs after school.
4. Peer leadership/mentor activities beginning in Middle school.
5. Mandate contact between teacher and parent/guardian during the first two weeks of the school year.

6. More professional development for effective differentiated instruction techniques that work. Research professional learning communities for teachers and administrators. More social/emotional programs beginning in preschool. Utilize differentiated instruction tools.

Roadblocks – Staffing for items 2 & 3, Contractual obligations and parental involvement for item 5 and Time and resources for item 6.

GOAL #2 – SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT REFLECTING DIVERSITY OF COMMUNITY WITH STRONG HOME AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

1. Actively create partnerships with religious and community organizations.
2. Embrace technology as an outreach resource.
3. Encourage community members to mentor students and operate clubs that promote problem solving and critical thinking.
4. Outreach to potential residents, offer school tours and form a welcoming committee.
5. Improved use of technology to communicate with parents in a timely fashion. Interactive, engaging parenting workshops, offer incentives to attend and offer at convenient times. Offer student/parent workshops/groups. Model positive parenting skills through interactive activities, beginning in preschool.
6. Foster educational and social opportunities for parochial/private/charter students to participate, such as a Community Science Fair.

Roadblocks – Limited ability of older adults and lack of access to computers for item 2, Fingerprint clearance for item 3, How do you identify potential stakeholders for item 4, Difficult to get information out to parents/students who need it for item 5, Resistance from other schools for item 6.

GOAL #3 – IMPROVED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

1. Grassroots coalition and campaign to foster involvement.
2. Mentoring programs across the grade levels.
3. Provide and expand early childhood information to community preschools. Establish an advisory committee to enrich community preschool experiences. Add resources to Kindergarten to support learners.
4. Set high expectations for students based on data assessments from standardized tests.
5. Set high expectations for teachers and provide appropriate professional development.
6. Reward students for improving performance. Create a “Scholar On the Rise” award program.

Roadblocks – Cultural differences, funding, supervision and organization for items 1, 2, 3 and 6.

GOAL #4 – IMPROVED USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AT ALL LEVELS AND PROMOTE STUDENT LEARNING

1. Conduct an infrastructure audit. Partner with businesses for equipment.
2. Use online textbooks.
3. Expand Skyward access to students.
4. Translate button on district website for non-English speaking parents.
5. Update software for compatibility with current programs.
6. Use of SmartBoards and train teachers to use them.

Roadblocks – Funding for items 1, 2, 5 and 6. Computer access at home for items 2 and 3.

Note: District website does have a Translate button.

GOAL #5 – EDUCATIONAL STAFF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

1. Make learning fun for students. Students should be motivated to learn on their own.
2. Working at all levels of student abilities.
3. Teacher evaluation should be independent of test scores. Teachers need better mentorships.
4. Ongoing and evolving professional development to improve teaching skills.
5. Parents and students should evaluate teachers.
6. Recognize and celebrate teacher academic success.

Roadblocks – Funding and providing training for items 2, 3, 4 and 6.

GOAL #6 – INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Expand MET program used at Whittier School.
2. More programs like the ACE mentoring program.
3. Mandatory internships for 11th and 12th grade students and a Career Fair.
4. Make free available resources known and communicated to families.
5. Create professional learning committees to discuss student assessment, teaching practices and improving performance.
6. Establish benchmark assessments that are aligned to the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Provide continuity and alignment of instruction at all elementary and middle schools.

Roadblocks – Funding and staffing for items 1, 2 and 3. Fear of changes and time for items 4, 5 and 6.

GOAL #7 – FISCAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Establish a non-profit education fund to accept grants and private donations from local vendors, major corporations and alumni.
2. Focus and showcase our diversity and uniqueness as a reason to donate.
3. Use resources that are already in the community that are free.
4. Offer a grant writing class/seminar to the community.
5. Build up the Teaneck High School Alumni Association.
6. Establish an annual golf outing.

Roadblocks – Lack of volunteers and funding for items 1, 4, 5 and 6.

Note: The Teaneck Organization for Public Schools (TOPS) is a non-profit education fund and has been in existence since 1991.

Dr. Ivory thanked the participants and the Board for the opportunity to work with the Teaneck community. The final minutes and results will be available and distributed within a few weeks.

Minutes of tonight's meeting will be sent to all participants that provided an e-mail address at sign-in.