

Strategic Planning Initiative
Meeting 1 - 11/20/2019

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On November 20, 2019, members of the Middle Township Public Schools community came together to initiate a strategic planning process to take the school district into the future. Parents, teachers, school administrators, support staff, Board of Education and general community members attended the meeting.

The focus of this planning session was “Middle Township Community Pride” ... what is working well in the Middle Township Schools. Participants worked in small groups to list their own points of pride and then shared their thinking during discussion with the other members of their group. Each of the groups summarized their consensus thinking around the idea of what is working well in the Middle Township Schools and then presented their thoughts to the full audience of workshop participants. A common sense of accomplishments in the school district quickly emerged. Individual participant thinking as well as small group consensus are reflected in the notes below.

The second planning session is scheduled for:

Expectations for the Future
Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 to 8:00 PM
Middle Township Middle School

We hope to see you!

Table 1:

Consensus Thinking

- Community (BOE, Parents, Staff, Businesses)
Support
Involvement
- Programs
Availability
Diversity (Academic, Extracurricular)
- Staff (Administration, Teachers, Support Staff)

Individual Thinking

1. Power of community (involvement/support)
Strong alumni support
Diverse population
Programs offered (wide range to meet needs)
AP
Academics
ICS & other support
Unique & talent students

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Supportive, caring staff
Extra-curricular (variety to find interest of all, always growing)
Place people want to return
 Community to raise family
 Come back to work where they went to school

2. Good
 Many graduates successful, some with extraordinary careers
 Stable School Board
 Preschool program – new facility to operate
 Community connections (relationships)
3. Programs
 Staff
 Diversity
 Community support
4. Youngest at table is designated spokesman
 School staffing
 Administration support for new programs
5. Students
 Teachers, Parents (PTO), Support staff
 Community involvement
 Building climate (Elem #2)
 Student character
 Programs (band, choir, drama)

Table 2

Consensus Thinking

- Strong community involvement
- Diversity (students)
- A variety of Clubs, Sports, and Arts

Individual Thinking

1. Small community family units that care
 Passion for helping families in need
 Fund raisers
 Clubs
 Value
 School pride
 Community (Board, School, Parents) open line of communication
 Administrative support for schools
 ACES Program

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2. Diversity
Location
Size (population, land)
Student rapport
Staff
Curriculum offerings
3. Community engaged
Value input/perspective
4. Staff
Transparency
Arts, Music & Drama
Parent Involvement
Diversity
5. Community feel
Safe environment
Teachers & Staff very respectful & professional
Ethnicity & diverse student body

Table 3

Consensus Thinking

- Parent organizations
- Diversity
- Sense of communication
- After school programs
- Dual Credits
- Parent Outreach (Facebook, Apps, Remind)
- Teachers & Administration

Individual Thinking

1. Teachers – good communication, willing to go above & beyond
Diversity – it's our strength & we embrace it
After School Programs – Sports, Step, Pink Panthers
Administration – Mr. Ortman is always willing to listen
Sense of Community – we are close-knit even though big community
PTO
PAWS
Apps – Remind, Class dojo, Facebook
2. Sport programs
Clubs at all schools

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- Vested employees
 - New Preschool facility & programming
 - Diversity – students, demographics
 - Thriving PTO
 - Professional Development offerings
 - Leadership at the schools with vast experiences
 - Teachers who care about students
 - Committee who look into ideas
 - SEL Initiative
 - Long standing Board members
 - HS programming (CTE, ACCC Dual Credit, Naval Cadet)
 - Police/Community collaboration
 - Sending District perspectives
 - Equity Committee – addresses the hard to talk about issues
 - Opportunities for kids to be a part of “something”
3. GT Programs
 - Technology outreach – Facebook, Remind, Google Apps, Teacher Websites
 - After school programming
 - Kids’ interest addressed
 - Supply the needs
 - Communicable aspects
 4. Communication with parents from administration and staff is awesome (the info is always put out there if you are willing to listen (Facebook, Remind, etc.)
 - Administration welcomes input from ALL staff
 - Open to parent groups being around
 - GT program for 5th+ graders now open to 4th grade
 - STEM program at #1
 - Our teaching staff go above and beyond for our students – coming early, staying late or even working through lunch/prep if a child needs them
 5. You can now earn an Associate degree by High School
 - Small town/family
 - Always improving to keep up with the latest trends and with technology
 - I like that my husband and I are both graduates
 6. Sports programs
 - Zigner’s website
 - Dual credit at HS
 - The teachers and administration know the children
 - Willingness to try new ideas
 - GT programs
 - It’s the right size – not too big but big enough to find someone like you

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Table 4

Consensus Thinking

- Great partnership (municipal, community organizations and members)
- Genuine pride in accomplishments and effective use of social media to communicate them
- Dedicated & creative teachers and staff who have high expectations
- Embrace the socioeconomic and demographic diversity in the community

Individual Thinking

1. My son gets to be with kids who are not exactly like him
Community involvement (St. Baldrick's, garden sales, etc.)
Sport games
Friendly staff
Like to have fun
Dedicated teachers
Resource officers
PAC
Drama program
Admin is open to trying new approaches
Opportunities for learning outside classroom – band trips, able to walk to community institutions, Mock Trial
2. Caring teachers
Challenges students
Working to improve every year
Available to parents – welcome involvement
Creative ways to motivate students
High level of expectation for students
Promotes diversity and inclusion
Celebrates accomplishments to the community through social media
3. Works with community partners to ensure children have positive and appropriate educational plans
Listens to parents and assists with addressing concerns
Promotes healthy and kid-friendly activities
Coordinates and facilitates programs such as strategic planning to make the schools better
Middle takes pride in extra-curricular activities
4. Engages alumni
Active community involvement
Caring faculty

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Comprehensive programs
BOE that does a lot with a little
Challenging and diverse curriculum
Works with municipal government effectively
Quality athletic program
Extra-curricular programs available at all levels
Stability in leadership positions
Embraces the socio-economic & demographic diversity in the community

Table 5

Consensus Thinking

- Diversity (students)
- Dedicated Faculty
- Broad Based Electives

Individual Thinking

1. Good base for a very good education
Diverse population leads to more well-rounded children with varying socioeconomic backgrounds
Dedicated staff
2. Diversity
Our students
Academic rigger
Courses offered
Faculty
Alignment of schools
Alignment of curriculum
Opportunities post high school
Opportunities extra-curricular
3. Performing Arts program
AP scores
Diversity
Faculty
Naval Cadet
Athletics
Course offerings
4. Report card on school
Graduation rate
Percentage to college

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Drop-out rate
Student enrollment protection

5. Better public information

Table 6

Consensus Thinking

- Parent-Teacher Communication
- Teachers who care
- Variety of opportunities (programs, activities, sports)
- Investing in improving facilities

Individual Thinking

1. Strong sense of community evident in schools & school events
Continue to offer growing and challenging programs
Several students entering top high level colleges and universities
Competitive athletic programs
Varied activities at all schools
2. Activities for kids
Few exceptional teachers
Parent/Teacher communication
Dress code
3. Teachers who care
Communication through Remind/Power School/Face Book (past year really improved)
Variety clubs, sports, activities to involve students
4. Investment into facilities
Caring teacher/administration
Use of technology
Acknowledgement of kids: sports/good grades
Things to get kids motivated

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Table 7

Consensus Thinking

- Academics
- Communication
- Supportive Teachers/Staff
- Panther Block
- School Spirit
- Diversity
- Clubs & Activities
- Community Support

Individual Thinking

1. Teachers – younger
Open communication with parents
Opportunities for students during/after school day
Safety
Proud of school
Diversity
2. Academics
PAWS program
Panther Block
Small classrooms & personal instructions (teachers know my child)
Diversity
Clubs & activities
3. Talented students
Supportive community
Dedicated staff
Resourceful
Wide range of academic programs
Active community partnership
Volunteerism
Support of those in need
School spirit
Strong AP/Honors program
Transparent
Good communication
4. Communication
Academics
Kids feel safe in school
Teachers

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Panther Block time
Kids are proud of their school

Table 8

Consensus Thinking

- Diversity of student body
- Dedicated staff
- Wide variety of extracurricular activities
- Emphasis on aesthetics/curb appeal

Individual Thinking

1. Most staff and faculty members care about all students, regardless of background
Administration open to new ideas and listens to faculty
Administration able to take new ideas and turn into action
Large range of student demographics -> diversity
Strong athletic program
Graduates attend very competitive colleges
2. Middle school energy and desire to help students
Dedicated staff
Diversity is our strength
School/Community communication
3. Name buildings – remove numbers #1/#2/#4
Better communication with community
4. Students
Staff
New additions (pre-k)
Improving infrastructure
Diversity of ideas (staff)
5. Dual enrollment opportunities
Dedicated staff/faculty
Diversity of student body

Table 9

Consensus Thinking

- Sense of Community
- Caring/Invested Staff

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- Community Support
- Safe

Individual Thinking

1. Sense of community
Safe
Caring staff
Values opinions
Sports
Community support
2. Close knit community
Cheers Mentality “where everybody knows your name”
Small #'s
Alumni investment
Inviting staff
Student Recognition
3. People
Instructional – leadership/vision/co-op
Staff – top/bottom
Parental involvement
4. Sense of community
Sports
Activities
Pre-school
Teachers
Staff
Community Support

Table 10

Consensus Thinking

- Attitudes
- Dedication to students “can’t not do it”
- Entire staff is great – teachers to support staff
- All the offerings – something for everyone – academic to extracurricular

Individual Thinking

1. Work as a community
Teachers care

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Put students first
Extensive offerings for High School Students
AP, College Program, Clubs, Sports
Innovative ways to challenge students at all levels

2. Diverse
Uniforms
Sports program
Good after-school activities
3. Diverse student body
Student services/support; ESL, Special Education, etc.
ACCC Partnership
Expanding post high school options, College credits while in HS
Large offerings of extracurricular activities (something for everyone)
Clubs, Sports, Drama
Staff & Teachers go above and beyond the call of duty
4. Dual enrollment
Sports
Mock Trial
Teachers
Facilities
Programs
Drama
Plays
Athletic Director
Music
Band
Choir
Navy Program
Diversity
Support Staff
AP Courses
ELL/Spec Ed/504/BSI

Table 11 **Consensus Thinking**

- Academic
- Diverse student population
- Athletics
- PAC
- Teaching Staff

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- Innovation
- Exceptional

Individual Thinking

1. Staff/Students
 - Academics (all buildings)
 - Athletics
 - PAC
 - Facilities
 - Diversity
 - Unity
 - School Spirit
 - Pride
 - Sense of community
2. Diversity
 - Great teachers
 - Choices of academic paths
 - Academies
 - Variety of sports
 - Intervention teams
 - Students
 - The AD is the bomb
3. Welcoming environment/staff
 - Panther Block/Afterschool activities
 - Diverse student body
 - Experienced staff
 - PAC
 - Environmental upgrades
4. Diversity
 - Informative app (Power school)
 - Sports programs
 - Panther Block
 - Friendly and helpful staff