

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 06, 2015

The Hillsborough Township Board of Education will be conducting a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at the Auten Road Intermediate School library, 281 Auten Road. Action will not be taken at this meeting.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dana Boguszewski, Deena Centofanti, Debashis Dutta, Judith C. Haas, Jennifer Haley, Thomas Kinst, and Lorraine Soisson

ABSENT

Steve Cohen and Greg Gillette

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lisa M. Antunes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Mr. Aiman Mahmoud, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Matthew Bouldin, Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, many other members of Board of Education Administration and many citizens of the Township of Hillsborough including parents, teachers and interested parties.

What is working well/Hillsborough pride

On Tuesday, October 6, Hillsborough Township community members, Board of Education members, teachers and staff, and administration came together to initiate development of a strategic plan that will launch school improvement work for the next three to five years.

During Session 1, meeting participants identified points of pride about what is working well in the HT School District. What follows is a summary of the work undertaken on October 6. The small group consensus of each working group follows a summary of the individual thinking of each person in the small group. Each group made presentations of their consensus on three to five points of pride about what is working well in the HT Public Schools.

The next strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Session 2: Expectations for the Future

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 to 8:30pm

Auten Road Intermediate School

We hope to see you there...and bring another person with you!

Group 1

CONSENSUS

1. Boro pride/community
 - a. Involvement/fun (programs)
2. Technology
3. Diversity of quality educational programs (from Pre-K to Special education to REACH)
4. Quality of staff/teachers/administrators
5. Liberal arts (music, foreign language, etc.)
- 6.

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. One on one technology/technology integration (forefront of change)
2. REACH in elementary schools
3. Advanced classes in HMS and HHS/Rigorous academic programs with diverse offerings for advanced learners to excel
4. Foreign languages in elementary schools and beyond
5. Music program in ARIS +
6. Introducing and fostering collaboration in students' studies (projects, etc)
7. Great administration and teachers (caring, talented, effective, always available, will do extra)
8. Keeping some fun in school
9. Programs that reach beyond the classrooms to other countries
10. Lots of extra curricular programs (sports, robotics, band, theatre, etc)
11. Preschool classes
12. Very positive investment in special education opportunities/supports/services for all types of learners and to include students with disabilities
13. Very positive/supportive social and emotional environments in school for all children
14. Strong families and active/positive students with good focus on learning as a value
15. Boro pride/school spirit (spirit night, special school days, class togetherness)
16. Organized (district notifications, alerts, communications)
17. Education
18. Safe town (voted best place to live)
19. Duke Farms
20. Numerous history
21. Farms
22. Excellent schools

Group 2

CONSENSUS

1. HSA
2. Library
3. Technology

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Children seem nice
2. Robotics
3. NHD Club
4. Technology
5. HSA
6. Good library system
7. Surveys
8. Teaching two languages in elementary
9. Overall curriculum
10. Music program
11. Good recreation sports
12. Special lunch menus

Group 3

CONSENSUS

1. People (every stakeholder)
2. Technology
3. Academics, arts, athletics (curricular, co-curricular)
4. Culture

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Meeting and embracing the varied interests of the student/program offerings (STEM, athletics, arts, etc)
2. Integration of literacy, science, cross-curricular connections at K-4 level
3. STEM focus at HMS
4. Student-centered learning experiences which foster critical thinking and problem solving
5. Strong teacher/student connections; positive teacher/parent, student/community relationships (open lines of communication)
6. Technology infusion for the purposes of promoting learning and connecting students, promoting collaboration and supporting student asynchronous learning (Chromebooks, computers, overhead/mics)
7. Partnerships with RVCC, Duke Farms, local community business and families
8. Teachers (skills, tenure, passionate, well educated, engaging)
9. Implementation of technology
10. Values (respect, caring, genuine, empathy)
11. Administrators
12. Student integration

13. Opportunities to give back or come back for graduates
14. Open communication/dialogue
15. Innovative
16. Curriculum (course programs including music, academic, phys ed, language, clubs)
17. Support and guidance
18. Role models
19. Community support (community is very interested in the success of the schools)
20. System as a whole/infrastructure
21. Professional development
22. Great opportunity
23. Work ethic
24. Kid focus
25. Passion
26. AP classes/college credits/advanced learning
27. Sports (diversity/high accomplishments, students are engaged)
28. Awards (Blue ribbon)
29. Longevity (at the top/history)
30. Special education (inclusionary/addressing everyone's needs)
31. Parent involvement
32. Students enjoy participating/are excited to learn
33. Students feel welcome and safe in their classrooms

Group 4

CONSENSUS

1. Technology (continue to expand use)
2. Renewable energy sources
3. Teaching staff and curriculum (diversity)

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. 1:1 technology initiative
2. Voted best place to live
3. Special services department
4. Curriculum (keeping the related arts and building STEM)\
 - a. Idea for career readiness: diversity in the curriculum - maybe have HHS students choose a major like Red Bank Regional
5. Taxes have not been raised yet the quality of education has risen (e.g., changing the middle school start time to save money on transportation)
6. Take/get credit for taking college level courses
7. Robotics program
8. Ideas
 - a. Remote classes - less lost time

- b. Vocational education
- c. 50% energy from renewable resources
- 9. Attention to children with learning disabilities
- 10. Home and school communication

Group 5

CONSENSUS

- 1. Extensive extra curricular activity programs
- 2. Extensive use of technology in the teaching process
- 3. Great appreciation for skilled teachers who adopt to the learning requirements of the students

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

- 1. Athletics profile
- 2. Bond
- 3. Diverse communication without major issues
- 4. Little knowledge of school activities without students enrolled
- 5. NJ are foster emphasis on education
- 6. Top ranked high school
- 7. IT incorporated into classrooms
- 8. External recognition/history and recognition of blue ribbon schools
- 9. Extracurricular offerings are diverse
- 10. Aftercare options are available
- 11. Healthy offerings in the cafeterias
- 12. Special programs for children that start for fall behind in elementary schools
- 13. Wide variety of rotating specials
- 14. 1 on 1 model at 5-12
- 15. Young teachers enthusiasm for core and IT inclusion
- 16. Sports (some)
- 17. Music program at ARIS/HMS/HHS
- 18. Theatre at HHS
- 19. Principal at HMS
- 20. Tech-ed (since wood shop was revamped)
- 21. Diverse and cohesive community
- 22. Differences in schools (each elementary school difference in procedure)
- 23. Learning parts of subjects
- 24. New teachers/new ideas
- 25. Diversity not celebrated
- 26. Outside organizations that want to help
- 27. No longer blue ribbon schools
- 28. Aging out of teachers
- 29. What happens to move teachers on

30. When is competition too much

Group 6

CONSENSUS

1. Strong exposure to and use of technology
2. Strong teachers
3. Programs that address students' needs
4. Communication between school/family/community

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. The ability to change
2. The diversity of our teaching and learning community
3. The myriad of programs that we offer our students
4. The belief that we have in our students
5. Hiring and sustaining quality teachers
6. Strong technology integration (smart boards and teacher microphones) and innovation and computer skills
7. Meeting the needs of all students (especially special education)
8. Strong community support/relationships (communication)
9. Great music program and teachers
10. Excellent high school curriculum to support all learning levels of students
11. Identification and support of "at risk" students (push-in/pull-out instruction)

Group 7

CONSENSUS

1. Technology
2. Reputation
3. Teachers extraordinary
4. Student programs (especially after-school and extracurricular)
5. Diversification and growing

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Great student programs
2. Safe environment
3. Good police presence at student events
4. Clean schools (school physical environment very uplifting/positive)
5. Teachers are very caring, dedicated to children (passionate teachers and students about learning)

6. Great sport opportunity/extracurricular activities (wonderful after school programs that allow for discovery and application)
7. Diversification
8. Focus on good self esteem
9. Reputation (scores)
10. Parent involvement
11. Foreign language
12. Music program
13. Basic skills
14. Specials (art, gym, music, REACH)
15. Technology in the classrooms
16. Special needs classes
17. Athletics
18. Availability of administrative staff
19. Community and school relations
20. Capable and strong graduates
21. Each student in grades 6-12 have computers, chromebooks
22. Have air conditioned the high school classrooms
23. Safe community with a strong focus on academics
24. Improved and expanded world language program (now includes Chinese as one of the choices for students)
25. Provide many clubs and activities for students

Group 8

CONSENSUS

1. Technology
 - a. Portal
 - b. 1:1 initiative
 - c. Global exposure
2. Community
 - a. Teachers
 - b. Staff
 - c. HSA
3. Extra curriculars
 - a. Sports
 - b. Performing arts
 - c. Robotics

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Genesis (parent portal)
2. 1:1 initiative

- a. Good opportunities
 - b. Name for Hillsborough in US
3. Language choices
4. Teachers/staff (coach students to do better than the day before rather than teach to the test)
5. Activities
6. One extracurricular club truly prepares students for entering the workforce
 - a. Boys work with girls to solve real world problems
 - b. Compete cooperatively
 - c. Public speaking
 - d. Email correspondence to large demographic
 - e. Business and scientific software used
7. Some teachers really use the new technology to entice interest and encourage learning
8. Critical thinking is encouraged
9. Excellent language arts
10. Spanish, Chinese
11. Good extracurriculars
12. Sports - HHS (football, XC, swimming, etc.)
 - a. Elite competitors
 - b. Right focus/sportsmanship
 - c. Good feeder at HMS
13. Performing arts
 - a. HHS theatre
 - b. Marching band
 - c. Good feeder at HMS
14. "Local" elementary schools - good community
15. Teacher/are of and from community
16. Grading of kids
17. Individual school PTO/HSA
18. Reading programs
19. Project-based assignments
20. Teammates

Group 9

CONSENSUS

1. Communication... all around
2. Technology adoption
3. Special education program
4. Guidance counselor involvement
5. Teaching staff... keeping top talent

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Specific guidelines and rules that are strictly enforced
2. Course offerings are well rounded, effectively preparing students for the challenges ahead
3. Exceptional guidance at every level
4. 504 team at high school
5. HHS guidance team
6. School alert system
7. Technology integration and initiatives (chromebooks)
8. Improved and excellent communication (administration, parents, staff, students, community)
9. Cost effective improvements to our facilities
10. Responsible budget planning (for the most part)
11. Foreign language offerings
12. Ability to attract top talent every time a position becomes vacant because of our reputation (hiring and retaining excellent staff)
13. Star special education program
14. Increasing test scores compared to surrounding areas
15. Community pride
16. Phenomenal teachers
17. Support services
18. Diverse co-curricular activities
19. Involved administration
20. REACH program
21. Staff professional development
22. Emphasis on student responsibility for learning
23. Strategic use of resources when limited
24. High level of student involvement
25. Personal accommodations

Group 10

CONSENSUS

1. Effective communication via social media, website, newsletter
2. Strong variety of extracurricular and academic offerings
3. Committed and caring educators
4. High quality special education programs
5. Great parent involvement and community partnerships

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Good special education program
2. Easy access to information
3. Try hard to recruit parents (active Home and School community activities)/ community generally supports kids' academics and extracurriculars with involvement, extra help, boosters, volunteers
4. Extra help for math and reading for 1st graders

5. Good social media outreach
6. Variety of classes
7. Great extracurriculars and sports choices (easy to be involved, very comprehensive offerings for all interests)
8. Value placed on whole student
9. Community and parental involvement and support
10. Always working toward emphasis best practices and technology in the classroom
11. Dedicated and caring teaching staff
12. "Forward thinking" district
13. Many of our kids do well in their future endeavors; report back no problems/surviving college
14. Positive stability in school administration (Ms. Bingert, Dr. Trybulski, etc. have great track record)
15. Teachers who live in Hillsborough and take great pride in teaching here - at all levels
16. Each grade span has been very age-appropriate
17. Access to teachers
18. Communication from school
19. Involving parents in Board of Education discussions (meetings, availability of minutes online)
20. Children's access to technology to enhance curriculum
21. Schools are secure and safe for our children
22. Teachers really care about kids
23. Curriculum is constantly revised based on best practices

Group 11

CONSENSUS

1. Technology initiative (1-to-1, ubiquitous integration, partnership with Google)
2. Matt curriculum (rigor, hands on) (we are only familiar with K-6)
3. School culture (dedication of staff, staff development)

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Staff (dedicated)
2. Technology (integration in the classroom)
3. Elementary math curriculum (rigor is good)
4. School culture
5. Website updated, a lot of info
6. Have kept updated with increase in enrollment with respect to diversity (Hillsborough population and we have prepared well)
7. Safety
8. Staff development
9. Caring and safe environment that students enjoy

Group 12

CONSENSUS

1. Teachers/communication
2. Technology
3. Nutrition/lunches
4. Program offerings
 - a. Support

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Trends
2. Class size
3. Quality of teachers (hire a well vetted staff)
4. Accessibility to teachers (communication with parents on issues within the classroom or with individual student behavior)
5. Activities (selection at ARIS)
6. Technology program (good plan for integration, children's use of their 1:1 devices as normal part of learning process, access in classroom)
7. Language program
8. Love that teach handwriting (script)
9. HSAs
10. Lunch programs
11. REACH program
12. Related arts
13. We have seen increased student achievement over the past several years
14. We offer a wide variety of programs and courses throughout the district, especially at the upper level schools
15. District does not rest on its laurels, always looking to improve and grow as evident by the strategic planning sessions
16. Services provided (OT, speech)
17. Integration of special needs students (mainstreaming)
18. Placement of students in special needs program (often difficult to place students on the spectrum in the right program)
19. Quality of special education teachers (in my experience all are exceptional with a range of disabilities within the classroom)

Group 13

CONSENSUS

1. Communication
2. Technology

3. Special services
4. Focus on students/achievements
5. Staff

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Focus on students and learning
2. Caring and compassionate staff (all)
3. Technology (1:1, in classroom)
4. Professionalism and hiring great people
5. High expectations for achievement and willingness to examine the data and willingness (excitement) to build programs
6. Listening and communication
7. Building our Hillsborough culture
8. Continuing to focus on building good citizens
9. Communication from principal/main office regarding important events/dates
10. Structure of 6-day cycle and daily structure of activities in classroom
11. Communication from district of important information (in many different types of media) and Genesis
12. Expanded intramural activities and clubs from ARIS and up
13. Expansion of foreign languages and earlier introduction
14. Great programs for children with special needs
15. Active parent populations (especially at elementary schools)
16. ESIP program allowed for future improvements (AC - Yeah!)
17. Learning opportunities for staff
18. Strong early intervention program (active teachers)
19. Additional therapy services (speech, OT)
20. Quality integration of special needs children with typical learning/developing children
21. Good transportation services (including aides on buses for special needs meets the needs well)
22. Respite nights offered

Group 14

CONSENSUS

1. Strong sense of community supported throughout the school district (being in elementary for 5 years)
2. Technology
 - a. Student vested
 - b. Teacher vested
3. Strong academic and extracurricular program
 - a. Foreign language
 - b. Clubs
 - c. Music

- d. Athletics
- e. Elective programs

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Good technology (use of)
2. Moving toward “green” solution
3. Good transition from elementary to intermediate to middle
4. Good adoption by teachers to technology
5. Have the foreign language program
6. Some level of varied learning (proficient, advanced)
7. CAP program in good
8. Collaborative learning
9. Kids getting to use technology carts
10. Good reputation in central Jersey
11. K-12 experience is good
12. Quality teachers that appropriately challenge students
13. A sense of pride in education/learning
14. Strong, unified community (geographically, culturally)
15. Good “school” flow in Hillsborough
16. Rich elective program
17. Athletic tradition
18. Consistent/tradition of academic excellence

Group 15

CONSENSUS

1. Technology and training
2. Caring community
 - a. Clean schools
 - b. Consistent policies/procedures
 - c. Openness of teachers/staff
3. Individualized approach - each child seen as their own entity

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Focus on student learning
2. Technology (1:1, training)
3. Professional development for teachers/administrators
4. Sense of community - staff, students, town are all caring
5. Hire top notch teachers (caring)
6. Extracurricular opportunities for students

7. Getting kids ready for each level (HMS to HHS)
8. Summer courses (Enrichment)
9. Openness of the teachers with parents
10. English/SS individualized programs
11. Community/keeping us informed of what's going on
12. School pride and cleanliness (spirit)
13. Continuity between elementary schools with policies and procedures
14. Timely response by teachers and administration
15. Meets individualized needs even at young age

Group 16

CONSENSUS

1. Effective and efficient use of technology
2. Robust world language program
3. Excellent teachers and administration (including the Child Study Team)
4. Early literacy and math programing (including ASI)
5. Balanced and responsible use of social media and email

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Transition for new students (K) into a school program
2. Responsible use of social media and email
3. Pace of learning and balance of education and play
4. Transportation (bus drivers punctual and friendly)
5. Emphasis and clear directions to parents for continuity at home
6. Transition primary
7. World language program
8. REACH
9. Schoolwide
10. Foundations
11. Everyday Math
12. PARCC ready
13. Delivery of instruction
14. Excellent teachers/administration
15. Technology
16. CST is awesome
17. Reading/math groups
18. ASI fluid and flexible
19. IRLA
20. Table time (Raz reading)
21. Google Docs (virtual conferencing during writing time)
22. Weekly Reader

Group 17

CONSENSUS

1. Pride in schools
2. Well-rounded offerings inside and outside of the classroom/school day
3. Community/parent involvement
4. Use of technology

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Inclusion of technology (chromebooks, online assignments)
2. REACH
3. iRun Program
4. Incorporation of parents in all aspects (community/parent involvement)
5. World language starts early
6. A high percentage of faculty/staff that really care about making a difference (come in early/stay late to give extra help, emailable)
7. Variety of classes begins early (well-rounded)
8. Pride in schools (community)
9. Parent involvement for school fundraising - HSAs have extra money to help schools
10. Programs before and after school expand what the kids do during the day (e.g., clubs, sports, music, etc.)
11. Before and after school care by Catholic Charities for younger kids
12. Safety
13. Parents in the classrooms (K-6 grades) helping and teaching Life Skills
14. Field trips
15. Programs like anti-bullying/BoroSafe
16. Attaining good teachers
17. Ability to accommodate special needs learners
18. Level of achievement in the arts

Public Comment on New/Old Business

Many members of the public made additional comments about what is working well in Hillsborough

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Haley and seconded by Mr. Dutta to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Aiman Mahmoud
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary