

Hillsborough Township Public Schools

Strategic Planning Meeting (Public Night #3)

November 18, 2015

Confirming our Future / Action Plan:

(The top three ideas that were reported out are numbered with additional ideas listed below those, the first idea of each group is the “money is no object idea”, the second two numbered ideas involve little or no money to make them happen.)

GOAL 1: MAXIMIZE CAREER READINESS

Group A:

1. Vocational programs/trade education within our high school
2. Partner with local large corporations to identify skills which would make individuals prepared for successful employment after high school
3. Observe what other districts are doing that is successful so that we might implement the best practices

Other ideas:

- Focus on well-rounded person
- Fostering independent thinking
- Cross-curricular problem solving
- Collaboration and communication skills
- Similar to college readiness
- Top-down curriculum to connect disciplines
- Are our students well read? Are they critical readers? Can they write well?
- Understand similarities and differences between high school to career and high school to college to career
- Eliminate the alienation for students pursuing vo-tech
- Prepare students for self driven learning
- How about culture? (music, art, theatre)
- Can kids relate to other cultures?
- Social media and email etiquette

Group B:

1. Apprenticeships/Co-ops/Vocational programs w/credit and certification/concept to fruition program (STEM/STEAM)/Internships/Externships both for regular developing students as well as those with special needs
2. Communication skills - not losing sight of writing, explaining, expressive skills
3. Mentoring and shadowing according to student interests (survey students and community members)

Other Ideas:

- International exposure
- Arts development
- Guidance for college and career process
- Increase choices in electives at the middle school
- “Shark Tank” experience - HS
- Makerspaces
- Revision of daily schedules to allow for more choice (not limited by “scheduling choices”)
- World language immersion experiences
- Exposure to career experiences
- Study abroad and welcome exchange students
- Kids take a “shop” class

Group C:

1. HS Academies
2. Expand Naviance
3. Co-op/Internship partnerships (including learning disabled children)

Other Ideas:

- Exploration of career opportunities/options
- Resume
- Vo-tech Program
- ROTC
- Expand world languages
- New high school/schedule
- Block schedule
- Rotating/drop
- Survey courses at high school
- More career oriented clubs (funding)
- Coding/more unique courses
- Expand STEM/ AP programming

- Expand STREAM
- Air conditioning
- Teacher training for technology
- Virtual class experiences
- Support 1:1 initiative
- Integrate practical life skills into core classes - finances, etc
- Exchange student program
- Magnet/academy
- Online courses
- Concurrent enrollment
- International engagement
- Internship program within the local community
- Activity period at HMS (more than channel 1)

GOAL 2: MAXIMIZE COLLEGE READINESS

Group A:

1. All day Kindergarten
2. Mixed grade learning
3. Block scheduling to add extra class

Other Ideas:

- ROTC
- Academic programs focusing on career writing
- 3 months on, 1 month off school year (very complex and difficult for parents and children)
- Expansion of STEM and arts and foreign language
- Expansion of STREAM
- Incorporation of career exploration (early ed and high school)
- Guidance counselors in all schools with career training
- Academies at high school
- Increase concurrent enrollment
- Community internship options
- Community service opportunities
- Online courses
- Rotating drop scheduling
- Revise start times
- Tutoring sessions (student to student)
- Expand Naviance (how to use to fullest extent)

- AP courses

Group B:

1. Build a new state of the art HS with expanded curriculum
2. College credit classes in high school
3. Revise schedule for more electives at high school

Other Ideas:

- Prepare staff to teach concurrent enrollment
- Extending keyboarding
- Hybrid online/in-person opportunities for self-directed learning
- Summer school
 - Earn credits
 - Remediation
 - Advancement
- Individualized guidance
- “Real world” experiences through partnerships with local businesses
- Study skills at upper grades
- 9th graders freshman experience
- Allow kids to change themselves
- Performing arts center
- Internship program
- Increase STEM
- Increase STEAM
- College specialist
- Early childhood center
- Full day PreK/K
- Flexible bell schedules
- Communication (oral/written)
- Time management for being productive and for leisure

Group C

1. Improve facility (at high school) to eliminate the limitations of current setting
2. Improve student communication across all media
3. Increase college connection

Other Ideas:

- Globalized curriculum
 - Courses/activities involving multi-cultural experiences

- A/B block to teach students time management
- More focus on economics and life applicable skills
- Flipped classrooms
- Student driven classroom
- Independent problem solving and thinking persistence
- Address coping skills to face adversities
- Advocate for students who test less than proficient
- College counseling
- Earlier college administration prep
- What does college readiness mean? Is it the same for every college and student?

GOAL 3: INDIVIDUALIZE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Group A:

1. Reduce class size
2. Individualized and relevant professional development
3. Group by ability/interest rather than grade and project based learning

Other Ideas:

- Is our school/house in order for this work?
 - Facilities (space, HVAC, resources) # of classrooms
 - Stress levels of students and staff
 - Days and hours needed for the work
- Restructuring PreK-1 for academic and developmental appropriate
- Eliminate TP
- Full day K
- More flexible scheduling /online courses
- Foreign exchange programs
- Mandatory tutoring/remediation
 - Centers in the building?
 - Based on what? Academic progress, enrichment
- Capitalize on children's individualized talents and abilities
- STEAM
- Demand based elective opportunities
- More time for teachers to mentor independent studies
- More asynchronous study opportunities
- Investigate partnering with other institutions for courses we do not offer

Group B:

1. Improved/expanded facilities to allow scheduling flexibility
2. Partner with international schools
3. More levels at early grades

Other Ideas:

- More flexible daily schedules to allow for more student choice (band at the expense of other electives)
- Academies (not just at high school)
- Offer vocational (trade) training in Hillsborough
- Integrate life skills - perhaps specific classes
- Late bus for extra help
 - After school tutoring built in as a study skills opportunity for all
- Multilingual exposure daily
- CST at each elementary
- Concentration of resources (including full day PreK and K) at the early levels as intervention prior to academic failure or referral
- Gifted and talented individualized pull-out/study
- Provide technology to more individualize the classroom experience
- After school tutoring/homework
- Co-op and other community connections for career exposure

Group C:

1. Academies at the high school
2. Online courses
3. Gifted and talented program with specialists

Other Ideas:

- Internships
- Co-op
- Vo-tech
- Block scheduling (to add more elective options)
- Appropriate spaces for all classes and clubs
 - Robotics
 - AAs
 - Swimming
 - STEM
 - Computer language
- Add robotics classes

- Online courses linked to graduation requirements
- Online courses instead of snow days
- Gifted and talented program early on (4th grade)
- Bring real world company into schools as model
- Expand Chromebook 1:1 initiative to younger grades
- Teacher training on tablet use
- Center based full day Kindergarten
- Multiple intelligences
- Real world on-site learning
- Expansion of REACH program
- Upgrade infrastructure
- Full day PreK
- More arts opportunities
- Job sustainability (particularly for non-college bound students)
- Different teaching modalities
- ROTC
- Metal working classes (like wood shop)
- Garden for each school and compost also

GOAL 4: INSTILL INDEPENDENCE, CRITICAL THINKING, RESILIENCE

Group A:

1. Full day Kindergarten
 - a. Independence at a younger age, center based learning
2. More advanced/STEM earlier (4th or 5th grade)
3. Allow more choices at a younger age
 - a. World language choices in grammar school

Other Ideas:

- Include more real world problem solving across the curriculum
- More diverse courses
- More STREAM
- Full day PreK
- Facilitate a more diverse educational experience through creative scheduling
- HS modeled like college
 - Course timing
 - Buildings by disciplines
- Guidance counselors at all school

- Incorporate coping skills/social skills across the curriculum at all grade levels
- Block scheduling
- Diverse clubs
- Small class sizes
- Mixed grade learning
- More teachers that know different teaching modalities
- Including online courses to graduation requirements
- Online coordination with universities
- Incorporate resiliency courses at all levels
 - Interpersonal problem solving
 - Health and PE (stress management)

Group B:

1. Parental outreach/education/support
2. Full day PreK/K
3. Mental health support, resources

Other Ideas:

- Building children's/teen resilience
- Less standardized testing, more in-district relevance
- Any new buildings should meet LEED standards even if not certified
- Screening for K-2 (earlier the better)
- Increase STEM at all levels
- Resources for response to signs of dyslexia
- Smaller class sizes
- Gifted talent
 - An expansion that uniquely fits student needs
- Multilingual exposure from PreK on daily
- Political science classes
- More emphasis on STEAM
- Current events
- Surviving/management failure/stress
- Open ended problem solution situations where the "process" is the goal
- Develop student and staff learning a lot growth mindset and effective habits (similar language)
- Peer discussion groups
- Drug/alcohol awareness programs
- Study skills classes

Group C:

1. Reduced class sizes (CP and all classes)
 - a. Redistribute grade levels within schools
 - b. Achieved through staff and facility changes
2. Safe environment for failure - pick back up (the importance of lessons learned)
3. Life coaching (financial literacy and coping skills)

Other Ideas:

- Funded "hands-on" learning (internships and co-ops)
- Expand online
- Increase independent study
- Soccer/turf field
- SOLE - Self Organized Learning Experience
- Constructive debate in classroom
- Expand intramural sports
- Explicit instruction in executive functioning
- Business leadership? Define?
- Offering professional development for teachers in business areas
- Project based learning that is graded on critical thinking
- Limit focus on "right" answer
 - Multiple ways to approach problems
- Self directed learning
- Choice in how students go about learning
- Online classes to free up time in schedules
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GOAL 5: INCREASE TIES WITH THE COMMUNITY

Group A:

1. Intergenerational activities
2. Brag about accomplishments
3. Wish we could partner with local businesses to foster volunteerism and work readiness

Other Ideas:

- State of the art sports facilities increase community participation, attendance and revenue

- Alumni based sporting events
- Soccer complex
- Swim complex
- Mentorships among students and grade levels
- Mentorships with community members and students
- Increased advertising for district events (sports, plays, etc.)
- Reciprocity partnerships with community/businesses
- Research the opportunities that are already out there and if they are successful or valued
- Ask community members what needs the school could fulfill and that they are willing to work with us on
- Performing arts center
 - Bring in specialists/local events
- Maker space
- Community service projects in community or state
- Bring awareness of community (local) issues to students
- Foster community connections that students and staff can participate in
- Spirit of volunteerism

Group B:

1. Performing arts center
2. Hotline (stress/teen)
3. Co-op/apprenticeships with local businesses

Other Ideas:

- Academic programs that encourage opportunities
 - International engagement
 - Online courses
 - Enrichment
 - Internships with professionals in the field
 - Arts, music, dancing
 - Real world learning
- Coding/engineering activities
- Retiree interaction (kid to senior, senior to kid)
- Volunteerism
- Speakers nominated by student (in person or by video conference)
- Local competitions
- Charitable activities
- High school vo-tech program available to community members

- Facilitate opportunities to interact with animals

Group C:

1. Arts center
2. Student internships
3. Better promotion of school events throughout the community

Other Ideas:

- Relationships with local businesses
 - Educational/exposure (not \$)
- Co-op
- Clubs and community based internships from elementary school
- Provide more counselors with real world connection
- Routine appointments with guidance counselors
- State of the art facility (high school) where offer adult learning opportunities,
 - Include pool for swim lessons
 - Enhanced summer camps
 - Community space
- Increase funding for theatre/arts
- Improvement of athletic facilities - used by community
- Community talks/career day/entrepreneur
- Volunteering
- Toastmasters for kids/public speaking opportunities
- Use schools as community centers with course offerings

GOAL 6: INCREASE TIES WITH THE WORLD

Group A:

1. Extended language time in K-4 with broader language choices
 - a. More enhance language curriculum and allow personal choices
 - b. By sampling more languages in elementary they will make better choices in 5th grade
 - c. Include sign language
 - d. Virtual classroom/virtual exchange student
2. Increase opportunities (Skype, etc) to interact with other classrooms
3. Mandatory volunteering time

Other Ideas:

- Increased cultural learning (festivities, etc)
- Offer participation for high school to take classes online from other countries
- Offer community and world based club from elementary school (community involvement, world community)
- More robust language program
- Pen pals (written in other languages)
- Performing arts center - funding for the arts
- Class trips/assemblies/summer abroad
- Exchange student program
- Teach tolerance/empathy from grade PreK and up
- Expand Google Explorations
- Appropriate exposure to current events
 - CNN news in Channel One
 - HS TVs
- International engagement
- Study music and arts across all cultures and societies

Group B:

1. World language/Exchange students
2. Cultural clubs
3. Facetiming/etc with other countries

Other Ideas:

- Spanish bilingual option for elementary
- American sign language
- Chinese
- Online courses - college credit
- Summer enrichment for summer
- Summer trips abroad
- Academic programs/college awareness overseas
- More group activities/club interactions with other nations
- Peer mentoring programs
- Cross cultural peer mentoring programs
- International opportunities
- Exchange opportunities
- Distance learning
- Multilanguages
- Pen pals

- Info about “gap year” and NGO opportunities
- Global idea exchange
 - Partnership with schools in other countries
- International nights
 - Showcase culture
- Speakers presenting aspects of the world
- Providing technological infrastructure to keep up with (prepare for) changes in our world
- Increase exposure/experience to world current events
- Financial exposure
 - Stock market, CDs, check books, investments
- Speakers presenting aspects of the world

Group C:

1. Student exchange program (International and domestic)
2. Host international activities
3. Investigate distance learning in and with other countries
 - a. Virtual field trips
 - b. Partnering with remote schools on student projects

Other Ideas:

- Class trips to other countries
- Emphasize world activities rather just USA activities
 - Robotics
 - Culinary arts
 - Arts
- Become familiar with other countries’ curriculums/share ideas
- Encourage social media international exchange of ideas and shared learning
- Focus curriculum on world events
- Analytical viewer of world, responsible consumers, ethical decision making
- Encourage looking at world through global perspective and not just American
- Historical and economic influences on cultures
- Service learning opportunities and requirements/volunteer
- Diversity training
- Interdisciplinary course offerings/team teaching
 - Ex: history and literature