



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Red Bank Charter School

Mission Statement

The Red Bank Charter School believes that celebrating individuality, appreciating cultural diversity, mastering conflict resolution, and insisting on accountability by all is a foundation for good citizenship.

The Red Bank Charter School is grounded in three bedrock beliefs:

- 1. All Children Can Learn*
- 2. All Children Must Care for Themselves and Others*
- 3. All Children Should Contribute to Their Larger World*

Session 2

Developing a Vision & Initiatives for the Red Bank Charter School

On May 15, 2023, Red Bank Charter School administrators, Board of Trustee members, staff, parents, and community members, thirty-four (34) in all, came together to initiate strategic planning. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, Ms. Donna McCourt and Dr. Kristen Martello, Head of School. Mary Ann Friedman from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was introduced and explained the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on creating a shared vision for the Red Bank Charter School. Participants were asked to picture themselves, having been away from the school for 5 years, returning to Red Bank Charter School and seeing their school on the cover of TIME magazine. The article is about Schools that Succeed. In addition to the current programs already in place in Red Bank Charter School, what programs/services/curriculum/student outcomes/best practices/facilities would you expect to see in your school that is succeeding? Participants were encouraged to think “big picture.”

Participants gathered in seven randomly assigned groups to develop a shared vision and initiatives. The small groups reviewed the outcomes from Meeting #1, strengths, and challenges, and then began brainstorming on their vision for the school. After group discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

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 school website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Small Group Consensus: Vision & Initiatives

Group 1:

Title of Article: "RBCS Meets the Needs of Students, Teachers, and Community"

Initiatives:

- Financial Health
 - Foundation creates endowment to cover ongoing facilities funding
 - Hire FT Grant Writer
- An Innovative approach to Technology
 - Build our student's skills with cutting edge technology and professional development
 - Enhance classroom technology
 - Students, faculty, and staff fully trained with skills to use technology
- Restructure the School Day (Stays 7:50 – 4:00 pm overall)
 - Last 2 hours non-academic work, swim @ YMCA, community activities, etc.
 - Improve teacher retention
 - Shorten the learning day / improve learning efficiency without shortening the day as a whole (end at 4:00 pm)

Group 2:

Title of Article: "RBCS Rolls Up It's Sleeves for Red Bank"

Initiatives:

- "Our Families" School
 - More parent and family involvement
- Outreach
 - Red Bank Community
- Proclamation from Town Council
 - RBCS Makes a Difference
- Facilities Completed
 - Community Center
- The Arts
 - Blooming Arts programs
- Students embrace learning
 - Support from all

Group 3:

Initiatives:

- Fostering Sense of Community – Education on Charter Way, family involvement is a must (not an option), how they can get involved
 - Speak at picnic about
 - Charter Way
 - CCO (Charter Community Organization)
 - Class Parents
 - Foundation
 - Flyer in beginning of year packet – sign-up sheet for volunteering, how to help school
 - LIP (Learners Individual Plan) conference
 - CCO information
 - What is the Charter Way
 - Parent to Parent Night (set expectations)
 - 1 for PreK – 3rd (beginning of year and mid-year)
 - 1 for Middle School (at beginning of year)
 - Link on website for signups
 - Finding parent’s individual talents
- Increase Funding for Facilities
 - Building foundation
 - Collaborating with CCO, Foundation, BOT (Board of Trustees)
 - Transparency
 - Grant Writing (parent/hired)
 - Finding parent’s individual talents

Group 4:

Title of Article: “RBCS: STORMing into the Future!!” with new logo

Initiatives:

- Creative funding for the school
- Increase and enhance school culture
 - Charter Champ, Service learning, community relations – internships and new ideas, programs for kids, understanding teacher retention/morale
- Marketing the School
 - Logo, raising money, creating awareness in community, alumni corners
- Increase parent involvement
- Create specific programs: Arts, Technology, Finance, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)
- Emotional fitness for students and teachers
- Enhancing sport programs

Group 5:

Initiatives:

- \$\$\$
- Family Involvement
- Support from RB Council (how to connect)
- Test Scores

Continue:

- Focus on Whole Child
- Cultural Diversity
- Community partners (connection)
- Commitment of Staff

Group 6:

Initiatives:

- Length of day – 8 – 3 pm; 3 – 4 pm
 - Modify time/schedule
 - Block scheduling – curriculum
 - Labs
 - Recreation – use of last hour
 - Electives – bring back
- Family involvement
 - Storytime
 - Family recess
 - Sports Day
 - Lunch Buddies
- 2 Teacher Model (sets RBCS apart)
 - True 2 Teacher

Group 7:

Initiatives:

- Full day summer program
- Improve communication
- Charter Chatter – have paper copies available
- Phone system – someone to answer the phone instead of automated attendant
- All classrooms to have 2 teachers
- Bus aides for each of 2 buses

Following each group reporting out on their consensus points, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

Common Themes from Visioning & Initiatives

- Fostering family involvement
- \$\$\$
- Restructuring / optimizing the day
- Marketing
- Tapping into the community
- 2 teachers in the classrooms
- Teacher retention
- Fostering sense of community / culture
- Grant Writer
- Enhancing area specific programs
- Technology improvements
- Typing / keyboarding

Four (4) Goal Areas Identified

1. Educating the Whole Child

- a. Typical academics + Music and the Arts
- b. Health & Wellness
- c. SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)

2. Finance & Facilities

3. Culture (students and staff)

4. Community / Parental Involvement

- a. Marketing
- b. Communication

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

**Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm,
Red Bank Charter School, Omni Room
Sign-in begins at 5:45 pm.**

Meeting #3 is scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the **June 5th** meeting participants will develop goal statements, objectives and strategies for the Red Bank Charter School.

Special thanks to our Translator, Mina Rodriguez, who graciously translated for our Spanish speaking attendees!

Please join us. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP!