



## Creating a Strategic Plan for the Verona Public Schools

### Mission Statement

*In partnership with a supportive community, we inspire our students to be creative, critical thinkers and compassionate global citizens through dynamic teaching, meaningful curricula, and enriching experiences.*

### March 15, 2023: Meeting 2 of 3 - Developing a Vision for the Verona Public Schools in the Next Five Years

On March 15, 2023, Verona Public Schools administration, staff, board members, students, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. This second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Verona Public Schools in the next five years. Facilitator Charlene Peterson, from New Jersey School Boards Association, provided an overview of the steps taken at the March 1st meeting and the small group tasks for tonight's meeting.

To stimulate the visioning process, participants watched a video that made them think about the future that we are preparing our students for and what skills are needed for future success. We envisioned the calendar pages moving forward to the year 2028. Verona Public Schools is being honored for its outstanding work in advancing student achievement. Participants were asked to give a speech to the state's top educators. What warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would we expect to see in the district that are succeeding?

Participants then gathered in 4 blended stakeholder groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. The groups were asked to identify up to their top 10 visionary ideas for the district's success in the year 2028, and to give their speech a title. Outcomes of the small groups were shared with all meeting participants.

**Group 1 - “Making the Future Now”**

Providing opportunities above and beyond the norm of education (field trips, assemblies, etc.)	Pathways forward for G&T students
Embedding a technological vision that fully embodies 21 <sup>st</sup> Century learning K-12	Makerspaces/Hour of Code
Community/School relationship – tapping into community resources to support career-driven student passions	Environmental awareness/putting deficit into action. Student leaders for community
SEL – building the whole child, developing empathetic community citizens	More opportunities for student-centered learning
Inclusion model for SPED at 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grade level, Math & Reading interventionist at every elementary school	

**Group 2 – “A Plan, a Place, a Productive Environment for All”**

Safety and security to and from schools and within schools	Student retention
Sparking curiosity and self-challenge	Digital citizenship and teaching proper use of technology
Providing teachers with the ability to advance student learning and create excitement for learning	Academic teaming and having accountable discussions
Continuity across elementary schools	Building confidence and excitement overall in the learning process – curiosity, choice, & challenge
Strong G&T program at elementary and all the way through	Culture of learning and community
More Special Education programs - inclusion	

**Group 3 – “Creative Solutions to Extending the Success of Verona Schools”**

Professional Development for promoting project-based instruction	Student preparedness – process in place (Understanding growth process. Vision, confidence/collaboration skills)
Student-centered learning (earlier choice for electives)	Promote sense of belonging
Added technology programs (3D, STEM, TV studio)	Parent/district partnership

**Group 4 – “Ready”**

Strengthen Civic education – local to global	Diversity, Equity and Belonging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Language</li> <li>• Student and Staff Education</li> </ul>
Confident global citizen	Creating a school environment based on experience rather than results
Expanding critical reaction to technology	Parents as partners
Emotional wellness	

**The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:** Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm.

On April 27th the work of the small groups will be to develop the roadmap on how the district is going to get from where it is now to where the group identified it would like the district to be five years from now. The data from the March 1st and 15th meetings will be sorted into goal areas based on the identification of common threads within that data.

The roadmap is the writing of an overarching goal statement and accompanying objectives to support that goal statement using the sorted input from the earlier meetings.