

Swedesboro-Woolwich School District

Community/Stakeholder Session 2

April 25, 2017

Notes

Community and stakeholder representatives engaged in a session where they created two deliverables: a list of "Points of Pride" and a first draft of a Vision Statement.

Points of Pride

"Points of Pride" are programs, services, facilities, events, and traditions that are deep-rooted, long-standing sources of pride for the schools and/or community. When we create a strategic plan, we must be aware of and honor these items that are vitally important to a constituency in our community. That does not mean that they are "sacred cows" but if our plan affects them, attention is required.

Here are the items identified by one or more of our six work groups. A number listed parenthetically next to an item indicates frequency of duplication among the groups.

Community

An active community with organizations for youth, scouting, sports, arts, PTO, recreation, high participation (4)

Community events: Seasonal events, Fun Day, Swedesboro Day, Dragon Run, Rabies Clinic, Movie Nights, Dancing in the Streets, Tree Lighting & Parade, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Meatball Dinner, Kayaking, Fireworks, Clifford Day (3)

Supportive, friendly, family-oriented community with small town atmosphere (3)

A unique community: historic Swedesboro combined with rural Woolwich (2)

A strong sense of community, support for local initiatives, compassion, close-knit neighborhoods (2)

Great location close to I-295, Turnpike, bridges, and Philadelphia (close but not too close) (2)

Preservation of open space and commitment to keep rural character

Voted #1 Place to live in Gloucester County

Schools

High degree of parental involvement (4)

Dedicated, friendly, focused, driven teachers and staff, committed to continuous improvement (3)

Ranked highly effective, great reputation (2)

School facilities are mix of new and historic construction (2)

Parent fundraising provides thousands for school enrichment

Special education programs (e.g. Autism) that attract parents of children with special needs.

Each school is structured to meet the needs of a specific age group

Technology is up to date

Good stewardship maximizes our tax dollars

Students

Responsible, respectful, and caring students (2)

Age appropriate experiences and behaviors

Connections between community and schools

Active parents who collectively advocate on behalf of children

Walter Hill connects multiple generations

Historically significant places and artifacts

Municipal governments that value and support our schools

Vision Statement

A Vision Statement is a brief (usually 12 words or fewer) that describes what you want your schools to become in the future. Unlike a Mission Statement that may define the purpose, ethics, and culture of a school district in glowing terms and celebrates the best of what we are, the Vision Statement celebrates the best of what we aspire to be. Thus, the Mission Statement is inspirational while the Vision Statement is Aspirational.

Here are the Vision Statements drafted by each work group:

"A dedicated community empowering and inspiring young minds."

"Preparing today's students to build tomorrow."

"Creating our future one student at a time."

"A community committed to nurturing global-oriented learners through academic excellence."

"A diverse community of global learners reaching our greatest potential."

"Empowering all children to become dedicated and dynamic life-long learners committed to tolerance and global citizenship."

Follow-Up

A subcommittee consisting of one member from each work group was assigned the task of meeting to draft a consensus Vision Statement and bring it back to the full group for consideration at the next Community/Stakeholders session.