



## Hardyston Public Schools

Creating a Three Year Strategic Plan for the Hardyston Public Schools

### MISSION STATEMENT

**The Hardyston School District together with our parents, families and community is dedicated to preparing our students for the 21st Century by providing each student with a quality education, in a safe and caring environment, which allows all students to achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and Common Core State Standards at all grade levels and includes the knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem to be successful life-long learners in a culturally diverse democracy**

Session 1: What Are the Strengths and Achievements of the Hardyston School District?

On **January 19, 2017**, community members, Board of Education members and school district staff came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic was focused on the strengths and achievements of the Hardyston School District. We began the process with an overview of the school community as presented by your Superintendent. We then gathered in randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths and points of pride in our district.

We worked in small groups, first recording our individual thinking and then sharing our thinking with other members of our small groups. After group discussion, each group identified their "top 10" list of strengths and challenges for the district. .

The information that follows is the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, we will record and post all meeting outcomes for the wider community.

**Black Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Top Teachers  
Community Involvement/Support  
DARE Program  
PTA  
Athletics Program  
Chromebooks Elem  
Choice school/waiting list  
Block schedule day 1/2  
Heart of the Hornet /Pep rallies  
Academic Bowl**

**Challenges**

**7 /8 HS prep classes  
Band/ Chorus- add into curriculum  
Full time librarian for MS  
8<sup>th</sup> grade homework/summer packet  
excessive  
School security/technology infrastructure  
PARCC  
Declining enrollment  
Need STEM/STEAM teacher/curriculum  
Teacher Evaluation model  
Allow instruments on busses**

**Yellow Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Special Education program  
Supportive families  
Full day kindergarten  
Small district  
Supportive community  
Teachers, wonderful  
Chrome books increasing technology**

**Challenges**

**Increasing technology-going paperless for  
increased communication  
Need for enrichment  
Math/Science Robotics programs needed  
Summer programs for building utilization  
6 Week electives art, etc. too short  
Communication through technology  
Need increased administrative stability  
Drug education expansion  
Agenda for BOE meetings ahead of  
meeting- improving communication using  
parent portal  
No consistency in seeing vision through**

**Age of elementary school  
facility/infrastructure and parking**

**Red Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Great kids/community  
Great staff and administration  
Parental involvement  
Facilities: middle school and fields  
Accessibility of counselors  
Student opportunities (athletics, field  
trips, arts)**

**Challenges**

**Balancing arts within school day  
Comprehensive foreign language  
program- full year  
Parent Portal updates in timely manner  
Improve awareness of BOE and  
administration to what is going on in  
classrooms  
Growth in numbers/needs of special  
education  
Transformation of language of dominance  
and judgement v. non violent  
communication to ensure safe and secure  
learning environment for every child**

**Orange Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Middle school facility  
Township support  
Supportive, dedicated staff  
Collaborative team approach  
Dedicated Board of Education  
Strong administrative staff  
Technology**

**Challenges**

**Lack of student enrichment programs  
Work with sending districts to ensure  
articulation and student opportunities  
More purposeful professional learning  
communities for staff  
Update/strengthen curriculum  
Interventions to support staff in**

*Hardyston 3D Strategic Planning Meeting #1- Outcomes*

**Choices for extra curricular opportunities**    **improving skills**  
**Extra curricular activities strengthened in academics**  
**Create a HUB of stem and media center**  
**Provide courses for all students**

**Green Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Faculty**  
**Family environment**  
**Community outreach**  
**Educational inclusion**  
**Basic Skills program**  
**After school activities**  
**Grade-to-grade preparation**  
**Moral integrity of students**  
**Chrome book**  
**High School Readiness**

**Challenges**

**Technology; 1 to 1; need for professional development for staff- technology coach**  
**Professional Development**  
**Basic Skills frequency**  
**Pick up issue at elementary school for parents**  
**Transitional issues for students elementary to middle school**  
**Maker Space**  
**Reading Specialist**

**Blue Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Staff**  
**Testing scores**  
**PTA-community**  
**Facilities**

**Challenges**

**Enrollment projections**  
**Testing**  
**Gifted & Talented Program needed**  
**Transportation/geographic issues**

*Hardyston 3D Strategic Planning Meeting #1- Outcomes*

**Small school and relationships**  
**Arts/music**  
**Chromebooks**  
**Wheatworth Field**

**Scheduling-sports; bldg.  
coordination**  
**Elementary school location**  
**Need BD classroom at elem.**  
**A/C for elem; parking lot repaved**

**White Dot Group**

**Strengths**

**Full day kindergarten**  
**Caring community feel**  
**Experienced staff/retention**  
**Parent Portal**  
**School pride**  
**Website**  
**Open to change**  
**Active PTA**

**Challenges**

**Website under-used**  
**Need STEM, coding, robotics**  
**Comprehensive world language  
program and options**  
**Social events for families-**  
**Newsletters consistent basis**  
**Differentiation of instruction**  
**After school enrichment for elem.**  
**Certified teachers for arts/co-curr.**

*Hardyston 3D Strategic Planning Meeting #1- Outcomes*

**The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017.**

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours and shall begin and end promptly.

**The challenge question for the February 21, 2017 meeting is**

*“If we were to be here together 3 years from now, and we were looking back on the past 3 years of work, what would we want to say we are proud of having achieved in the Hardyston School District ... what have we accomplished?”*

During the third meeting scheduled for **Monday, March 20, 2017** we will identify the improvement needs of our school district. We will talk about our aspirations and expectations for student achievement.

Bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you!