



## Creating a Strategic Plan for the Morris County Vocational School District

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Morris County Vocational School District is to provide vocational and enrichment programs that inspire and prepare students to succeed in today's world and pursue tomorrow's opportunities.

### Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Morris County Vocational School District?

On November 16, 2015 Morris County Vocational School District administrators, staff, students, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the strengths/achievements, and challenges/opportunities of the Morris County Vocational School District. The meeting began with a welcome and overview of the district by Mr. Scott Moffitt, Superintendent. Facilitators Charlene Peterson and Robynn Meehan, from New Jersey School Boards Association, introduced the strategic planning process and assisted throughout the process.

Just under 30 participants gathered in four randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths/achievements and challenges/opportunities of the Morris County Vocational School District through brainstorming and the sharing of ideas. After discussion, each group came to a consensus on its top 10 strengths/achievements and top 10 challenges/opportunities and presented those to the full group of meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the district's website ([www.mcvts.org](http://www.mcvts.org)) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

## Group Consensus: Strengths/Achievements & Challenges/Opportunities

### Red Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Students to Teacher relationship	Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve more students (classroom space)</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Class Size</li> <li>• No auditorium</li> <li>• Confined by campus</li> </ul>
College credit/Relationship with colleges	Transportation – bus routes, stops, commute time
Dedicated faculty	Share time students – graduation requirements, application process/program matching
Blue Ribbon School	Channel of communication for students to make suggestions.
Career focus	New academy integration – making the new academies feel at home
Perfect size (student to teacher ratio)	Job market trends
Serve a range of population (students, teens, adults)	Limited course levels (Algebra I) (Languages)
Supportive PTO	
Highly motivated students	
Safety – Officer Duda and lock system	

### Yellow Dot Group:

Strengths/Accomplishments	Challenges/Opportunities
Small class sizes	Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of programs</li> <li>• Misinformation</li> </ul>
Internships/advantages in the chosen fields	Space – accommodating applicants
Real-world experienced teachers	Competing courses from home districts
Community of caring – respect and rapport	Defining who we are to the community
Motivated students and staff	Transportation in general and in extracurriculars
Diversity	Staff time to collaborate
Appropriate challenges for students	Staying current
Student-driven extracurriculars	Applicant numbers
Dual credit opportunities	Time
High quality candidates	

**Morris County Vocational School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes**

**Green Dot Group:**

<b>Strengths/Accomplishments</b>	<b>Challenges/Opportunities</b>
Opportunity to earn college credits	Facilities
Opportunity to pursue/explore careers at no cost	Funding
Caring and devoted staff	Turning away applicants
Positive school culture/climate – rich and student centered	Dual visions (Academic vs CTE, Full Time vs Shared Time, and High School vs Adult Education)
Driven, passionate, and caring students	Schedule (common time)
Our graduates finish college in less time	Meaningful homework assignments
Exploring (freedom) to pursue other interests – band, etc.	Small size limits teacher diversity in Academy programs and forces teachers to have more preps
Students are fully prepared for the next level	Selectivity threatens richness
Supportive administration	Geography/transportation/school culture
Adult education opportunities	Communication
Advisory council	Developing new business partnerships

**Blue Dot Group:**

<b>Strengths/Accomplishments</b>	<b>Challenges/Opportunities</b>
Nurturing environment - both high school and continuing education	Space!! Building, athletics, parking, more students
Students are motivated and connected to goals	Communication – image and planning
Shared-time and special needs students leave with marketable skills	Lack of subject matter experts - faculty
Diverse programs	No alumni network
Strong partnerships – colleges, employers, agencies	Limited nontraditional student population
Internships and competitions provide resume building	Lack of collaboration between academic/core & CTE
Student choice – students are here because they want to be	Meeting the needs of the caliber of high achieving students - curriculum
Communication infrastructure	Inconsistencies of offerings

**The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:**

Monday, December 14, 2015 from 7 – 8:30 pm at  
Morris County School of Technology, Building 4, Culinary Dining Room

During the December 14 meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Morris County Vocational School District five years from now.

The final meeting will be held on Monday, January 11 to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome, even if you were not able to attend the first meeting. We look forward to seeing you!