

# TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## LISTENING TOUR NOTES

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**District Mission:** All students will graduate with a vision for their future, motivated to learn continually and prepared to succeed in their choice of college or career.

### DISTRICT PRIORITIES

Based on the feedback from a wide range of community stakeholders, school site visits, and data review, the District's priorities for 2017-18:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. School Improvement Framework</li><li>b. Effective Data Culture</li></ol></li><li>2. <b>EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Observations &amp; Feedback</li><li>b. Leadership Development</li></ol></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. <b>CULTURE</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Highly Reliable Schools That Support Learning</li></ol></li><li>4. <b>CENTRAL OFFICE TRANSFORMATION</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Total Quality Management/ Customer Service</li><li>b. Tiered School Supports</li><li>c. Parent Empowerment</li></ol></li></ol> |
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### STRATEGIC DOING

**Strategic Planning Update:** Strategic planning is currently moving forward. The District is actively recording all the data collected from students, staff, and parents into an easy to read format. Listening Tours have been progressing and we've received community feedback on a wide range of topics. Overall, school community members have expressed their appreciation that the District is making an effort to hear directly from key stakeholders. Community members have also expressed the need to increase the frequency of forums in the future.

#### Listening Tour Participant Summary (to date)

Number of School Communities: 16

Number of Community Participants: 750

#### Listening Tour Feedback Summary (to date)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Parent University Needs (resources and support with learning English/Spanish, computers, helping children with their homework, parent advocacy and peer mentoring support)</li><li>▪ Need to increase and improve transportation</li><li>▪ Need for increase in Special Education support</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Enhance methods of communication (need better website/cell phone app)</li><li>▪ Conduct necessary improvements to facilities</li><li>▪ Latino families stated a need for more Spanish speaking staff working in schools</li><li>▪ Improvement in Customer service at Central Office</li></ul> |
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High School engagement will require a different focus as they relate to conversations associated with the new building. Multiple community organizations have expressed an interest in hosting the meetings. Additional support is needed to facilitate this work. The District also working with a local consultant firm focused on improving community engagement. The purpose of strategic planning is to participate in a community-based process to refine the goals of the District while setting the course for the future. A strategic plan which is well aligned, puts systems in place, makes improvement a process, and promotes sustainability. The outcomes are a system of supports, in which schools, parents, and students are provided with the necessary resources for academic success.

Through the Strategic Planning Process, the District has been attempting to answer the following Essential Questions:

1. **INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**: How do we improve student learning and develop a coherent system of effective practices that focus on achievement?
  - a. Establishing Schools in Trenton that are Ready for the Future
  - b. Supporting Career Connected Education in Trenton
  - c. Supporting Multilingual Education in Trenton
  - d. Supporting Diverse Learners in Trenton
2. **EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS**: How do we recruit, develop, and retain a team of highly effective teachers and leaders?
  - a. Trenton Public Schools as a Great Place to Work
  - b. Recruiting Great Talent to Trenton Public Schools
3. **ACADEMIC CULTURE**: How do we build highly reliable schools that support learning?
  - a. Vision of a Trenton Public Schools Graduate
  - b. Vision of a Trenton Public Schools Classroom
  - c. Supporting the Whole Child Through Community Schools
  - d. Tackling Chronic Absenteeism in Trenton
4. **CENTRAL OFFICE TRANSFORMATION**: How do we build a customer-service driven system that focuses on quality and continuous improvement?
  - a. Empowering Parents as Partners in Trenton
  - b. Trenton Public Schools as a Customer Service Driven Organization
  - c. Trenton Public Schools as a Good Partner

## **LISTENING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

### Jefferson Elementary:

- Parent University (Trauma-informed Practices, Parenting Classes, Webinars, and Homework Help)
- MS Athletics Programs to be expanded
- Gifted and Talented Programs to return; provide access to more advanced courses
- Expand afterschool programming
- Professional development for paraprofessionals

### Grant Elementary:

- Reduce the manual paperwork processes for families (digital options needed)
- Special Education: Address lagging timelines for IEPs
- Parent Support: Math Instruction and homework help
- Parent Support: Parent 2 Parent Networks (Parent Liaisons to facilitate)
- Mobile Interpretation Systems for Meetings (Headsets for families)
- Parent Support: Flexible Meetings/ Webinars for Families, Go to Meetings
- Communication: Mobile App needed for families without traditional computer access
- Bus Aides needed for additional transportation supervision
- Improve the Dual Language Program (Clear guidance is needed)

### Mott Elementary:

- More bilingual centers needed in elementary schools
- Increase the diversity of homework options for students
- Address the rodents issues in schools
- Increase parent to parent support
- Provide bus aides on mixed grades routes
- Mobile App needed for families
- Provide support for non-deliverables (PM shift)
- Provide access to more audio books for students and families
- Provide more options for summer programs
- Summer Reading Recovery Programs needed

#### Washington Elementary:

- Parent University (English classes, Homework Help)
- Provide Spanish-speaking staff in schools
- Increase student field trips and external experiences
- Provide afterschool enrichment opportunities
- Establish a Family Resources page on the District website
- Provide climate controlled classrooms
- Upgrade outdoor areas and playgrounds for students
- Develop welcome kits for new families (Show parents respect)
- Improve food choices and address nutritional concerns for healthy options
- Reduce the number of assessments
- Provide opportunities for school staff to participate in the school leadership selection
- Invest in bilingual/ESL improvements
- Invest in training for cultural competence
- Introduce family luncheons with the Superintendent (Monthly Access through FACE)

#### Franklin Elementary:

- Address the substitute teacher coordination issue (splitting classes)
- Provide training to substitute teachers on school procedures
- Address the safety concerns inside/around the school building (playground)
- Increase communications to parents
- Establish learning management digital tools for teachers
- Increase student access to digital devices
- Increase internet speeds in schools
- Provide training to security guards
- Provide maps in all elementary schools

#### Gregory Elementary:

- Increase access for weekend usage among community partners (Saturday programs)
- Consider developing a Community Schools Library Model for the community (Computers, Programs, and etc.)
- Reintroduce the Weed & Seed Program (Processes for Partnership)
- Create a sense of urgency for support programs
- Parent University: Multi-generational approach to student support)
- Increase access to field trips (Update policies and reduce bureaucracy and paperwork)
- Increase services for Homeless students (Align partnerships with Mercer County Agencies)
- Broken systems of support (Support the Whole Child, Transportation, Therapeutic Services, Students Returning from Out of District)
- Bring back paraprofessionals
- Central Office: Improve the phone system (voicemail, return calls)
- Improve counseling services (Trauma, Students in Crisis, and etc)
- Parent University: Parent Café, Parents/Children doing activities together, Literacy for Parents
- Improve Special Education: Inclusion Opportunities
- Provide staff workshops: School improvement, data analysis
- Partnerships: Take inventory of all partners and align partners with schools, coordination of services, use of facilities, security, and custodians
- Introduce character education, anti-violence programs
- Facilities: Increase the cleanliness of bathrooms
- Develop better communication strategies

#### Robbins Elementary:

- Parent University: English/Spanish classes, Workforce Development, Computer skills, homework help
- More afterschool reading intervention programs
- More afterschool homework help for students (Homework Resources for Students)
- Increase communications to families (more informational videos needed)
- Implement PTOs in every schools
- Improve district and school websites (more media needed)
- Introduce Math Nights and Literacy Nights in schools
- Align partnerships with the needs of schools

#### Columbus Elementary:

- Implement sports program for elementary students
- More afterschool programs for student (Debate team)
- Parent Support: English classes for families, Homework Help support

#### Dunn Middle:

- Provide college awareness seminars (Early Exposure)
- Improve the transportation schedules; easier access for transportation passes
- Healthy lunches needed (less pizza, donuts, and etc.)
- Increase communications with families

#### Hedgepeth-Williams Middle:

- Family Resources: Identify free services available to families, distribute materials to families
- Increase communications and parent involvement in functions of the school
- Provide an app that allows parents access to information from digital devices
- Provide PowerSchool training to parents (Parent Portal)
- Provide Interpretation Services (Increase availability in schools)
- Parent University (Tools for families, English Classes, Spanish Classes)
- Provide more advanced classes for students

#### Rivera Middle:

- Provide more career opportunities/workforce development options (Internships, Job Shadow, Mentors)
- Expand food options for lunches (alternate choices that are healthy)
- Provide options to suspensions (peer mediation/conflict resolution)
- Provide climate controlled classrooms in all schools
- Revise the District Code of Conduct (Reduce calls to law enforcement)
- Increase Afterschool Options for all students
- Too many assessments
- Expand existing sports seasons in middle school; add new sports
- Improve bathroom facilities
- Provide credit recovery in middle school
- Provide more class trips
- Increase access to tutoring programs
- Create a more welcoming entrance to the building
- Brighten the inside of schools (Painting)
- Provide more teacher training regarding rigorous expectations
- Provide digital signage in the front of the school
- Invest in SEL Programs (Anger Management, Trauma)
- Consider 3-day weekends, Later school start times, ½ days
- Incorporate regular Student Listening Tours
- Develop a Student Leadership Forum

#### Kilmer Middle:

- Address chronic absenteeism (incentives for attendance)
- Identify college partners, business partners, opportunities for community service, job shadows, and career exposure
- Support middle school transformation, schools of choice in Trenton
- Parent University: Introduce trauma informed practices (Address pain in the family)
- Parent University: Develop Parent Centers, Identify Parent Support Groups (P2P Networks)
- Parent University: Financial planning, community resources, literacy support, GED Courses, Computers, and etc.
- STEM: Provide Coding Opportunities for middle school students
- Early Intervention Support (Challenging Behaviors, Mental Health Support)
- Address Cellphone Usage in the classroom (Digital citizenship)
- Identify county resources for families to access