



# TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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April 26, 2022

Hello TCCS Community,

Last Wednesday evening (April 20), the first session of the Teaneck Community Charter School's 5-Year Strategic Planning process took place.

This meeting was facilitated by the New Jersey School Boards Association and focused on the Strengths/Achievements, and Challenges/Opportunities of our school.

For your reference, attached is a summary of the outcomes of that meeting. Additionally, a copy of my State of the District presentation and the NJSBA's presentation outlining the strategic planning process are available online at <https://bit.ly/TCCS-sp22-rg>.

Many thanks to the administrators, staff, Board members, and parents who were able to attend and participate in our first session! If you were not able to attend last week, please consider coming to one or both of our next two meetings, which will take place on May 4 and May 18. Additional information on the purpose of these sessions can be found on the attached or at the link above. We look forward to seeing you!

Thanks and Best Regards,

Ralph Gallo  
Lead Person / Director



## **Creating a Strategic Plan for the Teaneck Community Charter School**

### **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of Teaneck Community Charter School (TCCS) to provide a nurturing environment in which students realize their full intellectual potential and become self-directed learners, who make both pragmatic and creative use of basic skills and who understand and appreciate the cultural diversity of our society. The faculty, staff, parents, extended family, and other members of a child's support network are committed to creating and operating a student-centered "learning community" which promotes and supports a child's natural curiosity and enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge. This learning community will follow a "living curriculum" — an experiential, interdisciplinary study that encompasses literacy, critical thinking, and responsible social interaction while empowering each child to demonstrate his/her unique interests and abilities.

### **Session 1 of 3 - What are the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Teaneck Community Charter School?**

On Wednesday April 20, 2022, Teaneck Community Charter School administrators, staff, Board members, and parents came together to initiate strategic planning. The first evening's topic focused on the Strengths/Achievements, and Challenges/Opportunities of the Teaneck Community Charter School. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Board of Trustees President Julie Elliott, who then introduced Ralph Gallo, Lead Person, who provided an informative "state of the school" overview for participants. Facilitator Matt Lee from the New Jersey School Boards Association introduced the strategic planning methodology and assisted throughout the process, with NJSBA colleague, Patti Rees.

Parent, administration and staff participants gathered in 2 randomly assigned groups to identify the Strengths/Achievements and Challenges/Opportunities of the Teaneck Community Charter School 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 those were then shared with the larger group when group work was completed.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. All consensus points are recorded and posted on the school's website (<https://tccsnj.org>) to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

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

### Group 1

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Diversity in population	Parent involvement in choice of curriculum
Class Sizes	Incorporating more parent involvement (guest presentations) with hands-on learning in Science, Arts
Helping youth in Perf Arts	Food/Lunch Program
Middle School Sports	
Sense of Community	
Awesome K-8 Boost (8th graders working with kindergarteners) Age group building	
Communication Transparency	
Commitment of Faculty	

### Group 2

Strengths/Achievements	Challenges/Opportunities
Culture and diversity	Re-engage Community post Covid
Equity	5 year expiration
Flexibility/adaptability	Staffing (substitutes) retention, nurse, teachers, etc
Community involvement	Trips (events in person)
Financially stable	Experiential learning
Curriculum opportunities	Planning beyond the next 5 years
Classroom size is a plus, low student-to-teacher ratio	Gifted & talented: rebrand, rename and educated
Growth in special services	Sports club/opportunities
Volunteer board current parents	Playground improvements
Social worker / speech program	Electives re-ignition
Space	Maintain the good opportunities
Electives (band, chorus)	Recruiting board members
Collaboration between Administration and community, teachers	
Access to kids' grade book	

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

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. kicking off in the multi-purpose room.**

During the May 4 meeting, using a similar brainstorming process, we will identify our visions for the Teaneck Community Charter School five years from now.

The final meeting will be held on Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm to write goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

Please join us, and bring your friends. Your commitment to fully participate is important to the success of this program. We look forward to seeing you!