



Expanding Our Horizons: 2013 Strategic Plan Review

*Report of Focus Group Comments Collected AFTER Data
were Submitted for the Community Survey plus Highlights
from County Student Council*

Classified Focus Group
Legislative Aides
Parent Council
Diversity Focus Group
Teacher Advisory
High School Students
Middle School Students

Classified Focus Group

more personal finance/financial literacy

more specific exposure to all of the possible job options

more choice in learning in order to meet different learning styles

more hands on

don't lose site of the basics

learning how to learn

technology skills

communication (used to write a paragraph, now we write a tweet)

differentiated "tracks" for college as well as trades

reading skills

still need physical activity and be able to do physical labor

Legislative Aides

think outside of the box

look forward on the horizon

servant leader

keep focus on social skills

parental involvement is always important

critical thinking

social skills

writing skills and grammar

how to serve the public or others

professionalism

read, write/composition, think

talking to constituents

think on their feet

Parent Council

concept of how to solve problem
start analyze performance and discuss current problems
brainstorm
stop spelling, mostly math operations
more critical thinking
more passion based learning
more multiage education
start coding in early elementary
stop SOL testing
stop timed testing
more student collaboration
more student prep for real life
more student make more learning with their hands
stop worrying about test prep/practice
stop fear by teachers of testing assessment
stop failure
more build more schools
more challenge
more learn more concepts than memorize facts
more allow play in elementary school
more physical activity pe & recess
more experience hands on learning
start on line privacy
more critical thinking
more self information assessment
more managing leading structuring
more group interactions, rather than merely forming groups connections

start take a step back, unplug, teach the skills activities that are done outside of the digital world
stop cursive writing
more critical thinking
more problem solving multi step
more group activities collaboration
start after school activities to encourage technology
start early elementary foreign language instruction
continue art, pe, music
critical thinking
imagination
love your neighbor as yourself
protect your self
respect of self and others
problem solving
language skills, coding, foreign language
ability to synthesize lots of information

adapt to technology
intergenerational skills
accelerated learning, ap, college earlier
same skills important now as 50, 20 years ago as are important today in future
communication written, verbal
relationships
tech
hands on
creativity
curiosity ask why
critical thinking
how to be private when needed
implications of losing
connection with natural world
peace that it brings
still need interpersonal skills
communicate
self personnel reality management
online identify
fundamental stem
multilingual
tech savvy
innovative
social skills

Diversity Focus Group

Multi language teaching in elementary

intense relevant and exciting equity and diversity training/ cultural experiential immersion into different groups

early childhood education more/universal pre school

send them teachers somewhere to another country

vocational training opportunities earlier more career opportunities honoring community the vocational choices

life skills/financial literacy

student choose/flexibility of school schedules

Year round schools

more diverse faculty

sports fairness to all students

increasing interaction with students in other country global awareness

start having these conversations with teachers

start grade level bands instead of traditional grade levels

start high school cohorts

start financial learning in elementary schools

start strategizing for more diverse classrooms

stop traditional ways of teaching handwriting and typing

stop traditional grade levels

more personal learning opportunities/choice

more learning languages

more introducing students to new ideas

more working together in teams

more focus on student strengths

more equity in access to technology

more tech driven and language driven professional development

more diversity in teaching population

more parental engagement

start teaching intensely language at the earliest ages

start multiple student evaluation strength based, self assessments

start student evaluations for teachers

stop single measures of student performance

more bi-lingual teachers

more language classes earlier

more engaged - introduce parents early

more transportation needs of parents

more assessment of needs of disadvantaged groups

more access to computers, devices, internet

start universal consistent

start curricular across county schools start principal check

start professional development for teachers language classes diversity/cultural training

start establish guides for teaching

start teaching keyboarding

start improve teacher education

start pre schools, pre-pre schools early intervention

stop SOL testing
more cultural diversity
more fiber optic access
more diverse curriculum personnel
more correct history portrayal
more streamlined technology matched to curriculum
more personal accountability feedback for students from teachers
more increased opportunity
more comfortable with change teachers
more students more specialized toward career choices
less standardized testing
less cheating opportunity
less homework
less grading
less tracking, dividing
student skills - more cultural diversity
student skills - knowledge integration
student skills - increased analytical skills
student skills - human interaction skills
student skills - how to be a good friend
core values which guide community
teacher sensitivity
teacher multi lingual
teacher learn how to teach knowledge integration
teacher technologically savvy
student environmental awareness
student ethnologically able/aware
student communication
student creativity
student collaboration
student multi tasking focus on one thing
student financial literacy
teacher differentiation
teacher teaching various cultures/demography
teacher communication
teacher work with these challenging students
student multi languages
student adaptable
student cultural sensitivity
student synthesize
student self motivation/guidance/regulation
teacher bilingual
teacher adaptable keep up with technology
teacher cultural sensitivity
teacher promote creativity and social interactions
teacher innovation
teacher empathy

teacher passion to evolve and keep on learning
student self discipline
student moral compass no cheating
student problem solving
student set priorities
student independence
student empathy
student compassion
student cultural competence
student resilient
student sense of responsibility
student curiosity
student love for learning
student critical thinking
student parents need to allow students to fail
student oral and written communication skills
student member of global community
teacher multi or bi lingual
teacher flexible
teacher patient
teacher ability to think in different ways
teacher empathy
teacher problem solving
teacher cultural awareness
teacher passion to teach
teacher sense of responsibility
teacher adaptive
teacher open
teacher continual learning
student finding credible sources of information
student make healthy choices
student inhibit emotional responses
teacher be responsive with less face time
teacher model healthy practices
teacher teach restraint in personal interaction
parental controls
who enforces accountability
interactive relationship with students and teachers

Teacher Advisory

you should be able to use the tools of whatever you're doing

take a shop class choosing the right tool for the job

skill

time management

flexibility

following directions

let students go in depth time to reflect

efficient

Virtual experiences tie into "play"

more foreign language instruction

meaningful professional development

leveling of access to technology

focus on writing communication

problem solving

choice

more materials

stop assessing the way we are

kids need to move

academic choice

more choice

more research on best practice

start teaching to multiple intelligence and learning styles

stop bench mark should not be minimum it should be growth

stop teaching to the SOLs

skilled trades

research find information efficiently examine sources

working with other people side by side or across the world

creative and fine arts

physical health

financial health

problem solving skills

creativity

desire for learning

empathy

teamwork

empathetic

social literacy

global understanding

patience to balance the rapid paced culture

ability to integrate

problem solving

digital integrity

digital literacy

access to technology

problem solving skills

resourcefulness

communication

organization

metacognition

High School Students

More hands on interactive learning

more enthusiastic teachers

more consistency

more teaching people skills

more creative lessons

start teaching for teaching

start more applicable learning

start utilizing teachers effectively

start effective use of dollars

start independence for students

start healthier expectations

start fostering natural curiosity

don't teach to the test

don't stop changing the schedule

don't less reliance on technology

don't less busy work

much smaller classes so that teachers can really connect with students

teachers who notice and appreciate more than a student's work in that class

teachers who understand that students aren't perfect, need time for a life

teachers who give options Mr. D let me draw my interpretation of the debate

teachers who are here for reasons besides having been here forever

recognition of school as a place where you learn how to learn

students should enjoy coming to school

combine current structured lessons with interactive, fun learning experience throughout the year

freedom of subjects to study: less of a one size fits all approach

choose a major in HS, strong gen ed program with ocused major classes

more practical knowledge for life and jobs, cut out classes too advanced for HS students or unnecessary classes for the real world

work to remove competitivite stress between classmates

stop online classes

more teacher - student interaction

more enriching field trips especially in high school

more conceptual teaching/thinking

more real time/real life connections

more classes relevant to the real world

mandatory computer skills/typing classes

stop SOL testing, utilize national testing system and ptentially international so we can become more globally competitive

stop on line classes

stop flipped classroom

stop block schedule

stop repetitive teaching styles

start field trips

start hands on activities

start real world applications

more energetic teachers
 more lunch freedom
 more school spirited stuff
 hands on activities that make learning about important topics fun and memorable
 huge/bigger emphasis on choice and the students making decisions/having a and in their learning path and future
 interest of the students over dollars
 stop gizmos, powerpoints, reading out of textbooks as the main place of information
 start earlier education vamp up elementary school
 online classes far more productive and straight forward
 focus on social interactions and how they're changing with media
 exhibit more passion in the classrooms
 students more comfortable in class environment
 look forward to school
 clearer expectations
 more confident in future
 student evaluations at teachers
 go back to 7 period days
 not being able to be exempt from midterms. Stop this
 more ways to express your opinion without being criticized so harshly
 stop the Monday schedule
 more encourage extracurriculars
 more getting involved with students and community
 more problem solving in real life situations
 start better food choices
 start SAT prep
 start college prep
 start alternative forms of testing ex: projects
 stop standardized testing
 more hands on learning
 more outside of school activities
 more energetic learning
 start listening to feedback from students

stop making students learn things that they don't want/need for their future what you want to pursue
 stop relevant to what students wants to pursue
 stop standerdised testing
 more variety in learning methods
 more individualized
 no teaching to the test
 more creativity
 more money towards extracurricular activities
 less work outside of school; have more time to use what you learn in workfoce or whatever spend time using your social skills
 more online classes
 more interactionwith real world problems
 more prep for SATs

start financial classes mandatory
start technology classes
start college prep classes
stop standardized tests
stop keeping bad teachers.
annual teacher reviews
easier to fire teachers
less bureaucracy
more real world material
students can drop out and changed to skills schools
higher set of classes for the motivated
less lectures in class
more actual teaching
remove pointless aspects of english and make sure kids can actually write a paper
more value in truly learning less in grades
more broad classes so we can learn what we want to do with our futures
emphasis on real world applications with all classes, not useless things or by hand processes that can be done with calculators
more emphasis on using technology in school
more emphasis on math
more field trips
more video, movies
more interactive activities
more flexibility
more freedom
less lectures
less structure
less rules
start nap time, time to relax and cool off during day other than lunch; no joke really think nap time would increase productivity and awareness, decrease kids sleeping in every class
courses set to individual to find oneself
interesting classes
specialized courses/classes; relevant classes
more help applying to college
more finance class not a joke class
more practical classes: public speaking, preparing for interviews, survival class, emphasis on creativity and problem solving, communication
less homework
less busy work
less memorization
less standardized testing
less useless history
more discussion groups
more hands on activities
more rewards
more privileges
start offer more challenging courses

start individualize pacing
stop holding everyone to same standards and learning pace
more dual enrollment
more group projects
start teach more computr skills
teach more money skills
stop teachers can punish with grades
should teach more about real life situations; how to make it in the real world and be successful
should not pride themselves as much in SOL scores because that's not helping the students as much as it helps the school
how to pay bills, file taxes, resume, register to vote, applications, buying a car, budgeting, interview skills, house keeping, jury duty, home ec
no SOLs
let junior and seniors leave during their lunch
more laid back teacher
no homework
more use of technology
going outside of class to study
having class outside
more alternatives to OSS
no SOLs
let Junior and Serniors leave during their lunch
more laid back teacher
no homework
better school lunches
leave soda and snack machines on during the day
merit pay for teachers
10 minute senior release
more field tripts/physical activity/down time, independence
more privilages for those who deserve it
more options for problem students
more individualized treatment/teaching for students
more help finding post high school options
less group work
less standardized tests
less administrative intrusion
start learning languages earlier
start mandate tax/money classes
free coffee for high schoolers
more dances(raves)
more technology devices for elarning
more hands on work
more exposure to other cultures and languages
more breaks
more smartboards
more comfort and light

different school hours
start making school more like home
start outside learning
stop bullying
mastery learning
teachers who enjoy their jobs
start easy and slowly challenge yourself
hands on experiences
real life scenarios make learning stick better and are more enjoyable
stay in touch with social skills
personable must be able to interact with other people one on one
creativity to help resourcefulness
resourceful can't depend entirely on tech
basic literacy skills
technologically capable
bilingual and global thinking
open mindedness
language
organization
technological, tech knowledge
stress management
typing classes, computer skills
Spanish, Asian languages
creative for college etc because so competitive
perfect grades etc
very inept technological skills
more scientific knowledge
more awareness of environmental issues
global skills including language skills
open mindedness about cultures and other ways of life
focus on computer skills
alter curriculum away from current industrialization model to one more appropriate to the time
technology and engineering
responsibly implement technology where it is needed
programming skills will become even more important
languages importance on bi and tri lingual and multi lingual people in the job place
ability to work well together and work efficiently in a team while maintaining individuality and strengths to remain an asset
more technology, math and science courses English, history will become less important
languages greater global communication better grammar now
increased specialization track system to accommodate
students will need to be more independent
common sense
math skills
financial responsibility
computer skills

fluency in modern lang. Chinese, Arabic
career/technical ed
better management of technology
specialized
more training
global languages cultures etc
tech classes
foreign languages
finance classes
enrichment classes
home economics classes
self direction skills
critical thinking skills
collaboration skills
college preparation skills
social skills
intracting with people outside of friend group
how to do FAFSA, things related to college
less concentration on classes/context we will not need in our adult life
teach how to be healthier/teach how to cook healthier
personal finance classes
better money management
public speaking
teamwork
foreign languages esp spanish
financial skills for coping with changing markets
technology skills ex. Word, powerpoint
because technological learning has increased, social interaction skills will become more important
basic living/economics skills
critical thinking
technological skills
unbiased view on the world
survival skills
makrksmanship
money management
computer skills
research skills
study skills
ability to deal with tougher competition, compete globally
better efficiency
multilingual
skills in trade
handle lots of love
more knowledge of technology
be creative
learn self defense

reasoning
be more competitive
problem solving
how to write an understand code
speak 3 languages fluently
computer skills
what to do when zombie infection happens
personal finance/money knowledge
karate/kung fu
cook
detect lies, people to people, computer online, analytical
Jesus
foreign languages
communication skills
confidence not cocky
honesty
integrity
trustworthy
dedication
good work ethic
labor skills current to time nurse
survival skills
cursive and writing
computer skills
better math language skills
people skills - social
financial skills for coping with changing markets
nutrition
management skills
hygiene skills
problem solving skills
real life skills how to pay bills
communication skills
how to get information
health standards
critical thinking
must be able to read, spell, write; books
exercise
conversation skills
technological smart
leadership skills
staying informed current events
combat skills most important
watch the news regular
patience to balance the rapid paced culture
no cursive
public speaking

curiosity
money smarts
teach kids importance of actual books not the internet
kindness
teach them how to use prezi and excel
face to face skills
financial skills
be kids back away from technology
spelling classes for kids who need it
healthy eating
be active, go outside
safety and security
imagination and creativity
different languages

Middle School Students

hands on workshops/labs - more
community service projects that have to do with what we are learning
less lecture type classes
more exploratories
longer AVID classes
more time in the library
more active
more quizzes than test
more field trips
less bullying
start pay kids to come to school
more college opportunities
less homework
start more wood shop
more choices
everybody has technology use properly
more AVID
go to school less
more digital note taking
more hands on interactions, experiments
more field trips
more time in between classes
more college preparation
less of worksheets
less just listening to lectures, teachers just talking
dress code
start digital communication global
start exchange students programs middle/high
start good cafeteria food
field trips to more colleges
better food
more activities
work with Burley kids
no dress code
better step team/dance team
more electronic s
less homework
restaurants in schools example: McDonalds, Burger King
more technology learning
more athletic training
more being active
more getting outside
more field trips
more freedom
less test
less math

less teachers
start freetime because we're in jail for 7 hours a day
better cafeteria food
bigger variety for exploratories
more break time; going outside
diverse learning
college visits
more field trips
AVID program
more scholarships
more self pace learning
more IXL practice, sports, clubs
less homework and worksheets
start on line learning
start different languages and istory classes
more field trips; travel
More hands on interactive learning
more teacher students
more sports
more AVID
more mentor program
less SOL
less homework
less lectures
less computer time
less sitting in classroom
more activities hands on
more different sports
more language courses
less homework
start time management classes
start suggestion class - come up with ideas
more environmental focus
more conservation
more goal setting
start compensating students
start listening to more feedback from students
start time management classes
start justice/ethics
stop less teachers
more flexible environments

Student Council
knowing technological skills; programing, coding
stress management inside/outside
illegal immigration
adapting to different cultures
collaborate with people not like you
computer skills
strong moral code
flexibility / open mind
motivation
independence
interdependence
ingenuity
know your limits
keep up with technology
be active
be yourself and be confident
be social and open minded
be motivated have a drive
know your goals
learn to be hands on
stress management inside/outside
adapt to big picture
slow down you don't need 17 screens in front of you
languages
don't cheat - its not worth it
interpersonal communication skills
technical skills; keyboarding, pc and mac proficiency
confidence, passion
tracks for learning
applications of learning
replace cursive with programming
options within learning
different learning types
base classes with same teacher and students
breaks in day are important
nature walks
eating in library
study areas
start school earlier
out of school activities and time
long lunch makes day easier
more instruction for different subjects
out door time
class scheduling want/when
playing sport in place of gym class
inter-school communication

class meetings - regular
seating in classes - interactive
teaching techniques
discussion based learning
student independence
college and career planning resources
global classroom, current events
reading for fun
academies, humanities, visual arts
clubs, student opportunities to explore interest
cross school interactions
ownership over learning
stop restriction on students
stop gym for athletes
stop gym makeup
remediation periods
no busy work
SSR time
no teaching towards SOLs
more flexibility/hands on projects
MESA innovative project
no outlining
more opportunities - choice in what you learn
equality between teachers/administration
most on computers
less pressure still apply but don't show, mask it
awareness on cheating
teachers we have other classes and lives too
bring back recess
choice in what you learn