

NOTES - DRAFT
Orange County Schools
Visioning and Community Engagement Initiative
Stakeholder Group Meeting
October 22, 2014
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Announcements

1. Update on Strategic Planning Phase:
The Strategic Planning Committee is getting input and feedback from teachers, principals, administrative staff and transportation folks on the work that has been done to date in refining the mission and drafting possible goals for the strategic plan.
2. The survey that folks had questions about at our last meeting is one that was distributed by Advanced Ed in preparation for OCS's accreditation visit in the spring.
3. Use of Issues Log: We will continue to add issues that arise, to the "Issues Log" during our work today as we review the answers to the framing questions. (See log below and from previous meetings' notes.)

All on the Wall -- Question 1 -- "Why educate the next generation?"

Responsible Citizens/Contribute to Society

- Cause they're going to run the world; lead as adults; successfully relate to each other and adults; work in groups, teams; work through conflict
- Social Skills, world knowledge, academic knowledge, environment/science, leadership skills, meet job demands
- Take care of previous generation
- "They become the foundation of our economy and they'll be the ones taking care of us in our non-productive years, even though we are still consuming resources. We need them to be capable of making sound decisions."
- Productive citizens
- Ability to contribute to society
- Make responsible citizens
- Achieve more
- How to act in society
- Adult Responsibility (generational responsibility)
- Improve social standards
- To prepare generation for life of common sense values
- Teaching confidence
- Plan for the future
- "Has everything to do with common sense and what is the common good."

Pass down knowledge to the next generation

- Sacred responsibility that's passed on through generations to continue society
- "I was able to see farther because I stood on the shoulders of giants." – Sir Issac Newton
- "Why not educate? Do you really want to live in a county of uneducated people?"
- Pass on important information
- Prepare for the next generation
- Planning for the future
- Improve society by preserving and perpetuating knowledge
- Investing in youth – you get what you put in
- "Education is our investment in the future of our society, our civilization, our economy, and communities and our families."
- Preparing kids for options other than college
- Next generation is our future
- To prepare them to contribute to share the future
- "It's our job to put them on the best path for their success."

International Growth/Adapt to the World

- To be capable, productive members of diverse global society
- Adapt to change in a competitive world
- For international growth
- Learning to overcome challenges
- To be socialized deal with the world; adapt
- "Every aspect of society is doubling in complexity at an ever increasing rate...many jobs require multidisciplinary skills and a higher degree of critical thinking...we need to prepare our children..."
- "We need students who leave our schools with the ability to be capable, productive members of a diverse, global society."
- "For our nation to grow."

Equality of Opportunity

- More forward, not backward
- "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."
- To keep our world thriving, vibrant and knowledgeable in order to live well
- Make a better world for our children!
- To provide equitable opportunities
- To make life better for all
- Equality
- "We should educate all citizens so they individually and collectively find personal fulfillment and can participate in producing a productive society."
- "Without education in this time we live in you will always have to take what is left. So I am 110% for education for all."
- "...with focus on making life better for all."
- "To bring about equality."

Independence/Self-sufficiency

- Opportunity; want more
- To foster sound decision-making and leadership abilities to meet future challenges
- Key to solving many problems
- Be self-sufficient; have independence
- Help children understand their own capabilities
- Foster independence
- “To learn the basics for survival – shopping, budgeting, \$, know how to take care of self...support self...”
- “Schools have a responsibility to turn students into their best not what we want their best to be.”
- “...to help young people develop a sense of themselves as knowledgeable and capable of acting in the world...” Mike Rose, professor of education at UCLA

Preparing our Workforce

- Necessary skills for future employment
- To provide necessary technological knowhow to compete and survive in global economy
- Get a job; earn more
- Maintaining our workforce
- Prepare, continue socioeconomic sensible way
- Create greater workforce
- More people are needed to work with their hands; Invest in college and trades
- “We don’t have a choice if want to have a qualified work force.”
- “We need a competent workforce to innovate, sustain working existing programs and to uphold our society’s values.”

All on the Wall -- Question 2: “Why invest in public education?”

Prepare Students for the Real World

- Schools should adapt to change
- Prepare kids for the challenges of life
- Provide training for leadership
- “The more education you have, the more you can think for yourself. It gives you a step-up for life.”
- “Helps you get a job, get better pay, help with self-esteem.”
- “It is important to invest in public education because it’s important for this generation to feel a sense of community which can’t be found to this degree elsewhere. Also it brings a particular environment of diversity which allows individuals from different backgrounds to be able to come together.”
- “An investment in public education is important in order to ensure that people (our younger generation) are equipped and prepared to survive in the future, financially and socially.”

Safe Environment

- A safe place to care for children
- Providing a nurturing environment
- Schools should have a positive influence on students lives
- Create a love of learning/safe environment
- To maintain facilities and infrastructure
- “To provide a safe environment for learning.”
- “A safe place to gather.”
- “Public schools can be the only ‘safe haven’ for some students.”
- “I want students to be safe and engaged in their school community.”
- “Educational achievement should be seamless and completely safe from guns, knives and bullies.”

To Educate

- Teach basic skills
- Provide quality education
- To keep talented teachers
- To keep up with technology
- So children are provided the best/some materials to get a good learning experience
- “Public schools partner with families to ensure success”
- “For most kids, public education is the only option. We need to invest in our future.”
- “There is more diversity in public education...so public education is better.”
- “...for the youth and educators to have resources they need to be productive and successful...”

Center of Equality

- “Public schools should serve as the center of equality where everyone is welcome.”
- All children have the best possible education – equality
- Educate all children, however they may be challenged
- Help all children reach their full academic potential
- Provides opportunities for everyone
- Gives all children the opportunity to be successful
- “Give limited students a better opportunity to be successful in their future.”
- “Public education offers way more benefits and programs for all boys and girls.”
- Provide fundamental education to all.
- “Every child deserves the opportunity to have a quality education. These children will one day be a part of our workforce and community. “
- “Because we need to invest in the future of every child to make sure all get a quality education.”
- “Public education is important because everyone deserves the opportunity to learn.”
- “Public education is free to all who attend. It is a good support system for the boys and girls who have handicap conditions, mentally and academically challenged.”

- “We invest because public education makes education available to everyone regardless of social status.”

Productive Responsible Citizens

- Teach morals and values
- Teach right from wrong – ethics
- Prepare students to be productive people
- “When a child leaves public school, they should be ready to go out into the world to succeed.”
- Develop “working, productive citizens...”
- “It provides society with relationships that learn to work together and share ideas and wealth.
- “What would our country be without educated people?”

Future Prosperity

- Investing in the quality of the future
- “...high test scores equal terrific economy, which means better opportunity for our children.”
- “Having educated people is the key to a successful community and economy.”
- “We should invest in public education because that is our future.”
- “If we do not invest in our own children, we do not invest in our future.”
- “...our young people to become future leaders, scientists, ministers, doctors, teachers, etc. They in turn keep the nation strong.”
- “...investing in public schools means you are investing in the prosperity of the county and the future of children, making them college and career ready.”
- “More investment in our youth should show a future with promising socio-economic conditions.”

All on the Wall -- Question 3 – What purposes should public schools serve?

To prepare future leaders (citizens) for society (community)

- “Public schools should produce a population of well-rounded citizens that can integrate into society and the workforce as easily as possible. Public education should offer a minimal skillset that allows students in any career arc (straight into the workforce, secondary education, professional school) to be well balanced and have the opportunity to further education if they have the ability (and so choose.)”
- Better future
- To secure the future
- Continuation/improvement of our society
- Because it is our collective future and our collective well-being
- It is the future of society
- Because it is our future
- Because it is good for our country

- Because it provides productive citizens for the future
- Educated people = successful community
- Provides relationships: learn-work together, share ideas and wealth
- Investing in quality for the future
- “Raise citizens who can take part in the county and not be sociopaths. Socialization and teaching kids to be part of the community.”
- “Need to educate beyond academics to exclude care and concern for the community.”
- “Productive citizens in our world.”
- “Create lifelong learners.”
- “Teach children from different backgrounds to think – together.”
- “Help families support students – adult education, social work, connect to services.”
- “Participate and sponsor community events – sports/arts”
- “To serve the greater good of a society; to meet the needs of the many; to guarantee survival of a society; to provide lifelong experiences of helping the next generation of learners.”

To prepare future workforce

- To be global competitors
- Public education benefits everyone by improving opportunities for employment, self esteem and society
- Make available up to date reading material for all subjects
- Educate people = successful economy
- “To produce skilled thinkers who are proficient at problem solving and communication.”
- “To ensure future generations have all skills to be productive members of society.”
- “Open a doorway for future educational experiences.”
- “The purpose of public school is to grow (not just teach) all children into productive members of society, regardless of their background or weaknesses.”
- “To prepare students for likely careers.”

Equal Opportunity

- Most affordable opportunity to provide academic growth for all society
- Opportunity for quality education for all
- Because it gives a person a “step-up” for life
- Because everyone deserves the opportunity to learn
- Gives all children opportunity for success and to become future leaders
- Equal
- Provide students a better opportunity to be successful
- Provides opportunities for everyone
- “To educate without bias – teach the facts both good and bad. Educate all children regardless of national origin/immigration status.”
- “Important for kids to experience diversity at a young age.”
- “Ensure each child get a quality education and that teachers do not single out children and tag them.”

- “That all challenged children are respected and trained to function in this world as productive people.”
- “The purpose of public schools is to provide education for all.”
- “Public schools should play the role as partner with its families to ensure that every student fully reaches his or her academic, emotional, interpersonal, etc. potential and are able to maximize their unique skills and abilities.”
- “Public education should be the great equalizer in our society...”

Affordable Investment

- Public education is an affordable option for many
- Offers benefits
- Only option for most kids
- Education is less expensive than incarceration
- “Free before and after school care.”
- “Public schools should provide the best-quality comprehensive education for our children as is possible with the resources and engagement of the community.”
- “Since my taxes support education, the public school is responsible for making sure my children receive the best education possible. ‘Leave no child behind.’”

Morality/Ethics

- It’s the right thing to do
- “Focus more on teaching moral values of right and wrong, and responsibility. Students should be held accountable for their grades; not permitted to make up tests and missed homework.”
- “To educate the whole person to be a responsible adult.”
- “Teach right from wrong.”
- “To teach kids common sense and how to interact with one another.”
- “School should reinforce values of community.”

Issues Log: (Additions)

“Critical thinking; curiosity.” (Why educate the next generation?)

“Education has intrinsic value.”

“Make teaching a sustainable profession.”

“Compete in a global economy.”

“Politicizing education is creating confusion.”

“Education should go back to the basics, the R’s augmented by arts, music, some physical activity including competition (emphasizing good sportsmanship). Civics and economics too...The basics is where all disciplines go back to in order to refresh and solidify gains. Having new more complicated visions does not necessarily make them better.”

“I hope the leadership team took the time and effort to read the ‘mission, vision, and belief’ statements from each of the OC schools. I hope some active teachers are on this committee...”

“It is critical that public education (Traditional not Charter) is available to all children. The public education system must be strong, well funded and staffed by highly qualified individuals. ..”

“Now let’s define: Educate...I can tell you what it is not...indoctrination...Teaching that the old way to do things is the best way...Teaching fear of the unknown.”

“Stop politicizing education.”

“Everyone’s interested but a lot of people are going to college and don’t know why they are in college or what they will do when they finish. Plus they are carrying debt that they’ll never be able to pay off. More people are needed to work with their hands – plumbers, carpenters, mechanics. Kids need choices.”

“Workshops are needed to teach parents how to interact with school administrators in a positive way. Oftentimes, parents resort to anger unnecessarily.”

“I would like to see the schools address the issues of the young, black males and any issues that may arise before there is a major issue.”

“Smaller class sizes and a teaching assistant in all grades K-3.”

“School social workers re-instated.”

Discussion: Reflection “What Did We Hear? Implications for our work going forward?”

- Once our vision is created, we’ll need to plan for how we keep it alive.
- How will all of this be balanced with fiscal realities and budgets?
- Can we have an opportunity to further develop or discuss priorities?

What Worked Well? What Could We Improve?

- + Liked to see other people’s answers to the framing questions
- + Themes suggest that we have more in common than differences
- + Appreciate that you started to talk about and bring into the conversation the strategic plan
- Δ Bring back the chicken salad
- Δ How to balance these values and themes
- Δ Where/How will “reality” and “consistency” be considered? At the BOE and BOCC meetings...

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5, 2014; 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

More “All on the Wall” – Questions 4 and 5

Come with your answers to these framing questions!