

Libertyville School District 70

Summary of Comments From Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings:

**March 28, April 4, 7, 11 and 18
2016**



FINANCE AND FACILITIES

FINANCE:

- We complain about our taxes but the district does a good job spending their money wisely.
- We need to consider the fiscal impact of keeping staff wages competitive. We need to plan to have funds available for this purpose.
- Consider zero based budgeting
- Increase corporate sponsoring/donations
- Consider an educational foundation.
- Increase donations
- Consider wrapping all fees into one district fee for parents.

FACILITIES:

- Buildings are small and need expansion/updating
- Balance the needs of the facilities with the availability of finances.
- Need an assessment of space at Adler
- Need to address air quality, building repair and space at Rockland
- Very happy with the Copeland expansion.
- Love new Copeland additions.....looks great.
- The district needs to get creative with space in all buildings.
- Classroom space is an issue at Rockland and Copeland.
- Need more parking at Butterfield
- The lockers need to be replaced.
- Copeland and Butterfield parking and traffic patterns need to be studied.
- Adler needs a separate cafeteria.
- There needs to be a track and field in the school district.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

- We need to understand that there are different types of learners.
- Bigger and longer term research projects are needed.
- Update curriculum folders/binders
- Teachers need to take the time to share what we are doing with the curriculum.
- As times change be flexible and mobile with curriculum.
- More co-taught classes across the curriculum
- Differentiate curriculum
- The jury is out on the new math program.
- Happy with new 3rd grade math sheets.
- Need more work on math facts.
- Too much homework....high anxiety
- Too much homework. The students may be smart but they are not mature enough to sustain a long time period for assignments.
- Foreign language needs to be earlier.
- Revise 6-8 foreign language program
- Need more project based learning
- Consider block scheduling.
- What is the district doing in the area of gifted education?
- Need more hands on learning at Highland.

ASSESSMENT:

- Testing too early at kindergarten
- Questioning the STAR testing
- I do not like the standard based report card.
- Consider dropping standard grades to 4th/5th grade for an easy transition to 6th/7th/8th.
- Sometimes if an area is not covered the student gets an "A". This needs to be reviewed.
- The student led parent/teacher conference needs more teacher involvement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Consider cross area training.
- Differentiation of instruction
- How to motivate children to do well
- District does a good job with professional development. Rely less on team member professional development.
- Use literacy coaches
- Guided reading
- Need more math resources
- Next generation science standards
- Need more “go to” technology people
- Allow professional development with the taking of undergraduate courses as needed.
- Support for state standards implementation.
- Train elementary teacher in middle school math state standards so that we can adequately prepare the students for 6th grade.
- Staff digital opportunities should be enhanced.
- Need to see what teacher professional development has taken place on the district’s website.
- Use professional learning communities
- Connect professional development to math and the writing series.
- Professional development is great but at times it takes teachers out of the classroom.

CLIMATE AND CULTURE

- Communications are important
- Consistency with PBIS
- Consider taking measures to protect the district’s good climate and culture for the future when Dr. Schumacher retires.
- Frustrated with standards based grading. It effects student motivation.
- Teachers create healthy culture and climate.
- Lack student motivation at times to achieve higher
- Students are happy. Character counts is very good.
- Looking for equity with building needs.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS

- We need movement as it connects with learning.
- Need to retain recess
- The social workers should go into classrooms with lessons to address social needs.
- More healthy menus for the lunch program.
- Kids are not as healthy as in the past. We need to keep them moving.
- Enhancements to character counts have made great strides. What will this progress evolve to? Next step?
- Collect data on the social/emotional needs of students.
- Talk to parents about the importance of student's social/emotional needs.
- We are heavy on academics, we need more of this area.
- More movement results in more learning. We need more movement. Make it a culture.
- Need more physical education
- Need play based learning in the early grades.
- Technology infusion has resulted in a social void for students.
- Grades make students anxious.
- More recess for physical wellness.
- Great character counts program. Buddy program system is super.
- Students having lunch in their jackets is not a good idea because the children are ready to go out and some do not eat or finish their lunches. There is peer pressure to go outside as soon as possible.
- Need more information on the social workers and what effect they have in this area.
- More assemblies to satisfy this area
- Bullying prevention is important.
- Cell phone use around schools should be regulated and totally banned.
- How about the social/emotional impact of those in the gifted program? They need to be around peers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Good student performance translates to happy teachers and a draw to the district.
- Special service staff should be allocated by number of students not divided by the school.
- There should be protocols for registering concerns.
- The substitute teacher pool needs improvement.
- Recruitment of teacher aides (non certified) is tough. Make them feel included and valued. This will help in their retention. Consider professional development of this level of staff member.
- Retention is tied to a competitive salary schedule.
- Libertyville School District 70 is an attractive place to work. This will draw people to the district.
- Class size is a factor in retaining staff.
- Teachers close to families in the “neighborhood school concept” draws people to the district.
- Get substitute teachers when the gifted teachers are absent.
- Consider peer evaluation of staff. It will help teachers become better.
- Having a Masters Degree or a Bachelor’s Degree does not matter if the teacher is the right fit for the district.
- Good to have a mix of teachers, both new and veteran.