

Community Round Table Discussion Responses: 9.19.16 and 9.22.16

Question #1 - Indicators of Goals Reached

- graduates feel well prepared (college, career, language)
- Each level prepares the students for the next level.
- Improvement in test scores (compared to other schools in state/country)
- See our children learning on their own (“love for learning”)
- Challenging every student in their own way (parent satisfaction survey)
- Attendance isn’t an issue (chronically absent/daily attendance percentage)
- Positive culture climate/school pride in our community
- Parents/students feel comfortable & confident during transitions from school to school
- Opportunities at every level for all ALL students (elementary, ms, hs)... balanced use of funds for each level
- Ease of access- universal k-12, communication
- High Parental Involvement (being mindful of maintaining connections with all)
- Bridging education beyond the classroom to include families/outside resources
- Multiple means are used to measure success (and defining)
- Classroom instruction looks different (21st century)
- Serving equitably at all levels of learning spectrum
- Increasing graduation rate
- Data from assessments other than iowa assessments that are not aligned
- Increasing graduation rate
- Data from assessments other than iowa Assessments that are NOT aligned.
- Reduction in achievement gaps
- Parent education is evident and timely
- Increased parent/family engagement and communication
- National student clearinghouse data to assess 4 year plans/results
- Olweus data- safe environment
- Attendance data up
- At-Risk data down
- Safe environment- Regionally or Nationally competitive environment
- Amount or percentage of kids heading to post-secondary education
- More training for Board of Education
- Staff retention- starting with Superintendent
- Exploring Wrap-Around school model to engage parents more effectively
- Student morale- survey?
- Accurate and consistent information
- Students able to function at their grade level - data from testing, attendance, graduation rates
- Asked about summer program, impact and funding
- Specifics level for achievement for goal 1. Seney stated there are specific building goals
- Question on AP courses offered. Seney stated 6 courses with prerequisites

- What are 21st century skills? Seney stated these are the 4 Cs and incorporating these into the classrooms. Hegg Dunne stated this is a course at the 5th graders teaching computer skills and digital citizenship. Seney discussed the issues with accessing their skills in these areas and working on AIW skills.
- Are students reaching proficiency goals. Seney stated the proficiency levels are quite low and the District is focusing more on individual growth, Hegg Dunne stated we have been focused on growth for the past 5 years or so. Seney stated it is not just the low performing students, but the higher performing as well who sometime have difficulty meeting projected growth at higher levels. Redmond suggested looking at other testing options. Stutz stated the State of Iowa is working on a new assessment.
- Looking at the number of students who are enrolling in post high school education. Seney stated we are collecting that data from a clearing house and looking at the data, specifically the kids who didn't said they were attending higher education, but for some reason, many times financially they don't end up there. Also how many students actually graduate?
- Assessments at low levels on computers with students who don't have access to technology at home.
- Engaging families through email. Are most of the families on emails? Or are we limiting kids who parents don't have access.
- Presentation skills (projects, science fair, plays, etc.)
- Attendance/Achievement
 - On grade level
 - In school
 - Americorps grant- attended summer school
- The district goals are so general- how do you know by percentage that they are making growth? Response: Buildings have those (specific goals)
- What do you mean by 21st century skills?
 - Collaborate, Communicate, Critical thinking infused Technology- Digital Citizenship into the curriculum
- We look at growth as much if not more than proficiency - Individual growth - high end/struggling
- Are there different assessments that can show student skill - not just one that students need to use a computer? Response: yes
- Engagement of parents- virtual backpack
- Seeing a change in baseline data
- Do we have data on what is truly important? Do we have clearly defined objectives?
- Do we have something to measure a safe environment?
- Analyzing the data over years to effectively set goals?
- Do teachers have tools that they need to effectively meet these goals?
- How can we take a more proactive approach with productively engaging families?
- Variance report (+ or - for effectiveness)
- Data and communication can be provided when talking about use of resources

Question #2 - The Next Considerations:

- Curriculum development
- Facilities vision plan and community communication
- Plan for world language in the elementaries
- Parent training for technology and what's available
- Parent involvement in all academic and extracurricular
- Improve relationship with colleges in town (more college classes, opportunities for all levels - elementary, ms, hs, faculty)
- Aware of and take advantage of funding sources (grants)
- Combined elementary school (so many advantages to list)
- Open schools up to community (after school program, summer program)
- Technology- using effectively (safety, communication)
- 16-18 Goals: spell out specifics of what these mean
- Consider markers of success beyond "tests"/classroom (i.e. can my student write a paper? Hard work/on time/+attitude/teamwork...)
- Show the research
- Revisit goals as resources change
- Hiring high quality educators
- Mental illness training (Mental Health 101 First Aid)
- Attendance - how
- A comprehensive look at new curriculum
- Staff engagement in new initiatives
- Carefully define what being successful looks like
- Willingness to adapt and assess decision-making
- Prioritize and provide meaningful resources to meet our goals
- Higher level thinking with technology
- Willingness to provide different resources or programming to determine effective practices
- Measuring kids by test score, promote without getting stuck on the numbers. Seney stated we need to look at various data points and not just focus on one area. Hegg Dunne stated K-8 takes MAP (fall, winter, spring). Stutz stated the point is to use it to ensure children continue to grow and use it as a tool in the classroom. They then provide this data to parents and provide pointers to parents to help their children improve. Hegg Dunne stated teachers will help the kids identify areas for improvement by providing additional resources in the classroom.
- Help students learn skills, knowledge that will be useful in life versus aiming for a score or GPA.
- Do students track? Meaning are the advanced students in early years the ones taking AP courses in HS? Seney stated the data is not there, but that is why they have opened up the AP courses. Hegg Dunne talked about fostering kids' ability and encouraging them to take risks.

- Questions on clustering. Stutz stated the current process is not going to be a practice going forward. Seney stated this was a way to challenge kids, but it may not be the best way.
- Concerned that with all the assessments kids are identifying a score to themselves (MAP, SRI, FAST)
- Clustering
 - How does that work?
 - Squeaky wheel
- Technology- How are we truly using the devices in the classroom?
- Personalized Learning
- Foreign Language in the elementary buildings?
- Standards- Based Reporting
- We have to identify our goals clearly, and then decide on the resources we need to accomplish those goals
- What are the “First Things First”?

Question #3 - What Is Missing?

- Continue building effective communication between school and families
- Increase outreach opportunities from school to community (include food)
- Consider outside-the-box (i.e. year round school)
- More active parent advisory group
- Place to make suggestions
- Healthier food options
- Technology support improved
- Supports for teachers (lower class size, paras)
- Supports for students (bus supports, after school/summer programs)
- Linking between initiatives (ex. facilities and budget)
- daycare/summer school (4th on- seems to be an issue)
- Provide research to parents and research-based decisions
- Training - Mental Health First Aid
- Trust of Community
- Bring back paper newsletter
- Courage to listen to the experts in education
- Dream BIG!
- Collaboration with Grinnell College
- How can we creatively replenish resources without extra money
- Spend the money we do have to create world class schools
- How can the community help the district?
- Kids aren't numbers. Each child needs an IEP.
- What efforts are we providing for the lower social economic to be involved? To engage those families.

- Provide opportunities for students/parents at unconventional hours. Hegg Dunne stated we trying to ask parents to be more involved, but it's not something many parents are use to. Redmond stated there is some intimidation from using formal names.
- Providing life skills for students to take care of daily life activities and being self sufficient. At various levels providing different levels of responsibility/accountability. Seney stated we are to afraid of failure, but those are the best learning opportunities.
- Teach children that everyone has strengths and weaknesses and we can all learn from one another. We all have different perspectives and life lessons we can share and others can learn from.
- Including foreign language at a lower level.
- As social-economic demographics have changed- what is school doing?
 - Vary times we have things
 - Use first names
 - Help them understand parents are a valuable piece to their childs education
 - Students need to learn to take responsibility
- Foreign Language?
- Extra Curricular Activities
 - How are we providing quality programs?
 - How are we promoting our activities to build school pride?
 - What sets us apart from other communities?
 - How are we boosting participations?
- Talented and Gifted Program
- Do we need to add? *More isn't better. Better is better!
- Is there anything that incorporates the human resources aspect (teachers, support staff, etc.)?
- Trimesters vs. Semesters