

April 2016 Community Conversations Overall Summary

Series Summary: During the month of April 2016 the School Board and administration engaged members of the Swallow School community to celebrate great things happening in the district, ensure understanding of challenges the district faces, and to receive community feedback about the following:

Curriculum and Programming:

- *Why do you love Swallow?*
- *Where do you want to see Swallow 3-5 years from now & why?*
- *How could and would you support this vision for the future?*
- *What didn't we ask that is important to you regarding curriculum and programming?*

Services:

- *Why do you love Swallow?*
- *Where do you want to see Swallow 3-5 years from now & why?*
- *How could and would you support this vision for the future?*
- *What didn't we ask that is important to you regarding services?*

Building and Grounds:

- *Why do you love Swallow?*
- *Where do you want to see Swallow 3-5 years from now & why?*
- *How could and would you support this vision for the future?*
- *What didn't we ask that is important to you regarding building and grounds?*

Participation: In total there were nine Community Conversations held:

- Two for students including one for 3rd-6th graders and one for 7th-8th graders. Thirty students in total participated.
- One for all Swallow staff which included approximately 55 participants.
- Six held in homes and at the school which included 55 parent/resident participants.

Next Steps: All feedback from the *Community Conversations* series is valued and has been reviewed by the school board and administration and will be considered throughout the district's ongoing continuous improvement efforts. The main themes which emerged based on all nine *Community Conversations* are contained on the following pages. These themes have been placed on the annual Swallow School District survey for prioritization by all parents and staff. The results of this prioritization will be used by the school board for long range planning in the coming months.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Thompson, Superintendent, at Thompson@swallowschool.org or 262-367-2000 x108.

Thank you for your contribution to this important process.

Curriculum and Programming: *The top ten themes which emerged include making sure the curriculum and programming...*

Continues to build upon the changes made this year to the Spanish program

Grows offerings in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, particularly in grades K-5 with an emphasis on computer programming/technology

Provides meaningful homework that requires higher level thinking and creating

Allows for even more varied learning opportunities during SOAR time for support and enrichment rooted in student goals

Deepens instructional approaches which personalize the learning experience of students so that they have more choice in learning beyond what is required and voice in how they showcase their learning based on student goals

Provides a firm foundation and personalized learning opportunities for students in Reading and Language Arts

Offers Fine Arts programming (both music and art)

Provides more hands-on learning, especially in grades K-5

Increases student usage of technology devices, especially in grades K-5

Expands Gifted and Talented offerings

Services: *The top ten themes which emerged include making sure the following services are available...*

School-sponsored academic enrichment programs such as Lego League, Destination Imagination, chess club, forensics, Spanish, math club and robotics for all kids K-8

A high quality Food Service program with a variety of healthy choices for lunch

School-sponsored extra-curricular fine arts offerings such as musicals, plays, and art club for all kids K-8

School-sponsored competitive athletic programs for students in grades 5-8

School-sponsored intramural programs for students in grades K-4

Increased guidance and counseling services for students to support mental health needs and develop social skills

More student leadership opportunities for all kids K-8

A fitness center space with weight training and cardio equipment to supplement gym spaces and what kinds of activities can be offered to students in gym class

4 Year Old Kindergarten on site at Swallow School

CC Overview

A high level of staffing for SOAR time

Features of the Buildings and Grounds: *The following nine themes emerged in support of requests for curriculum and programming and services the district provides...*

Update classroom furnishings and equipment to allow for flexible seating and working arrangements depending on learning activities and student needs

Update playground equipment for K-2 students and use landscaping to diminish view of playground from street

Create a dedicated Fine Arts space to allow for better acoustics and ample space for large group ensembles

Create more hands-on learning spaces for science, technology, engineering, and math activities for the younger grades

Create more flexible learning spaces for student collaboration and team projects

Conduct routine maintenance of building and grounds including new roof, windows, and other necessary projects which will come due in next 10 years.

Ensure the building and grounds remain clean, organized, and well maintained

Create a community garden and outdoor learning spaces to provide food for school and community while also supporting aspects of the curriculum

Work with the town and county to create safe pedestrian access to Arrowhead High School

Support: *The following recommendations were made as possible ways to support the desired future for curriculum and programming, services provided by the district, and features of the building and grounds...*

Provide volunteer time

Secure external sponsorships/community partnerships

Pursue a referendum

Participate in fundraising/seek donations

Support the reallocation of current resources