

2014-15 Parent / Board of Education Summit Summary

On Monday, April 13, the Lake County School Board and Superintendent Wendy Wyman held the annual Parent Summit. Board member Amy Frykholm began the meeting by introducing the District's mission statement: "To ignite a passion for learning," as well as the new core commitments:

- Inspire all students to be life-long problem-solvers;
- Create a culture of academic achievement;
- Build on the strengths of every individual;
- Provide opportunities for risk-taking in learning;
- Respect the whole person: physical, mental, emotional;
- Empower all community members to be active participants in our schools;
- Foster a safe environment for all students and staff;
- Honor cultural difference;
- Partner with families and community members.

She also introduced the District's focus areas for 2015:

- **Rigor and engagement everyone, everywhere:** Everyone—every child, every teacher, every staff member—is doing more than they think they can and is engaged in high-level, meaningful activities that are helping to prepare kids for their lives beyond our schools.
- **College and career ready every day:** Every child is working at grade level and every child leaves our school district with a clear plan and solid preparation for his or her future.
- **We welcome every student and their family to our schools.** We embrace the belief that our diversity of cultures makes us stronger, and we work to make every family member and every student feel welcome.
- **We plan for the future:** By planning and executing capital and human capital projects strategically, we aim to make our district better.

Attendees were then invited to share their thoughts, using a "Keep, Scrap, Adapt, Imagine, Question" framework. Those present noted that they were particularly happy with the new high school, the parent liaisons, Expeditionary Learning, the 21st Century Community Learning Center, the youth engagement activities that have happened this year (such as students presenting at City Council), the fact that the Honor Roll was in the newspaper this year, the Health and Wellness teams at each school, Fuel Up to Play 60, the amazing kindergarten classes, the Youth Voices class, and the vision of being "a school district of choice."

They also noted a number of concerns, which are listed below, along with the Board/Superintendent response where one was given.

- Decrease the number of families leaving the district: *The District is working with a local consultant to contact families who have left the District in order to better understand—and address—the most common reasons families choose out.*
- Decrease teacher turnover: *The District has also engaged a local consultant to research ways to decrease teacher turnover and improve teacher retention in the Lake County School District. The*

district is already acting on the recommendations from this process and has met with all faculty groups to share next steps. In addition, the district is adding retention as a priority in its compensation structure for teachers starting this year.

- Decrease the number of standardized tests: *The District has to administer all the state-required tests, which are extensive. However, both the State Board of Education and the State Legislature are looking at decreasing the number of standardized tests students take next year.*
- Increase the opportunities for all students to learn Spanish, especially in the younger grades: *This is something we can definitely look into.*
- Increase opportunities for students to learn other languages besides Spanish.
- Decrease the number of school days that teachers are gone for professional development: *We asked teachers to do a lot of professional development this year, in order to facilitate the switch to Expeditionary Learning. Next year, we anticipate less training and more time for teachers to implement that training.*
- Increase place-based learning.
- Increase the number of learning “expeditions” that K-6 students have
- Increase consistent teacher communication with parents via email, progress report, etc.
- Increase the time students spend in P.E. class and recess
- Increase the time students spend in specials
- Increase communication about discipline issues with the parents of kids who may have been involved as a victim or bystander: *This is something we can definitely work to make more consistent across the district.*
- Improve drop-off/pick up zones at LCIS and LCHS
- Decrease the number of parents picking kids up at the LCIS upper lot
- Decrease the number of potholes: *The District is hoping to be able to repair many of these this summer.*
- Increase the time and tools that teachers have to respond to parent requests (to help in the classroom, to discuss their child’s achievement, etc.)
- Increase the number of students who are engaged and/or eligible to play sports. *We are implementing “student perception surveys” in order to better understand—from students’ perspectives—how to provide motivating, engaging, and rigorous education.*
- Increase our celebrations of students who are achieving great things
- Increase the number of things that go home by email, even if they already go home on paper, in order to ensure that they actually get to parents.
- Increase our ability to identify learning challenges more quickly: *The District uses “Response to Intervention,” an evidence-based model, that allows us to use targeted interventions with students in order to identify the learning interventions that are best for each student.*
- Update the school websites more often, like we do with the district website

The Board and Superintendent thank all who were able to attend and give feedback. All comments will be considered in our planning for next year.