

Focus Group: Belmont Hills Elementary School Staff

Date: 4/24/14

Key Questions

1. What should school look like ten year from now?

***Teaching/learning infused with creativity, collaboration, innovation.

**Less formal/standardized assessments; more authentic, individualized assessment.

*Interest driven and self-paced curriculum

*Community service learning and activities

Individualized learning with small class size

Child centered

Meaningful interdisciplinary curriculum, addressing students strengths

Putting the joy back into learning and teaching

Strong world language program for global community

Technology that is more useful, accessible, and developmentally appropriate.

More self- selected texts

Incorporating the environment into the school day.

1 to 1 with technology devices

2. What should a Lower Merion School District graduate look like? What are the skills, attitudes, and dispositions that we want for all students?

*Kind and giving. Aware and sensitive to needs of others and world. Open minded.

*Well rounded: arts, world languages, science, math writing, literature, physical fitness

*Fluent in another language

*Problem solvers with higher level thinking ability – academically/socially proficient

Real world applications for learning.

Self-directed.

Positive outlook for future.

Self regulation/social skills

Able to work collaboratively, connecting with others

Self sufficient

Environmentally aware and sensitive

Trained in life skills: finances/ budgets

Globally aware

Prepared to be community leaders

Able to see failures as opportunities

Niche learners – concrete plans for future based on interests and learning

3. What do we value as a District? How do we hold onto our traditions while simultaneously embracing change?

*Well rounded learners; flexible grouping; true authentic learning.

*meaningful curriculum vs. standards driven programs

*Value educators' perspective

*Student centered engagement

*Experiential learning: hands on, real life experiences

World-wide connections/ learning through the use of technology

Core values to develop the whole person.

Increased technology for teachers and students

Attention to needs of individual learners – special ed connections to school community based on specific needs.

Cultural proficiency

Passionate learners

Small class size

Experiential, inquiry, thematic based learning

Engage teachers in change – give them a voice

High academic achievement

Outstanding programs

Meaningful professional development

Prestigious reputation