

Focus Group: Education Foundation of Lower Merion

Date: May 15, 2014

SWOT

Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
Supplies	Assessments for students not streamlined	EFLM	Over emphasis on security keeps parents out of schools interferes w/ community
Resources	Support for kids in middle	Alumni	EBB & FLOW of student population (both, students and diversity) makes it difficult to plan long term
Qualified Staff	Staff morale	Community members as resources	Perception (right or wrong) District is a follower not a leader
Experiences for students	Lack of incentives (actual disincentives) for teachers to excel or be imaginative /creative	More support for EFLM mission	Ability to attract quality teachers
Programs offered to all students	Not enough time	Asking to help	State funding
Tremendous co-curricular opportunities	No credible evaluation process	reached out, but opportunity not followed through	Federal mandates
Support for kids and specialized needs	Data driven curriculum		Fund raising in district
PR (deserved or otherwise)	Not enough staff for learning		Decline in parent leadership cadre membership, influence
	Support, Special ed		
	Reading/Writing at high school		
	Relationship with ELPm		
	Failure to grow teachers/administrators internally (hiring from within)		
	Failure to promote/ District vs. 1-separate schools		

Key Questions		
What should school look like ten years from now?	What should a LMSD graduate look like? What are the skills, attitudes and dispositions that we want for all students?	What do we value as a district? How do we hold onto our values while simultaneously embracing change?
Physical plant that enable best/finest programs, opportunities	Graduates should reflect LMSD values	Differentiation
HS should match real-world	Graduates should reflect the best/finest	Art, Music
Develop community & flexible groups	Opportunities and Resources available programs	What's best for Kids
Give back to community; Go Forth To Serve	Rigor vs happiness-what's best for kids?	
Global perspective	Delivery of the finest education should occur though the best means possible	
Magnet, alternative experiences for students w/ specialized talents, like art	monitoring/evaluation	
High expectations for all students	Students should have a sense of community and "giving back" through flex groups (K-12)	
	Global awareness	