

Focus Group: Lower Merion Township Commissioners

Date: 4/30/14

Key Questions

- 1. What should high school look like ten years from now?**
- 2. What should a Lower Merion School District graduate look like? What are the skills, attitudes, and dispositions that we want for all students?**
- 3. What do we value as a District? How do we hold onto our traditions while simultaneously embracing change?**

Feedback:

Communication:

- We must be more effective in understanding and being sensitive to the goals and priorities of each entity and plan accordingly
- We must be intentional in finding ways to partner, communicate and collaborate
- We must work collaboratively and support each other more
- We need to find out what you are thinking and doing before we hear about it in the paper or from community members
- We can better assist you if we know what you are doing
- We need to create an Ad hoc team that meets periodically
- Dialogue need to improve

Achievement/Academics:

- Develop skills and the ability to learn and how to transfer those skills
- We need to define what success looks like and find other ways to measure it besides (SAT, or other standardized assessments)
- The design of the school should not be one that only supports the type of student who are self-motivated
- The middle student getting lost in the shuffle
- If students are in the right environment they would succeed
- Students need to learn how to present themselves, it's not just GPA or SAT
- Students need to know how to change with the world: Adapt, be flexible
- Students need to learn by doing
- Students need to learn through play
- Too many parents think achievement is measured on some test
- Everyone does not learn the same way
- The Achievement Gap is based on what we are testing. Maybe we are testing the wrong things
- Students need education outside the classroom: internships, job shadowing, independent learning
- Students need to learn how to put together a proposal and present it well

- We want students coming out of that adolescent period feeling good about themselves and what they can accomplish
- Instructional delivery needs to be more creative
- Students need practical real world skills (financial literacy)
- Though we don't know the jobs of the future we can prepare our students to feel comfortable and confident about their abilities
- Innovation is the key
- We need to allow our teachers to teach and not take test
- Teachers have to be allowed to be innovative
- Our students know more about technology then our teachers. They are out of the loop.
- LM does well for those who do well
- School schedule is not flexible
- Many constituents are happy with the redistricting
- Art and Music needs to be important to our students
- The number one reason why people live and move here is because of the school district
- The district has done a great job of renovating the buildings
- We need to find better ways to motivate the middle kid
- There is a sense that you cannot do it all because of all the AP courses students feel they have to take
- We need to look at reversing the start time. High school later and elementary earlier
- Project based is the way to go