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# Community Cafés

## Summary Report

### St. Johns County Public Schools

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January 2010

## **Introduction and Background**

The St. Johns County School District is reviewing and recommitting to our strategic plan for the long term future and success of the district. As part of the process, the district held four Community Cafés during January 2010. The purpose of the Community Cafés was to engage students, staff, parents and the school community, giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts on what the District should strive to achieve, changes that may be needed, what was really valued and what people wanted to see retained as the future is planned. The results were compiled into a summary report to ensure that the diverse voices of the St. Johns County community were included in the data used in the strategic planning process.

Participants in the Café groups were asked to discuss the same four questions:

- 1. Given the fast-paced changes in our world, what are the qualities and skills that you believe our future graduates will need in order to be successful?**
- 2. What practices should we keep and what changes should we make in order to help students become successful graduates?**
- 3. What role might the community play in helping us to make certain that all of our students succeed?**
- 4. What do you believe will be our greatest challenges as a community in the coming 3-5 years? Our greatest opportunities?**

## **Focus Groups**

Four Community Cafés were conducted. The participants included teachers and school staff members, parent PTO and School Advisory Council members, district office staff personnel and community members. Approximately 260 people participated in the Cafés. It is important to recognize that each person had the opportunity to provide multiple responses to each of the four questions. Major themes emerged in the responses, and they are reported in the following Summary of Findings. Themes are presented in the order of magnitude.

## Summary of Findings

**Question One** asked participants, “Given the fast-paced changes in our world, what are the qualities and skills that you believe our future graduates will need in order to be successful?” Eleven themes emerged from a total of 650 responses.

COMMON THEME	No. of Responses	Percentage
Interpersonal Skills	107	16%
Character Education	78	12%
Communication Skills - Verbal/Written	78	12%
Critical Thinking Skills	77	12%
Career Skills	69	11%
Technology	57	9%
Global Awareness	53	8%
Creativity - Initiative	48	7%
Curriculum/Instruction	46	7%
Financial	22	3%
Other	15	2%

### Examples of the responses to Question One

#### **Interpersonal Skills**

- Need personal/social skills like listening, patience, comprehension, multi-tasking. Some infused in classes, some on their own
- Social skills – get along with peers, communicate – Character Counts
- Social skills in conjunction with technology
- Building confidence – drive and motivation / need confidence, self esteem – don’t have to follow

#### **Character Education**

- Work ethic, integrity
- People of good character especially ethical and responsible
- Develop kindness and interpersonal prioritization (caring, empathy, integrity)
- Build on pillars of character at middle and high school

#### **Communication Skills - Verbal/Written**

- Communication skills – (pausing and listening)
- Important to know English and other languages
- How to communicate both the written word and verbally
- Reading critical understanding/basic skill

#### **Critical Thinking Skills**

- Critical thinking
- Need more critical/higher thinking skills
- Problem solving
- Research skills
- Become more independent, resourceful students – go out and find answers instead of being told

**Career Skills**

- Academies – real world experiences, interacting skills, relationships
- Middle school academies
- Trade skills
- Teamwork

**Technology**

- Technology protocol – right way and right times to utilize technology because human factor is not there – body language – tone of voice
- Proficiency in technology – use and program
- You are at a great disadvantage if you don't have access to technology and are very comfortable with it. How to research quickly and be able to manage it is going to become increasingly important.
- Technology knowledge and skills

**Global Awareness**

- Diversity exposure
- Global responsibilities/awareness – Respect/respond to different cultures
- Working with diverse population

**Creativity - Initiative**

- Creativity
- Flexibility, ability to adapt
- Thinking out of the box
- Self-starter

**Curriculum/Instruction**

- Foreign language more broad exposure and skill, begin at younger ages
- Second language (fluent)
- More rigor in curriculum/more challenge
- Science and math skills

**Financial**

- Financial literacy
- Financial knowledge/skill
- Money management
- Understanding of economics - personal

**Other**

- Not a replacement for parents but a supplement to
- Supportive family
- FCAT

**Question Two** asked participants, “What practices should we keep and what changes should we make in order to help students become successful graduates?” Fourteen themes emerged from a total of 585 responses.

**Question 2: KEEP**

<b>Common Theme</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Program Options, Academies and Customized Learning Path	51	24%
Character Education	49	23%
Instructional Rigor and Relevance	29	13%
Enrichment, Special Programs / Arts	23	11%
Technology	17	8%
Building grade configurations, class size, school day/year	10	5%
Adequate faculty and professional development	9	4%
Relationships between students, teachers and parents	9	4%
Assessment and Progress Monitoring	7	3%
Addressing needs of a Global Society	4	2%
Athletics - Extracurricular Activities	4	2%
Parent and Community Involvement	3	1%
Financial	2	1%
Other	0	0%

**Question 2: IMPROVE**

<b>Common Theme</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Program Options, Academies and Customized Learning Path	55	16%
Character Education	13	4%
Instructional Rigor and Relevance	52	15%
Enrichment, Special Programs / Arts	28	8%
Technology	9	3%
Building grade configurations, class size, school day/year	48	14%
Adequate faculty and professional development	27	8%
Relationships between students, teachers and parents	24	7%
Assessment and Progress Monitoring	41	12%
Addressing needs of a Global Society	13	4%
Athletics - Extracurricular Activities	4	1%
Parent and Community Involvement	23	6%
Financial	17	5%
Other	14	4%

## Examples of the responses to Question Two

### KEEP

#### **Program Options, Academies and Customized Learning Path**

- Keep Academies
- Keep vocational offerings that will still be here in 7-10 years
- Career counseling
- Customized Learning Paths

#### **Character Education**

- Increase student's life skills – ability to access available info and how to use it, how to filter useful/useless
- Expand Character Counts
- Keep and strengthen Character Counts

#### **Instructional Rigor and Relevance**

- Problem solving/creative thinking
- Keep focus on reading
- Keep academic rigor (test performance necessary)
- More hands-on real world

#### **Enrichment, Special programs / Arts**

- Keep arts
- Value of Pre-K and possible expansion of same
- Grade Recovery Program
- Maintain support for the arts

#### **Technology**

- Keep technology as a tool to engage kids
- Keep an emphasis on technology in the classroom across all schools
- Keep and improve growth in technology
- Continue early start of technology

#### **Building grade configurations, class size, school day/year**

- Ability to take classes at more than one school-high school
- Keep practice of standardization from school to school
- Campus environment
- Smaller schools
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#### **Adequate faculty and professional development**

- Keep PLC's for staff
- Need in-service/continuing education for teachers to incorporate technology into how teachers teach, will make more uniform across all schools
- Principal continue to make school-based decisions for staffing and curriculum vs. an administrative mandate
- Emphasize leadership instead of management

#### **Relationships between students, teachers and parents**

- Keep practice of getting input from faculty, district office staff, community members
- Practice of dissemination of information is strong - keep and expand.
- Keep practice of disseminating information. It is great - Alert Now, etc.
- Keep relationship building qualities in teachers

### **Assessment and Progress Monitoring**

- Keep assessment tools for a longer period of time to assess effectiveness
- Entrance and exit test should be given for determination of success
- Keep effective progress monitoring
- Progress monitoring - keep eSIS and Think Link

### **Addressing needs of a Global Society**

- Real world skills need to be stressed
- Global perspective
- Acceptance of others' views
- Diversity

### **Athletics - Extracurricular Activities**

- Sports, music, art, pe, cultural - the "fun things" in K-12
- Keep extracurricular activities

### **Parent and Community Involvement**

- Keep connection with community
- Community service

### **Financial**

- Fund areas that are hurting
- Utilize resources

### **Other**

- *See Other under "Improve" below*

## **IMPROVE**

### **Program Options, Academies and Customized Learning Path**

- Transportation for all academies
- Add more foreign language
- Focus more on learning styles
- More hands-on teaching

### **Character Education**

- Re-vamp Character Counts lessons
- Revise Character Counts
- Character Counts popularity contest right now
- Teach more tolerance

### **Instructional Rigor and Relevance**

- Offer non-academy students rigorous courses
- Master a first language complemented with basic second language
- Language at an earlier age
- Meet the needs of ALL

### **Enrichment, Special Programs / Arts**

- Incorporate more foreign language even at elementary level
- Don't lose the arts/language/electives
- Require speech or drama for every student
- Provide quality education for all including ESE

## **Technology**

- Equity in technology across the school
- Incorporate more diverse technological approaches
- Expand self-learning through technology/multi-media as a way of thinking – not just Virtual School
- How to integrate technology today into classroom and how teachers utilize technology

## **Building grade configurations, class size, school day/year**

- Rezoning into a neighborhood model - creating a stronger sense of community and greater parental involvement
- Look at a K-6 or at a K-8 model to ease transitional difficulties
- Mid-term before Christmas Break
- Longer school day with added compensation-there is never enough time

## **Adequate faculty and professional development**

- Looking at the available resources of teachers and distributing them to various schools by matching teacher strengths with school needs
- Training for high and middle school teachers to take 60 hours to learn to teach reading should be made more efficient with content teaching
- Utilizing tools that we have more effectively
- Increased /improved professional development to address current and future needs

## **Relationships between students, teachers and parents**

- Everyday communication skills are important-real life skills include financial management, human relations, leadership skills
- More coordination between teachers (within class groups re: tests, homework class work and communication with parents)
- Ability to communicate - empathize - respect others - get up and give speeches
- Make schools more accessible to parents - be more welcoming to parents

## **Assessment and Progress Monitoring**

- Assessments to align with the direction for students' future - example -vocational students may require different types of assessments
- Different way of reporting progress to parents - Report Cards and have mandatory conferences with teachers/parent two times a year
- Teacher creativity kept but is stifled due to FCAT. Way too much emphasis on FCAT and how to prepare. FCAT tied to requirements based only on a score
- Develop a collective strategy to approach FCAT's by emphasizing teaching and learning skills rather than test preparation

## **Addressing needs of a Global Society**

- Connection between classroom/real world
- Teach how to learn and transfer concept understanding to different new real world problems
- Real world applications-don't just teach to exam-instill whole brain creativity/challenge intellect
- Expand globally-focused classes

## **Athletics - Extracurricular Activities**

- Extracurricular activities/add different sports
- De-emphasize sports
- Community service

## **Parent and Community Involvement**

- Schools being seen more as hubs for families and communities
- Mandatory volunteer hours – add
- Find best practices in community involvement ---> Don't reinvent the wheel
- Change recognition of community service hours for all grade levels

## **Financial**

- Enable equitable funding for all schools to balance resource distribution – e.g., computer labs available in all schools
- Find ways to fund electives drama, music, art so that child is well rounded
- Expense of ESE for profound students
- More things online, less paper

**Other**

- Issue with activity buses
- Need to focus on other attributes or non-academic tools
- Shift control of local issues to school administration
- Definition of success
- Exercise-physical fitness
- Singapore math

**Question Three** asked participants, “What role might the community play in helping us to make certain that all of our students succeed?” Thirteen themes emerged from a total of 609 responses.

Common Theme	No. of Responses	Percentage
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Parent Involvement</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Communication Skills - Verbal/Written</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Career Skills</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Financial</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Internships</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Global Awareness</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Character Education</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Political Activity</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Personal Skills</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>

### Examples of the responses to Question Three

#### **Community Partnerships**

- Business Partnerships
- Community putting value on education as a forerunner
- Community supporting the educational arena
- Have professional and business input, people come in the classroom and teach hands on, especially in math, science, finance

#### **Parent Involvement**

- Parent Intervention Specialists
- Support parents
- Parent education to be more supportive of teachers/education
- Resources for parents, break mold for parents who were unsuccessful in school

#### **Communication Skills - Verbal/Written**

- Schools need to do a better job of communicating their stories and needs.
- Skype meetings/ Skype PTO Board meetings/SAC meetings
- Remember the entire community is not online
- Increase communication about what the schools are offering and what they need from the community and parents

#### **Career Skills**

- Opportunity to see real world
- Maintain Career Academies
- Offer opportunities to help kids gain motivation and find a way to succeed
- Show opportunities for trades and other/careers and paths than college

### **Mentoring**

- Use peer groups within school and community to help with struggling students
- Mentoring for high school students is particularly lacking
- Establish mentor programs-have businesses allow employees to be released an hour to come mentor students
- More academic and social mentoring

### **Financial**

- Private giving - financial help to "adopt" schools
- Better understanding and support for school funding
- Shop where you give taxes to our schools
- More awareness of budget issues

### **Internships**

- Internship at different school levels
- Internships and externships, professional organizations
- Community adjunct sport coaches and providing opportunity for "internships"
- Keep building internships, cooperative job corps, etc

### **Global Awareness**

- Bring in various community members who represent different cultures and activities
- Donate resources to enhance global communications (international video conferencing, link to another community in another country)
- Global community-use technology to help expand out ideas of "community" to bring in different perspectives, ideas
- Take advantage of the culture within the community

### **Character Education**

- Model characteristics we want our students to have
- Reinforce Character Counts
- Students need more sense of responsibility in community
- Show examples of character

### **Planning**

- Positive approach and innovative ideas! People!
- Create micro-districts within SJCS
- Support instructional freedom in our schools
- Workforce "focus group" to help us refine our student needs

### **Other**

- Take ownership in kids
- Virtual Education
- Judge kids based upon other than FCAT scores
- Identify kids who have needs

### **Political Activity**

- Advocating and communicating with legislators
- Offer citizenship skills
- Encourage students to become politically active via community involvement/partnership
- More civic presentations by local officials

### **Personal Skills**

- Daily living skills
- Allow kids to volunteer more to help develop social skills program
- Love the middle school athletics because many kids need good activities after school and their parents may not be able to transport them
- Allow children to fail and succeed

**Question Four** asked participants, “What do you believe will be our greatest challenges as a community in the coming 3-5 years? Our greatest opportunities?” Fourteen themes emerged from a total of 625 responses.

<b><u>CHALLENGES</u></b> Common Theme	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Financial	92	22%
Planning/Growth	60	15%
Political	51	12%
Communication	27	7%
Technology	29	7%
Global Awareness	26	6%
Curriculum/Instruction	24	6%
Community Partnerships	23	6%
Creativity-Flexibility	20	5%
Career Skills	19	5%
Parent Involvement	17	4%
Other	10	2%
Mentoring	7	2%
Character Education	7	2%

<b><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u></b> Common Theme	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Financial	26	12%
Planning/Growth	24	11%
Political	24	11%
Communication	11	5%
Technology	7	3%
Global Awareness	12	6%
Curriculum/Instruction	18	8%
Community Partnerships	41	19%
Creativity-Flexibility	13	6%
Career Skills	11	5%
Parent Involvement	6	3%
Other	0	0%
Mentoring	5	2%
Character Education	15	7%

Examples of the responses to Question Four

**CHALLENGES**

**Financial**

- Race to the Top
- Student turnover due to unemployment/job market
- Gap between economic levels of families
- Exportation of intellectual talent

**Planning/Growth**

- Managing growth within the school district
- Accessing credible information, the ability to anticipate trends
- What if we have a draft? How can we better prepare our children?
- Systemic review of all paperwork/reports for current relevance toward achieving strategic plan goals-top those that do not

**Political**

- We are such a good teaching community parents don't fully understand how legislation is affecting the teaching their students are receiving.
- Example "50<sup>th</sup> No More"
- On education-we must educate the public re value
- About the true effects of one's vote

**Communication**

- Instant message assignments?
- Tying the communication to the development age
- Administration stay in-tune with needs of adolescents (technology, etc.)
- Lack of good communication skills, written, spoken, etc.

**Technology**

- Ability (inability) to keep up with technology
- Utilize distance and online learning
- Every school needs a technology coach
- Keeping up with technology-disparity between newly constructed schools with complete technology vs. older schools that need to catch up

**Global Awareness**

- Capitalize on diversity
- Global connections in the classroom
- Diversity-ethnic, economic
- Create more activities for students to experience diversity

**Curriculum/Instruction**

- Opportunities for students who have already mastered the subject matter or test skills
- Keeping the high standards in our schools as newcomers arrive. Conservative values
- Challenges – PE and arts to include physical activities to improve mental thoughts, relate exercise to personal growth and focus on healthy eating
- Visual, auditory learning need to be addressed as well as tactile within classroom instruction and facilitating

**Community Partnerships**

- Community take ownership of schools
- Exportation of intellectual capital – leave local area
- Can the community provide services to each other in hard times?
- Knowing your resources and talents using parents, educators, volunteers and community businesses, use "Talents, Treasure and Time" analysis

**Creativity-Flexibility**

- Equipping our students/children to be adaptable
- Team building projects where students investigate and research topics bring to group for discussion and dissemination
- Balancing with need to learn how to problem solve
- Engagement

### **Career Skills**

- How do we prepare kids for jobs that don't exist at this point? Interns, etc.
- Opportunity to expand vocational education at earlier age, not every child is geared toward college
- Time to master skills
- More internships/trades/professional vocation exposure

### **Parent Involvement**

- Finding a catalyst/liaison between community and school better uses school web site (update regularly)
- Parents willing to help but need guidance
- Programs to involve parents in sports program
- Retain our high level of education in St. Johns

### **Other**

- Unknown – how to prepare
- Undefined criteria
- Maintain mental/physical health
- Students taking responsibility for everything

### **Mentoring**

- Have individual (young) at district level available to provide technology/training
- Developing whole child vs. just FCAT testing
- Have kids teach teachers more about technology
- Learn from each other in troubled times

### **Character Education**

- Understand boundaries
- Personal accountability
- Patience, team building, deny need for immediate gratification
- Loyalty

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Financial**

- Sources of revenue beyond tax dollars
- Public ignorance of need for school funding, need for increased dollars
- Salaries in education need to keep up with corporate world
- Economic landscape changes-who-what-how

### **Planning/Growth**

- Keep Dr. Joyner
- Transition from school, movement with student population
- Model School
- Navy growth

### **Political**

- Race to the Top federal stimulus money
- Correctness/fear of taking risk, example Christmas song
- Crime
- Maintain independence

### **Communication**

- More communication of the issues with the data to support (Grassroots...)
- Community involvement helps misconception of public vs private education
- Increase our academy concept
- Work hard to educate the community – to become advocates for education

## **Technology**

- Telecommunicating
- Technology – who will advance? How do the community and schools keep up with each other?
- Technology – opportunities to learn about jobs that can be done at home
- Technology expenses and updates

## **Global Awareness**

- Prepare students to be aware of community and need to work together to redefine nation, “new” world
- Embrace different cultures
- Global connections in the classroom
- Teach students how to think globally

## **Curriculum/Instruction**

- Need hospitality/tourism academy (lots of community connection opportunities)
- Expanding online learning for teachers
- Hybrid courses
- Relevance

## **Community Partnerships**

- Expand and connect with tourism revenue, like bed tax for education or ¼% of ½% restaurant tax for schools. Example, your family eats at Applebees, bill is \$23.50 to restaurant. Tax for schools would be 12 cents at ½%.
- Community services – developing more empathy within students
- Get communities/business to help parents be better parents
- Inner-county school partnership – resource exchange

## **Creativity-Flexibility**

- To learn to grow from adversity
- Accepting other ideas, change thinking
- Through our academics be able to be flexible to adapt to changing world
- If a child is unable to do one thing, how can we get a child to feel successful within their limits?

## **Career Skills**

- Helping students gain a focus for future
- Take advantage of the freedom of choice and allow children to continue to explore all options for vocation
- Future – less college, more vocational and technical
- Ability to re-make/re-train for changing society

## **Parent Involvement**

- High expectations by parents and teachers
- Liaison in schools with student families

## **Other**

- Safety
- Distractions
- Professional development

## **Mentoring**

- Use groups that are already in existence
- A teacher to help teach
- More involvement in schools at secondary level
- Using community volunteer – support classroom activity

## **Character Education**

- Ownership of an individual's action
- Teach tenacity and importance of not giving up
- Obligation to give back to school, community, less fortunate
- Re-emphasize responsibility pillar

Given the fast-paced changes in our world, what are the qualities and skills that you believe our future graduates will need in order to be successful?

#	Response
1	They need a strong understanding of our financial system. How the fed rates affect interest rates. How day to day living affects their credit score and what they can do to improve their quality of life by keeping that score high
2	Problem solving skills; character; work ethic - what it means to work hard (not expecting to get off work early - when can I leave?); creativity; well prepared in language arts/mathematics; political science and American History
3	Our future graduates need to increase their skills in the areas of math and science. They also need to have a practical application of the skills that are taught in the classroom. I also think that there is little diversity in our schools for various reasons and that does not prepare our children for the future outside of school.
4	Ethics and computer skills aka technology skills that include ethics
5	Literate /numerate /computer literate /good science education /honest/ punctual /hardworking
6	Number one is respect. Respect for others, the community, the environment and themselves. Students will need a keen understanding of life and people skills with the ability to apply them in real life situations. To be open to new technologies and the importance they play in the working world. Students are playing on many of the social networks. They have a difficulty in understanding the difference in the social media and the working technologies. Introduce high school freshman and parents to higher education standards. Direct freshman students to develop a goal strategy which may lead them to a successful high school education.
7	Higher order thinking skills (see Bloomberg's taxonomy) - Science & Math: understand concepts, and use the "language" of these disciplines - Foreign language - Multi-disciplinary approach - Self-Directed learning
8	More interpersonal skills based classes. This seems to have less emphasis and are key skills lacking in some of today's youth, especially with all the emphasis on technology.
9	I do not think that the skills are that drastically different than in years past. I think that they need to master the written language as well as the spoken word. They need solid mathematic skills that they can perform without a calculator. More contemporary issues include the implementation of technologies in assisting their studies and early and intense language programs.
10	Understanding of students' role in our local community, county, state and nation. Their role as citizen should be the primary goal of our schools.
11	Ensure quality IB program. Commitment to true gifted program at elementary, middle and high school levels (vs. blended programs). Servant leadership and community service. Strong math, science, and creative problem solving skills development for all students. Use of technology to provide flexibility to meet student's individualized needs in effective ways. Foreign language-- Spanish and Mandarin Chinese (prominent languages in the world) beginning early and throughout school curriculum.
12	They need to be literate, know basic math skills WITHOUT using a calculator, know basic computer skills, and be able to communicate with people around with or without the use of technology.
13	Faith in themselves and Benefits of Responsibility. Plus enroll in courses for math statistics and get more involved to make science fun. <a href="http://www.ndep.us/LabTV.aspx">http://www.ndep.us/LabTV.aspx</a> There are programs there to

	get students involved.
14	All of the up to date technology will surely help them be prepared for a bright future. The laptop program is great! We also feel strongly that America's second language, Spanish, should be brought back into the schools at an elementary level.
15	They will need to be independent thinkers and problem solvers. They will need to be well versed in current technology to be competitive in the job markets.
16	Teaching independence and teaching teamwork
17	They should learn skills that will make them resilient and strong in this challenging world. They must learn skills that can be utilized in real life situations.
18	Good work ethics, organizational skills
19	7 habits of highly effective people, to think globally. Make service and volunteering a part of everyday life (locally and internationally).
20	Responsibility, accountability, organization, self-awareness
21	Process information from a verity of sources.
22	I believe that graduates need to possess a strong work ethic, ability to multi-task, and solid foundation in math and writing.
23	I believe they need "street" smarts. They need a class to teach them real life experiences. I have opened my 10 year old her own debit card and have started showing her how to manage her money and how to balance a check book. I wish my parents would have done this with me when I was her age. Book smarts can get you into college but street smarts will help you make it through college.
24	Multi tasking, team work, creative thinking/problem solving skills, global communications-- including languages
25	Technological, teamwork, problem solving, conflict resolution, conceptual framework, strategic planning

**2. What practices should we keep and what changes should we make in order to help students become successful graduates?**

#	Response
1	Build on the technology training while also stressing the importance of face to face communication. Negotiation skills are not as effective on line.
2	I attended a Community Cafe at Fullerwood. I failed to put on the list that school lunches should be nutritious, no junk food and soft drinks should be served in our schools. Good food will make students better learners.
3	Continue to emphasis academic excellence. For high school students, the opportunity to go to work. School starts so late, that by the time they get out, they report to a job by 4:30 or so, which brings them home later in the evening. It would be opportunistic to start their school day early so that they can be off by 2:00, enabling them to report to work earlier (having their work be a part of their academic day). It would also be neat to see some partnering with community organizations or businesses, providing students as workers and/or volunteers.

4	I think that reading instruction and differentiation instruction is a great method of addressing the different needs and varying levels of our students. However, this is not the methodology that we use with math and sciences. In elementary schools we teach one level of math and science and do not address the different levels that exist in the classroom. It would be in the children's best interest to expand instruction that will to include more instruction in logic and scientific methods.
5	If we continue to be required to test for promotion, we need to continue classes for those you do not pass said tests. Expand the Virtual School
6	Look hard at the middle schools they are not preparing for rigorous high school classes they are wasting time and resources. High schools are doing a great job of raising the standards and providing varied and valid experiences
7	The acceptance of double booking a teacher to instruct two different classes in the same classroom to two different groups is a recipe for disaster. This should be discontinued. Improving academic advising and support should be increased.
8	Emphasize QUALITY, not quantity, of work. A large volume of homework does not make smarter or better prepared students. - Consider reviewing the amount of homework assigned at all grade levels. (Homework includes daily work, projects, FCAT preparation online, FCAT preparation workbooks, and other skills practice programs.) - Please note that it can be difficult for students to pursue outside activities (which is important for developing pathways for the future), due to homework volume.
9	Drop early release program. Students need to learn that when in the working world, there is no early release one day a week and sometimes you even need to work late. Add all the one hour early releases up for a quarter and give either a full day off for the students so teachers can really go to a seminar instead of meetings or leave early. This time off would be more meaningful for all concerned.
10	Our school system has provided very strong academics while also maintaining the arts in our schools. Please continue this. I think that athletics should be less important in high school than they are. Sports are an extracurricular activity and should not garner the significance they have. Our top ten priorities should all be academic.
11	Continue to focus on high standards. We need to increase the amount of students who are enrolled in a rigorous college preparatory program, starting in middle school. For some students, we need to provide additional support to have them reach this goal. Too much focus is placed on remediation. Students will rise to higher standards.
12	KEEP true gifted/PACE program. Blended is not working for students who require a gifted curriculum--those who need the enriching, hands-on curriculum to survive, and those who need to be stimulated by their intellectual peers to excel are not having their needs met with the blended/high-achiever model.
13	We need to get back to basics. We should not focus on testing so much and allow teachers to teach our children.
14	Keep them active and involved in practical that would keep them interested.
15	We feel that the PACE programs are such a positive for advanced children that need and deserve a challenge in school. This helps keep them thriving and challenges them to be their best.
16	(Online) Summer programs to supplement science and math.
17	Relevant consequences for bad behavior; continue taking control for your own goals; learning to work in a group; rewards for children working hard to achieve difficult goals.

18	My kids are still in elementary school. I think that in order to be successful graduates, there is a certain amount of knowledge that they need at a minimum in order to survive. For example, when a cashier's cash register suddenly stops working, most of the time they do not know how to subtract and calculate manually.
19	More teaching and less testing. Also less homework, they are getting completely burned out by high school.
20	Continue full time PACE programs in elementary schools. High School academies. Electives. Cannot think of any changes that should be made.
21	Go back to strictly gifted classes at the elementary and middle school level. What a disservice it is to the gifted kids to change a program that worked. We are stifling these children by putting them in blended classes. They are watered down. I've watched this change result in anger and jealousy on the part of some of the non-gifted kids, more bullying by them, and my daughter turn inward because she doesn't want to be picked on for her strengths and is tired of other kids getting mad at her good grades. She is popular, but that doesn't always matter.
22	The advanced programs (PACE, AP, IB, etc.) should be kept in place to challenge those students who are high performers. These programs place responsibility on students to manage their time, resources and activity schedules. This is an important aspect of becoming successful in life.
23	I think your programs are great already. Anything they can learn on how to prepare for the future will be helpful. What about a workshop on careers so they can start thinking about it now? The sooner they know what they want to do the better.
24	Provide busing to the unique academic programs/academies so that students can take advantage of what the county offers.
25	Career academies with academic focus, teacher incentives, smaller learning communities

**What role might the community play in helping us to make certain that all of our students succeed?**

#	Response
1	More community mentors that will allow shadowing in the work place.
2	Allowing students to be a part of organizations through volunteering, or businesses through jobs. This way students will be able to transition into the "community" with greater ease after high school.
3	I think that we need to integrate our school better than they are at this time. There is a definite division in the communities on economic basis. I think that it is a sad development over the years and there are various reasons for that development.
4	Pay attention to their kids and what they are learning and not learning.
5	Work experience and mentoring especially in the tourism and resort industry
6	That budget support of academic improvement becomes a priority. Parents become more engaged and play an active role in the education of their children. That mentoring of community members become an outreach of the schools.
7	Community members, organizations, and businesses can assist, particularly with low-achieving and high-achieving / high-potential students. Tutoring, career days, mentoring, Job shadowing, Internships, after-school enrichment programs. - Partner with universities & colleges, businesses,

	libraries, YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc. - Make use of university & college students as teacher assistants, tutors, enrichment instructors, etc.
8	Clearly, the financial supplementation from not only families but from local businesses is important. We can also solicit businesses and organizations for special sponsorship of things like band, science fair, history fair that may appeal to specific community interests. Parents must also partner with their community schools to make them what they want them to be, however, I do not know how to effectively promote parental involvement other than by personal invitation from school leadership, which is clearly very time intensive.
9	Fund-raising support. Volunteers. Exposure to career opportunities. Vote for education. Spread awareness about importance of education for our community and state.
10	The community needs to mentor the students at all levels, not just elementary.
11	Keeping watch over our kids to make sure kids stay out of trouble and achieve responsibility.
12	To be actively involved in fund raisers.
13	Make sure our kids receive a good education so they can become productive members of society. This includes more physical activity programs and organized sports in Middle schools.
14	Visitors from different careers talk to kids in classroom; kids be part of service projects;
15	Participation is the key. Education does not fall solely upon teachers--it must begin at home and be reinforced.
16	Volunteer hours should be voluntary not mandatory, after all we are in a free country. Parents should teach morals.
17	Volunteer in all areas of the school. Assist teachers, support staff so they can focus are the students and programming.
18	Report truancies, be more aware of the examples they are making with drinking
19	Holding our school boards/schools accountable.
20	The business partnerships that are taking place in the high school academies are excellent examples of how the community can make positive contributions in the lives of our students. Mentoring and work programs are also important.
21	As I mentioned above, maybe the school can get together with a bank to have a demonstration on how that works (most kids think their parents just use the card to make purchases and have no idea how the debit/credit cards work) Maybe a supermarket can join in and show how someone can start as a bagboy and work his way up the ladder with hard work - this can also be an opportunity to explain to the kids that hard work, being on time and doing what is asked can help them in their careers.
22	Building partnerships with nonprofit, businesses and faith-based organizations to supplement educational practices
What do you believe will be our greatest challenges as a community in the coming 3-5 years? Our greatest opportunities?	
#	<b>Response</b>
1	So many jobs in our community are attached to the financials - mortgage, title, real estate,

	surveyors, builders, etc. We are doing a great job at addressing some of those but as the market bottoms and starts the turn, today's freshmen will be well positioned for improvement in our economy.
2	Our biggest challenges will be dealing with state and government mandates. Our biggest opportunity will be joining hands as school system and community to lift our kids to success through creative and cooperative problem solving.
3	One of our challenges is to change the perception that one area school is better than another which has led to overcrowding at one school and empty classrooms in another. This leads to several problems including a differing opportunities at each school. The other challenge and opportunity is to increase the math and science instruction so that our young children will have a greater variety of experiences with math and science processes and thinking.
4	Challenge of unemployment and under employment; financial problems that could cause cuts in programs; loss of experienced teacher to retirement.
5	Employment /realistic housing / and maintaining what tourism we have
6	Challenges • Budget • Tired and over burdened educators • Enrollment trend ever-changing • General challenge of the economic landscape and demands on families • Keeping up with new and emerging technologies. Greatest Opportunity • Challenging students to be the best they can be • Making education fun • Engaging the community to be part of a successful formula
7	Challenges and opportunities often go together. These include: - Finance / funding / changes in local economy & business. There has already been withdrawal of some corporate support, but there are also new businesses growing (i.e., "green" businesses) and businesses looking for new opportunities. - Standards-based education (i.e., standards are necessary but they need to be broad & flexible enough to encourage -- not discourage-- higher-order thinking, enrichment, etc.).
8	Growth. Student/teacher ratios and money. Growth. More diversity and more tax dollars.
9	1. Recruiting and keeping excellent teachers, especially in the sciences 2. Maintaining a strong arts program in all of our schools 3. Focusing new resources and approaches to children with mild to moderate learning disabilities who are getting lost in the crowd, performing poorly and internalizing a negative attitude toward school and their abilities at an early age.
10	Our greatest challenge will be in changing the college success gap. Many of our students move on to college, but too many do not finish and thus find themselves in high unemployment risk, low wage positions. We need to make the entire county aware of this issue and really look at what schools are doing to make students both college ready and college prepared.
11	Growth without funding. A voting base and state gov't not supporting education and/or gifted funding. Reversing the unfortunate decisions regarding watering down Pace. Building ethical standards into our students against cultural trends. Utilizing technology in ways that are beneficial and effective.
12	Students who cannot communicate without the use of texting.
13	Challenges: Keeping up with the times and staying competitive for the Job market. Opportunities: Eager to mold young skulls full of mush.
14	To accept slightly higher taxes in order to provide proper/top notch education to our children. \$200/YR. difference in property taxes is not much for the average family, but can make a huge difference for our schools. Our taxes have recently been reduced and the budget cuts on the schools are immense. Our property tax was already low, why reduce it. Take the extra and apply to education.

15	Our greatest challenges will be to keep up with the growing numbers of students moving into our area, while the schools' budgets keep getting cut year after year.
16	Financial considerations; people that are well educated are going to have to be responsible for people that don't have 21st century skills (develop 21st century skills for all).
17	Growth. Making sure that each student receives sufficient one on one time.
18	Challenges will be having good students and less drop outs.
19	Decreasing budget. Poor support from the state legislature. Our Board and superintendant are both very proactive.
20	The drinking problem. Many parents in this area are heavy drinkers and partiers. The kids are learning this behavior at home. Parent education may help.
21	Challenges: growth, funding & hiring great educators. Opportunities: growth in diversity,
22	Challenges: improving reading and math skills for those performing below grade level in the elementary schools (perhaps a parent group to tutor in each school?) Opportunities: preparing students for success in college and beyond with exceptional education programs
23	I think just keeping the most important classes in schools will be difficult. I think a physical education is just as important as math or science.
24	Budgeting for correct teacher/student ratio, keeping up with the demands of technology, providing cutting edge technologies, finding creative funding.
25	Challenges: small class size opportunities: partnerships