

Scottsdale Unified School District  
Community Dialogue  
*“A Time to Reaffirm A Unified School District”*

ACTION FORUM  
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# The Process

- Study Circles (Topsfield Foundation) - a small, diverse group that looks at an issue in a democratic way. Everyone welcome.
- Starts with trying to understand each other and emphasizes a dialogue versus a debate - see where we agree and have common ground - building toward action.
- Meeting One: Getting to know each other and creating a picture of what we want our community to look like.
- Meeting Two: Agreeing upon common ground and developing ideas for action.
- Action Forum: Laying out a recommended agenda for the district and our community.

# Participants

- 52 from across the district
- Teams ranged in size from 4 -12 people
- Each team had members from different parts of the district
  - 46% north of Chaparral Road
- Parents, former teachers, private industry, community organizations, even one student
- Many came to the table for the first time
- Appreciated the chance to share openly and exchange ideas

# Team Assessment

Our strengths (in general)	However...
Good teachers	Low morale because of low pay & stress
Active parent involvement	Need broader participation
Great kids	Peer pressures
Education is best in the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not reaching potential of all our kids</li><li>• School inequalities/inconsistencies</li></ul>
Safe, clean facilities	Large class sizes & maintenance issues
New leadership appears to be more open & attentive	Need to focus on what's best for kids
Affluent community with desire to excel	Disconnect between schools and the community

**Moving to Action...**

**Vision and Ideas**



# What Do We Want Our Graduates to Know and Be Able to Do? (Why we send our kids to school)

## Graduates must:

1	Be ready to learn for a <u>lifetime</u> .	23%
2	Have a <u>well-rounded</u> education.	22%
3	Have <u>basic skills</u> in reading, writing, and math.	15%
4	Be <u>responsible people</u> .	14%
5	Have the skills to <u>be good citizens</u> .	10%
6	Have <u>job skills</u> .	8%
	Have skills for <u>everyday life</u> .	8%

\*Lifetime learning and/or well rounded education was #1 in all individual teams.

# Picture of a Community Where All Students Can Do Their Best

## Our Vision:

1	Schools take responsibility for helping all students <u>achieve</u> .	34%
2	All students get the <u>resources and services</u> they need.	25%
3	Schools and the <u>community</u> work well together.	18%
4	Education involves the <u>whole family</u> .	13%
5	Schools welcome and support young people of all <u>cultures</u> , income levels, and races.	9%

\*Achievement and/or resources and services was #1 in all individual teams.

# Where is Our Community Today?

(Scale 1-10, 10 highest)

## State of Our Community:

1	Schools take responsibility for helping all students <u>achieve</u> .	5.2
2	Schools welcome and support young people of all <u>cultures</u> , income levels, and races.	4.7
3	Schools and the <u>community</u> work well together.	4.5
4	All students get the <u>resources and services</u> they need.	4.2
5	Education involves the <u>whole family</u> .	4.0

# Ideas – Common Themes

*(In random order)*

<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Students/Families</b>	<b>Learning</b>
Staff Development	Mentoring/Tutoring	Equity and Consistency
Teacher Evaluation and Accountability	Student Behavior	Explore Best Practices
Recruitment, Hiring and Retention	Parent Involvement	School Choice
	Family Assistance	Individualized Learning
		Gifted Education
		English Language Learners

# Ideas – Common Themes

## Continued...*(In random order)*

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Community</b>
Reduce Class Size	School Evaluation and Accountability	Community Partnerships and Mobilization
Facilities	Long Range Planning	Public Relations and Information Outreach
Nutrition		
Technology		

# Ideas – Common Themes In Rank Order

1. Reduce class size (21)
2. School equity and consistency (14)
3. Community partnerships and mobilization (14)
4. Teacher evaluation and accountability (13)
5. English Language Learners (11)
6. Individualized learning (8)
7. Staff development (5)
8. Gifted education (4)
9. Long range planning (4)
10. Teacher recruitment, hiring & retention (3)
11. Mentoring & tutoring (3)
12. Technology (3)
13. School evaluation and accountability (3)
14. Nutrition (2)
15. Parent involvement (1)
16. Explore best practices (1)
17. Facilities (1)
18. School choice
19. Student behavior
20. Family assistance
21. Public relations and information outreach

# Priority Ideas

*(In random order)*

Teachers	Students/Families	Learning
Support professional development efforts	Institute an anti-bullying program	Create a committee to evaluate the quality and accessibility of curriculum, along with the consistency of programs
Ensure a regular teacher evaluation process using parent input	Increase amount of scholarships or sliding fee options for kids to join organized sports	Explore best practices to promote lifelong learning and improve academic achievement
Reprioritize resources to focus on teacher quality - includes performance incentives, higher pay		Improve the quality of gifted education
		Reevaluate the district's English Language Learner program
		Develop individualize learning plans

# Priority Ideas

## Continued...*(In random order)*

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Community</b>
Increase number of teacher aides	Change process for school evaluation and accountability	Organize a formal school-business organization
Implement a preventative maintenance program	Institute a long-range plan to rearrange funding priorities	Maintain and increase the number of community specialists
Leverage technology to create virtual classrooms		

# Priority Ideas In Rank Order

1. Reprioritize resources to focus on teacher quality, i.e. incentives, higher pay (22)
2. Explore best practices to promote lifelong learning and improve academic achievement (19)
3. Ensure a regular teacher evaluation process using parent input (12)
4. Reevaluate English Language Learner Program (8)
5. Organize a formal school-business organization (7)
6. Institute a long-range plan to rearrange funding priorities (6)
7. Develop individualized learning plans (6)
8. Improve the quality of gifted education (5)
9. Increase number of teacher aides (5)
10. Increase scholarships or sliding fee options for kids to join organized sports (4)
11. Support professional development (3)
12. Implement a preventative maintenance program (3)
13. Create a committee to evaluate the quality & accessibility of curriculum, consistency of programs (2)
14. Leverage technology, i.e. create virtual classrooms (2)
15. Change process for school evaluation and accountability (2)
16. Institute an anti-bullying program (1)
17. Maintain and increase the number of community specialists

# Community Response

- Support efforts to improve our schools.
- Become aware, offer ideas and assist in cultivating civic and business involvement.
- Become informed on school budgets and support necessary funding priorities for the success of our children.
- Parents can volunteer in class and provide positive reinforcement for students.
- Community members can serve as mentors and assist in raising resources for programs.
- Assist in forming community partnerships to support items that need attention.
- Participate in the process, stay open minded and support the end product.

# THANK YOU!

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