NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 56-7

2025 Strategic Plan Report

December 2025

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Table of Contents

Introduction 2

Action Plans

Professional Development 5

Student Behavior & Student Support 6

Public Relations 7

Facilities 9

Summary of Survey Highlighted District Successes 10

Data Reports

Student 13

Staff 15

Parent 19

Community 23

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

INTRODUCTION

NORTHWESTERN
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Northwestern Area School District, located in Mellette, S.D., provides a friendly, small-town atmosphere for **345 students from the surrounding communities in grades K-12**. Students receive a top-notch education with highly regarded academic programs and extracurricular activities.

The school features a brand-new competition gym with a full-length basketball floor and increased seating capacity, locker rooms, coaches and officials' rooms, and a wellness center in addition to newly renovated band room, science classrooms, and lab, as well as updated lighting, flooring, and paint in the classrooms.

Academically, Northwestern offers elective courses in art, business, music, agriculture, and wellness in addition to the core curriculum. Students enjoy one-on-one attention with staff members, while they also can take high school, dual-credit, and AP classes online.

Northwestern has been 1:1 with technology devices in grades K-12 since 2010 with the release of the iPad. The school issues iPads to students in grades K-8 and laptops in grades 9-12. Nearly every classroom features large, flat-screen television screens, while elementary classrooms feature interactive whiteboards.

Organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America, Journalism, Drama Club, Visual Arts, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FFA, Chess Club, Robotics, and Student Council provide students with additional learning opportunities outside the classroom. The Visual Arts team has won 5 state titles and 2 runner-up finishes. FBLA advances several students to the national convention each year. The screen-printing business run by the students encompasses both the art and business programs to make high-quality apparel for organizations inside and outside of the school. In addition to performing a spring play, the Drama Club advances thespians to the state competition in oral interpretation and one-act play. The Journalism class produces the all-state yearbook, live streams school events, and produces digital media. The Student Council organizes and manages all homecoming festivities. The FFA program allows students to explore agricultural interests and attend several events around the state each year in addition to the national convention in Indianapolis.

Athletically, Northwestern has played in 25 state championships, bringing home 15 state titles. Northwestern possesses a strong tradition of volleyball, cross country, football, basketball, track and field,

and wrestling. This year we added sideline cheerleading and E-sports to our extracurricular offerings. In E-sports our League of Legends team and one Chess student qualified for the state tournament.

A consolidated school district, Northwestern provides educational services to the towns of Ashton, Athol, Brentford, Chelsea, Conde, Cresbard, Mansfield, Mellette, and Northville. With tremendous support from parents, staff, patrons, the Booster Club, the Northwestern Community Foundation and the Plains Lions Club, Northwestern students receive a first-rate education and are the pride of their communities.

The Northwestern Area School District has a rich tradition of strong academic and extra-curricular activities, striving to provide programs which will challenge students and promote the well-rounded and continuous growth of their youth into effective citizens in a democratic society. To attain this goal the school shall endeavor to provide a suitable environment for helpful guidance, training, and experiences which will assist each student to become better adjusted in his/her family, social, and business relationships, concerned for his/her own welfare and the welfare of others, open-minded on controversial issues, trained in work habits, skills, and logical reasoning, and prepared for profitable and gratifying use of leisure time. Furthermore, the school shall provide for the physical and moral wellbeing of each student. Finally, the school shall cooperate with the home, church, and other community forces to build the educative experience of its youth.

POLICIES

The school board policies and regulation can be found on the district website at Policy Listing

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- Kevin Nash, President
- Heidi Boekelheide, Vice President
- Megan Clemensen
- Adam Hahler
- Katrina Metz

PROCESS

The **Northwestern Area School Board** supported a district wide strategic planning process to help to inform the Board about future goals for the district. The survey was conducted at the beginning of the 2025 school year. Surveys were prepared to assess responses that represented these specific groups:

- Northwestern Area **Students** in grades 6-12 (85 responses)
- **Staff** members of the Northwestern Area School (19 responses)
- **Parents** of Northwestern Area students (110 responses)
- Northwestern Area **Community** members (47)

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Focus group meetings, involving both internal and external stakeholders, were held to turn survey themes into goal statements and to devise action steps to accomplish the stated goals.

The following themes were identified and are shared in this document along with an implementation schedule and specific action steps.

- **Professional Development**
- **Student Behavior and Student Support**
- **Public Relations**
- **Facilities**

The full data report is included in the document.

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACTION PLAN

GOAL AREA	**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
GOAL:	**The Northwestern Area school district will provide targeted PD in the following areas over the next three calendar years: Instructional Strategies/Best Practices, Social/ Emotional Learning, Positive Behavioral Support Systems, Serving Special Education Students, and Meeting the Social, Emotional, and Developmental needs of youth.**
METRICS:	**District led staff survey. (SASD Provided Survey Monkey by Spring 2028)**

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

ACTION STEPS	RESPONSIBLE	START DATE	PROGRESS UPDATE
1. The district will consider forming an advisory committee made up of certified and classified staff to determine the order in which the above five areas of professional development will be addressed. Outside experts will be hired for training if there are no internal options.	Principals and Staff	Spring 2026	Annually
2. The advisory committee will provide input on the targeted PD timeline and delivery as well as follow-up. Committee meets twice per year or as needed.	Advisory Committee	Spring 2026	Annually
3. Encourage staff to seek PD on their own and or visit an excellent classroom in a neighboring district once every couple of years.	Staff Admin	2026-2027 Ongoing	Annually
4. The district will consider scheduling PD with neighbor districts to lessen the costs and to allow collaboration with like teachers.	Admin Staff	2026-2027 Ongoing	Annually

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACTION PLAN

GOAL AREA	**STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND STUDENT SUPPORT**
GOAL:	**The district will improve both student behavior and student support by reviewing all policies, enhancing college and career options, and reviewing elective offerings.**
METRICS:	**District led student and staff survey. (SASD Provided Survey Monkey by December of 2027)**

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

ACTION STEPS	RESPONSIBLE	START DATE	PROGRESS UPDATE
1. The district will do a full review of all MS/HS policies, including a safety/anti-bullying plan, with admin, staff, parent, and student representatives, and determining which rules will stay and which will go. The administration and staff will dutifully enforce all rules consistently for all students. "Less is More" Parents must sign that they have read the handbook.	Principals/ Students/ Teachers/ Parents	Spring or Fall of 2026	Annually
2. The district will enhance their dissemination of college and career choices, scholarship information, military options, etc. posting regularly in announcements. The district may choose to use the scholarship list that Aberdeen posts.	Principal/Staff Counselor	Spring 2026	Annually
3. The district will do a review of the elective offerings and assess the possibilities of additional life skills type class offerings or embed in existing curriculum. Bring local experts in, particularly alumni if available.	Principal/Supt. Board/Staff	Spring/Fall 2026	Annually
4. The district will consider class field trips in grades 7-12 each year to visit college and Tech school campuses.	Board/Admin	2026-2027 Ongoing	Annually
5. Survey the students on all electives to see if there are better options for students withing the current staffing and financial constraints.	Staff/ Students	2026	Spring 2026
6. The district will consider bringing in recent graduates to speak to 9-12 grade students about attending college, tech school, or military.	Admin/Staff	2026-2027 Ongoing	Annually

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACTION PLAN

GOAL AREA	**PUBLIC RELATIONS**
GOAL:	**The Northwestern Area school district will take proactive steps to enhance public relations within the district and will actively "tell our story."**
METRICS:	**District led Parent and Community survey. (SASD Provided Survey Monkey by December of 2027)**

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

ACTION STEPS	RESPONSIBLE	START DATE	PROGRESS UPDATE
1. All Certified employees will write a minimum of one "Tell Our Story" Article to be published in the paper and online each school year.	All Certified staff	Fall of 2026	Annually
2. All staff will work to better recognize all students, when appropriate, for positive results and or behavior.	All staff	Fall 2026 Ongoing	Annually
3. The district will work to better engage parents in the district through volunteer service and better P/T conference attendance.	All Staff	Spring/Fall 2026	Annually
4. The Board and Admin will collaborate on additional staff recognition and celebration.	Admin Board	2026-2027	Annually
5. The district will add a "Did you know" corner on their Facebook page and allow the staff and journalism class to post fun facts about the district.	Tech Coord. Journalism	2026-2027	Annually
6. The district will post volunteer opportunities for parents, grandparents, and community, or seek them out as needed via phone calls. The district will visit with their school attorney on the need for potential background checks.	Staff Admin Board/Attorney	2026-2027	Annually
7. All staff will try to conduct "positive" contacts to parents.	All Staff	2026-2027	Annually
8. The district will consider a weekly "Congrats" list to be put in the announcements with no mention of reason, it could be for a random act of kindness, showing excellence in athletics, fine arts, academics, or for good behavior. Names could be submitted by staff or students.	Staff Students	2026-2027	Annually

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

9. The board may consider a scheduled visit for each member to spend part of a day in the building and eating with staff and students.	Board	2026-2027	Once Annually
10. The journalism class will consider consistently posting pictures from elementary classrooms, if parents have approved in advance, possibly focusing on one grade per week.	Journalism Class	2026-2027	Annually Ongoing
11. The board will consider streaming their board meetings and encouraging the public to listen in or attend in person.	Board	2026-2027	Annually
12. The district will consider creative ways to achieve better parent participation in PTC, possibly scheduling for MS/HS.	Board/Admin/ Staff	2026-2027	Annually

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACTION PLAN

GOAL AREA	**FACILITIES**
GOAL:	**The district will continue to update and maintain adequate and appropriate facilities with an emphasis on the elementary playground**
METRICS:	**Completion of Elementary Playground renewal.**

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

ACTION STEPS	RESPONSIBLE	START DATE	PROGRESS UPDATE
1. The school board and admin have made updating the elementary playground a priority and they will begin researching "Best Practices" for a playground update.	Admin/Board	Spring 2026	Annually
2. Once the board and admin have identified what the playground renewal should look like, they will assess the current financial availability and complete the project as quickly as finances allow. The district may also seek sponsor donors.	Admin/Board	Spring 2027	Fall 2027
3. The district will create a Google Doc to list all needed interior upgrades and prioritize annually in their 5-year CO plan. Items to include elem. carpet, paint, lockers, murals, and ceilings, kitchen A/C, upgraded science lab, office upgrades.	Board/Admin Staff	2026 - 2027	Annually

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Summary of School District Successes

Student Survey Highlights

- **Strong Sense of Belonging and Safety:**
  - 90% of students feel accepted in school, and 90% feel safe while in school.
  - 85% agree there is at least one adult who knows them well.
  - 96% agree there is at least one other student who knows them well.
- **Academic Achievement:**
  - 60% of students report an A or A/B average.
- **Positive Relationships and Engagement:**
  - 89% agree that teachers attempt to engage students in classroom discussions.
  - 81% agree teachers provide opportunities for students to demonstrate learning.
  - 81% agree teachers give relevant and engaging work.
  - 79% would choose this school again if given the choice.
- **Recognition and Kindness:**
  - 88% have witnessed acts of kindness towards students and staff.
  - 54% have been recognized by staff for positive contributions and achievements.
- **Transition Support:**
  - 80% of 9th graders felt supported by staff during the transition from middle to high school.
- **Preparation for Life After High School:**
  - 76% of 12th graders feel the school prepared them for life after graduation.

Staff Survey Highlights

- **Supportive and Collaborative Environment:**
  - 63% of staff have worked in the district for over 5 years, indicating stability.
  - 63% agree all classrooms are supportive and inviting.
  - 84% agree staff understand and use best practices to teach standards.
  - 84% expect academic success for all students.
  - 63% agree that support strategies and programs are in place for struggling students.
- **Engagement and Instructional Quality:**
  - 74% of staff feel that 51–75% of students are consistently engaged in learning.
  - High agreement on the value of hands-on activities, projects, discussions, and internships as quality measures for student achievement.
- **Professional Development:**
  - 100% of staff believe professional development is integral to their effectiveness.
  - High interest in professional development for instructional strategies, social/emotional learning, positive behavioral support, and serving special education students.

- **Positive School Climate:**
  - 79% feel supported and encouraged by administration.
  - 79% feel supported by administration in their work.
  - 79% agree staff treat each other professionally and with respect.
  - 90% feel safe in the school.
  - 89% rate their employment experience as good or excellent.

Parent Survey Highlights

- **High Standards and Support:**
  - 82% agree the district sets high standards for learning.
  - 78% agree staff encourage and support their children.
  - 77% agree their children feel engaged in classroom activities.
  - 76% agree teaching staff want all students to succeed.
  - 91% agree their children feel safe at school.
- **Recognition and Communication:**
  - 81% agree their children receive recognition for positive behavior and achievements.
  - 88% feel welcome to visit the school at any time.
  - 96% share information about their children with staff openly.
  - 91% agree that communication efforts are adequate.
- **Facilities and Programs:**
  - 90% rate district facilities as excellent or good.
  - 71% rate academic programs as excellent or good.
  - 86% rate extra-curricular programs as excellent or good.
  - 82% rate co-curricular programs as excellent or good.
  - 77% rate technology initiatives as excellent or good.
  - 83% rate overall district performance as excellent or good.
- **Preparation for Life After Graduation:**
  - 64% of parents of 12th graders agree the school helped prepare their children for life after graduation.
- **Overall Satisfaction:**
  - 79% rate overall satisfaction with their children's education as good or excellent.

Community Survey Highlights

- **Facilities and Programs:**
  - 94% rate district facilities as excellent or good.
  - 70% rate academic programs as excellent or good.
  - 85% rate extra-curricular programs as excellent or good.
  - 89% rate co-curricular programs as excellent or good.
  - 81% rate technology initiatives as excellent or good.
- **Graduate Readiness:**
  - 81% believe high school graduates are ready for post-secondary education or experiences.
- **Opportunities:**
  - Community members highlight "good opportunities" available in the district.

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Open-Ended Successes (Staff & Parent Responses)

- **Staff:**
  - Administration is good and caring.
  - Staff collaboration is strong.
  - High academic expectations.
  - Positive community support.
- **Parents:**
  - Clubs and athletics.
  - Staff are caring and supportive.
  - Small school setting/class size.
  - Safe learning environment.
  - Helpful administration.

In summary, these highlights reflect the strengths and successes of the Northwestern Area School District as identified by students, staff, parents, and community members throughout the survey. The district is recognized for its supportive environment, high academic standards, strong relationships, effective communication, and positive school climate.

NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 62-6 ALL SURVEY RESULTS

Student Survey Results N= 85

1. What grade are you in?

Freshman	*Sophomore*	*Junior*	*Senior*
17%	21%	33%	29%

2. What is your racial or ethnic background? Select all that apply.

White	*American Indian/ Alaskan Native*	*Black or African American*	*Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin*	*Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander*	*Asian*	*Other*	*I prefer not to respond*
97%	5%	1%	4%	4%	1%	2%	4%

3. In general, what kind of grades do you get in school? Pick the choice that is closest to your overall average?

Student Grades	*A Average*	*Between an A & B Average*	*B Average*	*Between a B and C Average*	*C Average*	*Below a C Average*
	25%	35%	8%	17%	7%	8%

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements.	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
Overall, I feel accepted in this school.	39%	51%	7%	3%
I feel safe while in school.	39%	51%	9%	1%
My thoughts, ideas, and opinions are heard by the staff.	10%	58%	27%	5%
There is at least one adult in this school who knows me well.	58%	27%	12%	3%
There is at least one other student in this school who knows me well.	70%	26%	2%	2%
The rules are consistently enforced in this school.	13%	61%	24%	2%
I feel I am an important part of my school community.	14%	53%	27%	6%
Teachers attempt to engage me in classroom discussions.	20%	69%	7%	4%
Teachers provide opportunities for me to demonstrate my own learning.	19%	62%	17%	2%
Teachers give me work that is relevant and engaging.	22%	59%	17%	2%
If I could choose a school right now, I would choose this school.	30%	49%	11%	10%

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

5. During this school year, about how often have you:	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Felt isolated, targeted, or ridiculed by others.	32%	39%	19%	10%
Witnessed other students isolate, target, or ridicule another student.	12%	42%	34%	12%
Witnessed an act of kindness towards other students and staff.	4%	8%	57%	31%
Been recognized by staff for your positive contributions and achievements.	18%	28%	36%	18%
Felt unengaged in your own learning.	10%	40%	31%	19%
Were engaged by staff to discuss college and career readiness and aspirations.	19%	22%	44%	15%
Seriously considered dropping out of school.	59%	19%	12%	10%

6. This question is for 9th graders only. When you moved from 8th to 9th grade, did you feel supported by staff in your preparation for the transition?	Yes	No
	80%	20%

7. This question is for 9th graders only. If you had a difficult time, what could the school have done to help you? *(Responses are listed from most responses to least responses with two or more responses being listed.)*
Talk about the differences between MS and HS
Help with schoolwork
Help with problems

8. This question is for 12th graders only. Do you feel the school has prepared you for life after high school? (College/University, Technical College, Military, World of Work). Next Step (Two or more responses listed): **College/University**	Yes	No
	76%	24%

9. This question is for 12th graders only. If you answered "no" to the previous question, what could the school have done to better prepare you? *(Responses are listed from most responses to least responses with two or more responses being listed.)*
Help with college and scholarship applications

10. This is for 12th graders only. Information regarding graduation rates, curriculum, and course offerings are reviewed frequently enough to make adjustments to meet student needs and expectations.				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
28%	44%	24%	4%	0%

11. Please give one recommendation to enhance the educational experience for future students. *(Responses are listed by most responses to least responses with three or more responses listed.)*
Help with college/scholarships
More hands-on activities/less computer
Slow down and help students understand
Real-life elective classes
Acknowledge student achievement

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Staff Survey Results N = 62

1. How many years have you worked for this district?		
	0-5 years	55%
	5 to 10 years	13%
	Over 10 years	32%

2. What is your current assigned school level?			
Elementary	Middle School	High School	Combination of Schools
19%	11%	16%	54%

Staff Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3. All classrooms are supportive and inviting spaces in which all students can learn.	22%	56%	14%	3%	5%
4. All staff understand and use best practices to teach the expected standards.	30%	49%	16%	5%	0%
5. Academic success for all students is expected by all staff.	35%	59%	3%	3%	0%
6. Support strategies and programs are in place for students who struggle academically.	11%	70%	19%	0%	0%

7. What percentage of students do you feel are consistently engaged in the learning process?			
0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
44%	16%	19%	21%

8. The following types of assessments and data points are seen as quality measures to help shape instruction and gauge student achievement.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Tests/Quizzes (multiple choice and short answer)	29%	59%	12%	0%	0%
Projects	22%	57%	20%	1%	0%
Discussions (small/large group)	28%	62%	10%	0%	0%
Presentations	12%	64%	24%	0%	0%
Simulations	10%	49%	38%	2%	1%
Hands-on Activities	33%	53%	12%	2%	0%
Videos	15%	55%	23%	7%	0%
Portfolios	7%	34%	54%	3%	2%
Internships	14%	33%	46%	5%	2%
Interim Assessments	18%	47%	30%	3%	2%
District-wide Assessments (STAR)	15%	31%	42%	7%	5%

9. What percentage of time do staff use the following assessments and data points to formulate and guide instruction?	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Tests/Quizzes (multiple choice and short answer)	12%	24%	29%	35%
Projects	19%	37%	30%	14%
Discussions (small/large group)	7%	20%	30%	43%
Presentations	24%	30%	39%	7%
Simulations	44%	26%	24%	6%
Hands-on Activities	9%	20%	47%	24%
Videos	25%	29%	34%	12%
Portfolios	53%	32%	14%	2%
Interim Assessments	34%	21%	17%	28%
District-wide Assessments (STAR)	39%	23%	15%	23%

10. Data regarding truancy, attendance rates, dropout rates, and discipline referrals are analyzed frequently enough to make adjustments to meet student needs.				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8%	44%	39%	6%	3%

Staff Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
11. I feel supported and encouraged by administration through mentoring and coaching.	15%	63%	16%	6%	0%
12. The District's expectations are clearly communicated to the staff.	16%	45%	34%	3%	2%
13. Professional development is valued and seen as necessary by all staff for the purpose of meeting students' needs.	11%	51%	30%	3%	5%
14. Professional development is planned systematically with relevance, purpose, and application expected by administration.	11%	51%	30%	3%	5%

15. Do you believe professional development is an integral component of your effectiveness as an educator?	Yes	No
	85%	15%

16. Please indicate which of the following areas you believe more professional development is needed.	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Meeting academic standards	51%	44%	5%
Instructional strategies/best practices	76%	22%	2%
Social/Emotional Learning	59%	39%	2%
Positive behavioral support systems	70%	28%	2%
Serving special education students	78%	22%	0%
Creating/Enhancing school climate	62%	36%	2%
Meeting the social, emotional, and developmental needs of youth	73%	25%	2%
Creating a positive school climate	61%	36%	3%
Project/Competency Based Learning	54%	36%	10%
Technology Integration into learning	49%	44%	7%
Using data to guide instruction	44%	49%	7%

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Staff Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
17. Staff are given opportunities to celebrate stories of success that support the district's values.	2%	45%	40%	11%	2%
18. Staff are involved in decisions relevant to conditions (such as textbooks, resources, programs, best practices, etc.) that affect them and their work.	15%	48%	29%	6%	2%
19. Staff value each other.	21%	61%	18%	0%	0%
20. Staff feel supported in their work by parents.	7%	48%	37%	8%	0%
21. Staff feel supported in their work by administration.	16%	68%	13%	3%	0%
22. Staff treat each other professionally and with respect.	31%	56%	10%	2%	1%
23. Staff feel safe in this school.	31%	58%	8%	3%	0%
24. Staff choose to work here because they feel appreciated.	11%	48%	31%	10%	0%
25. Staff work here because they enjoy it and choose to be here.	24%	59%	15%	2%	0%
26. The staff's beliefs and actions reflect a true sense of community.	10%	66%	22%	2%	0%
27. Students follow the codes of conduct	3%	47%	32%	15%	3%
28. Expectations for student behavior are high and enforced by staff.	11%	50%	28%	8%	3%
29. The district communicates (i.e., student resources, student handbooks, codes of conduct, defined consequences) clearly how students are expected to conduct themselves.	16%	50%	31%	2%	1%
30. Staff respect all students.	26%	69%	5%	0%	0%
31. The school is a safe place for students.	24%	63%	11%	2%	0%
32. School rules are consistently applied to all students.	10%	45%	32%	10%	3%
33. Students are supported when they have social, emotional, or behavioral problems.	16%	58%	21%	5%	0%
34. Parents are active partners in educating their child(ren).	3%	31%	53%	13%	0%
35. Parents support staff by actively engaging in student learning.	1%	23%	66%	10%	0%
36. Parents are aware of the expectations for student behavior.	8%	55%	31%	6%	0%

37. Share two things that work well within the School District. *(Responses listed by most responses to least responses – with three or more responses listed.)*	Strong sense of community/teachers support each other
	Communication
	Supportive Administration
	Positive Environment
	PAWS program
	Teachers are dedicated/committed
	Safe positive place for kids

38. Share two things that can be improved within the School District. *(Responses listed by most responses to least responses – with three or more responses listed.)*	Communication
	Need more parent involvement
	Need more planned training
	Staff working as one instead of buildings
	Student behavior guidelines defined
	Safety plan
	More support for students' needs

39. Please rate the overall satisfaction regarding your employment experience with the School District.				
Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
2%	5%	21%	47%	26%

40. I would rate the overall performance of the school district as:				
Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
0%	8%	29%	52%	11%

Parent Survey Results N = 107

1. Please describe your 'status" as a parent in the School District.	
Resident of the Northwestern Area School District with child(ren).	93%
We open enroll our child(ren) into the Northwestern Area School District.	7%

2. Please indicate all grade level(s) of your children in the district.	Grade Level	Percentage
	PK	5%
	Kindergarten	11%
	First	10%
	Second	15%
	Third	14%
	Fourth	13%
	Fifth	12%
	Sixth	23%
	Seventh	21%
	Eighth	16%
	Freshman	10%
	Sophomore	16%
	Junior	19%
	Senior	13%

3. What is the highest level of education you have completed.	
High School Diploma not completed	2%
GED	2%
High School Diploma	17%
Community College or Technical Degree	19%
Four-year College Degree	36%
Master's, Doctorate, or other Advanced Degree	21%
Unknown	0%
Prefer not to answer	3%

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

Parent Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. The School District sets high standards for learning.	14%	39%	34%	22%	1%
5. The staff encourages my child(ren) to learn and supports them in the process.	21%	50%	22%	5%	2%
6. My child(ren) feels engaged in learning activities in the classroom.	19%	47%	26%	7%	1%
7. The staff wants all students to succeed.	25%	52%	11%	10%	2%
8. If my child(ren) needs help, the teacher helps him/her. Comments (over three responses): Depends on the teacher, hard with on-line teachers	26%	50%	17%	5%	2%
9. My child(ren) takes pride in and enjoys attending school. Comments (none over three responses)	20%	43%	24%	12%	1%
10. I believe the classroom learning experiences created by staff are appropriate and engaging for my child(ren). Comments (over three responses): Remote/ online is not good	21%	44%	26%	8%	1%
11. My child(ren) feels safe at school.	29%	54%	12%	4%	1%
12. I believe that all staff values my child(ren)'s uniqueness and abilities.	21%	46%	28%	3%	2%
13. Rules are consistent and enforced for all children. Comments (over three responses): Favoritism, No accountability for poor behavior	10%	33%	22%	16%	19%
14. My child(ren) respects their teachers.	32%	59%	8%	1%	0%
15. My child(ren) receives recognition for their positive/negative behavior, academic successes/ failures, and great/poor attitude when it is appropriate.	21%	53%	4%	10%	2%
16. I feel welcome to visit the school at any time. Comment (None over three)	26%	49%	15%	5%	5%
17. I share information about my child(ren) with staff members openly and when asked.	40%	54%	4%	1%	1%
18. I believe the communication efforts used by the school are adequate: electronic (website, Facebook), phone calls, newsletters, and parent-teacher conferences.	22%	55%	14%	6%	3%

19. I would serve on parent committees if asked.	Yes	34%
	No	20%
	Maybe	46%

20. How would you rate the following statements:	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	No Opinion
District Facilities (academic, athletic, fine arts, grounds)	27%	50%	18%	5%	0%
Academic Programs (math, science, reading, language arts)	16%	36%	32%	16%	1%
Extra-curricular Programs (athletics and student organizations)	13%	49%	24%	11%	3%
Co-curricular Programs (music and fine arts)	24%	53%	17%	3%	3%
Effectiveness of technology initiatives	18%	47%	28%	4%	3%
Overall performance of the School District	11%	51%	30%	8%	0%

21. I believe this School District is the best fit for my child(ren).	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	18%	46%	32%	4%	0%

22. Please rate the overall satisfaction of the education of your child(ren) by the School District.				
Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
1%	8%	26%	47%	18%

23. *This question is for parents of 12th graders only.* Do you feel the school has helped to prepare your child(ren) for life after high school graduation? (College/University, Technical College, Military, work world)				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
19%	25%	25%	19%	12%

24. The School District has handled its finances in a responsible manner.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	6%	28%	54%	9%	3%

25. Please share two things that work well within the School District for my child(ren). (*Responses listed by most responses to least responses. Each listed item has three or more responses to be listed.*)
Communication
Staff is kind/caring
SPED department
Staff availability
Fine Arts programs
Athletics
Academics

26. Please share two things that can be improved upon within the School District for my child(ren). *(Reponses listed by most responses to least responses. Each item has three or more responses to be listed.)*	**Higher standards/Strive for excellence**
	Challenge higher achievers
	Lunches
	No more online classes
	Real teachers in classroom
	Cultural awareness/ cultural sensitivity
	Teachers who are fluent in English

27. Please share one general comment regarding the School District. *(Reponses listed by most responses to least responses. Each item has three or more responses to be listed.)*	**School good/ satisfied**
	Committed/great staff
	New administration in the right direction
	Better lunch program needed
	Need stronger academics
	Need stronger discipline

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS N= 47

1. My role in the community can be best described as: (check all that apply)	
Parent of children too young to attend school.	9%
Parent of children who previously attended or graduated from this school.	38%
Other community member	55%

2. My age is: (sorry for asking – we would like to know how we are relating to various generations in our community).		
	30 and under	21%
	31-50	25%
	51-60	26%
	61 and older	28%

3. How long have you been a resident of the community?		
	Lifelong resident	41%
	More than 20 years	34%
	Between 10-20 years	19%
	Less than 10 years	6%

4. I believe that the School District has handled its finances in a responsible manner.		
	Yes	66%
	No	11%
	No Opinion	23%

5. I would rate the district's facilities as:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
	62%	32%	6%	0%

Community Responses	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
6. I would rate our district's academic program (math, science, reading, language arts) as:	21%	49%	24%	4%	2%
7. I would rate the extra-curricular programs (athletics and student organizations) as:	35%	50%	15%	0%	0%
8. I would rate our co-curricular programs (music and fine arts) as:	38%	51%	11%	0%	0%
9. How would you rate the effectiveness of the technology initiatives of the School District?	28%	53%	4%	2%	13%

10. Generally, I believe that our high school graduates are ready for a post-secondary education/experience such as a Technical School, College/University, or the military.		
	Yes	81%
	No	4%
	No Opinion	15%

11. I would say the opportunities that are available to the School District are: (*Responses listed by most responses to least responses. Each listed item has three or more responses to be listed.)*	Good opportunities

To empower all students to become lifelong learners.

12. I would say the challenges that face the School District are: *(Responses listed by most responses to least responses. Each listed item has three or more responses to be listed.)*	**Financial awareness**
	Declining enrollment
	Hiring/Keeping quality teachers

13. If I could make one change in the School District, it would be: *(Reponses listed by most responses to least responses. Each listed item has three or more responses to be listed.)*	**New playground for elementary**
	Add FACS