

# Community Report: Voices from Students, Teachers, and Parents

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Summary report from the spring 2026 listening tour, what I learned, and how it will shape our path forward.



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# I Listened. Here's What I Heard.

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Over the past two months, I've had the opportunity to hear directly from secondary students, district staff, and community members across our district.

While this report cannot capture every individual conversation, it reflects the consistent themes that emerged across groups.



# What Makes Our Schools Special

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## Students

Extracurricular activities, athletics, music, clubs, and school-wide events create a strong sense of pride and connection.

Expanded opportunities at the high school, including AP courses, Dual Enrollment, and partnerships with programs like UBCTS help students explore future pathways.

## Staff

Dedicated and supportive colleagues who care deeply about students and each other.

Long-tenured staff members provide stability, experience, and a deep connection to the community.

Building-level traditions and events create strong school identities and positive cultures.

## Community / Parents

Families value the wide range of opportunities available to students in academics, athletics, the arts, and career and technical education.

Parent groups and volunteers play an active role in supporting schools, events, and student experiences.

Community pride in local schools remains a defining strength across the district.

# The Challenges We Must Address

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## Students

Students consistently expressed a desire for stronger connections to their peers, teachers, and overall school experience.

Students voiced concerns about the amount of computer-based activities, and asked for more opportunities to learn not connected to a computer.

Many feel disengaged, describing their day as going through the motions rather than actively connecting and learning.

## Staff

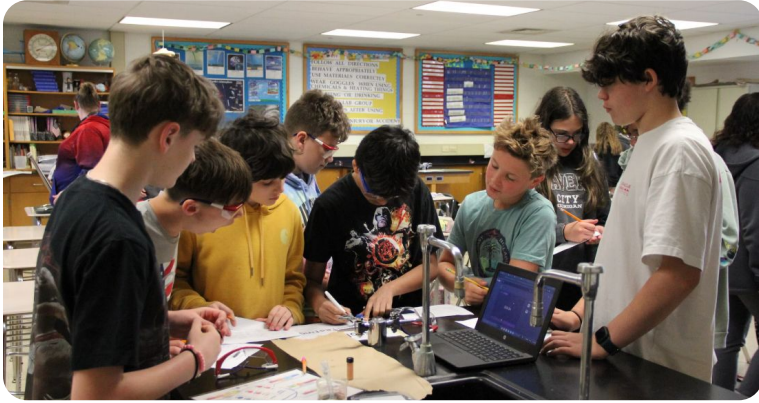
Staff spoke about the need for greater stability, professional trust, and the ability to focus on what works best for students.

Many described feeling overwhelmed by constant change and competing initiatives in recent years. They expressed that changing priorities made it difficult to fully invest in and sustain meaningful work.

## Community

Parents and community members emphasized the importance of schools where every child feels safe, welcomed, and connected.

Many also highlighted the need for stronger communication, trust, and a shared sense of partnership between families and the district.



#### STUDENT VOICE

## "We want more connection."

Students shared that too much of their day feels disconnected from teachers, peers, and meaningful interaction. They are asking for:

- More personalized learning experiences
- Greater flexibility and choice in how they learn
- More opportunities for peer interaction during the school day



### Personalized Learning

Opportunities to learn in ways that match individual interests and strengths.

### Connection and Belonging

More meaningful interactions with teachers and peers throughout the day.

# "Give us time, stability, and trust to do our best work."



Our educators are experienced and committed, and their message was consistent: reduce initiative fatigue and provide the time and stability needed to do their best work.

## Stability Over Constant Change

Clear expectations and the time to fully implement what works.

## Professional Respect

Trust educators to make decisions in the best interest of students.

# "We need a clear, proactive approach to safety and rebuilding trust."

Parent and community member comments go to the core of who we are as a district. Families want to know their children are safe, both physically and emotionally, and that every student feels welcomed and valued.

They also want to be included and kept informed through clear, consistent communication.



## Safety

Addressing bullying clearly, consistently, and proactively



## Belonging

Ensuring every student feels seen, supported, and included



## Communication

Strengthening partnership between schools and families

# The Common Thread

Across all groups, a clear and consistent theme emerged: a strong desire for greater connection, belonging, and respect across our schools.



## Connection

Strengthening relationships between students, staff, and families by creating more opportunities for meaningful communication, collaboration, and support



## Belonging

Ensuring every student feels welcomed, included, supported, and connected to their school community



## Respect

Building a school community where people listen to one another, value different perspectives, and promote accountability, empathy, and mutual respect in how we work and communicate

# Immediate Actions Already Underway

The following areas became immediate priorities based directly on the feedback shared with me during the March and April listening tour. As concerns and themes emerged, steps were taken right away to respond and build on existing practices already in place.



## Strengthening Student Support and Belonging

In March, all professional staff participated in training focused on recognizing and responding to bullying behaviors.

Priority: Build systems that create school environments where students feel safe, connected, and supported.,



## Supporting Teachers More Effectively

In March and May, we restructured professional development days for more personalized and relevant learning.

Priority: Create more opportunities for teachers to focus on student learning and engagement.



## Improving Communication and Community Connection

In March, we launched a new weekly district newsletter to provide the community with student and staff focused updates.

In March and April, I met with students and sent surveys to staff and parents to gather feedback.

Priority: Continue to create opportunities for feedback and community engagement.

# Building the District We Aspire to Be



## Building a Stronger Culture and Sense of Character

Reevaluating current practices to ensure they address the root causes of student behavior and strengthen school culture



## Reconnecting to Service and Community

Re-establish “Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve” as more than a motto by building a culture of service



## Evaluating the Role of Technology

Ensuring technology supports meaningful learning, engagement, and human connection in classrooms



## Investing in Staff Growth

Expanding personalized professional development and leadership opportunities for staff

## Strengthening Shared Ownership

Developing students and strengthening our community is a shared responsibility. We value all voices.

# This Is Ongoing Work

Strong schools are built through daily interactions, shared responsibility, and a continued commitment to supporting students and one another. Belonging and trust grow when everyone works together to create positive, connected school communities.

## We will continue to:



### Listen

Hearing feedback from all members of our community.



### Communicate Openly

Providing clear, transparent, and consistent updates.



### Connect

Creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and two-way dialogue.



### Strengthen Culture

Working alongside staff, students, and families to build trust, belonging, and shared purpose.

**Thank you for helping shape the direction forward.**