

WSalem Schools 2011-05-09 Survey Questions Compilation of Comments.xlsx

QUESTION 6 What information or advice would you give the strategic planning team as they make decisions about long-term priorities and goals?	Curriculum	Overall Quality	staffing	students	Money	Vision/Growth	capital/facilities	community	extracurriculars	Technology
1 Keep to the basics. Students first, good educators next, facilities and lastly administration/ technology. While we need our students to have good technology skills, this is like saying back in the 50's we need to have good telephone skills. Also, educators should be evaluated and not take for granted their position or have tenure. This may not be an issue here, but it is in other parts of the country.	1	1								1
2 Keep in mind global politics and economics. We need to make sure our kids will be competitive and successful in a country that sends jobs overseas.	1	1								
3 21st Century students need to keep up with technology skills. Foreign language should be offered early (Elementary) to keep up with global demands. Other area schools start earlier. Small class sizes are preferred for more individual attention.	1		1							1
4 PLCs are a great new initiative. What is the current buy-in of faculty for that process? What is the ultimate goal for the PLC at WSHS? Do teachers set personal goals to model lifelong learning in the classroom?	1		1							
5 resources are going to be limited. teachers time must be focused and directed to specific learning goals (you can't have high to low ability children in the same class as it forces the instructor to teach to the bottom third	1			1						
6 Vision and Mission of the district focused on student success - however that appears. Not all are college bound; not all are labor-work bound - but all can be successful. The school district should focus on broad base skills and career development	1			1						
7 Figure out ways to maintain high scholastics without over burdening the tax payers.	1				1					
8 Try to limit the federal and state stipulations. They are usually short term funding and then it creates hardships for the school when the funding is gone. Focus on the local issues and values of the local community when planning curriculums.	1				1					
9 Make the mission the education of our children. Partner more with businesses to expose not only students but also teachers to the challenges, opportunities and talents needed outside of academics. Reduce silos and teach multi-subjects in one setting. Incorporate history into every subject so they learn how we arrived at today.	1							1		
10 This is an EDUCATIONAL institution, not an athletic or social club. Although those things are important to the physical and mental growth of a child, education should be the focus as you set priorities and goals for the future.	1									1
11 Get back to the basics.....Watch the spending on sports and all of the expenses that go with it!	1									1
12 The focus on school should be the academics, not sports. EVERY student must learn in order to have a future. Example; A teacher was not available for Parent Teacher Conference times because football practice was more important. Again, school is for academic studies first.	1									1



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26	Be aware that student learning has changed greatly. They can, will, in fact, already do, learn the things they want to learn online or elsewhere if we're not providing it. Should we be offering our classes online and in other ways that are more engaging and available to our and a wider population?	1																	
27	Students will need cross-cultural communication and outreach skills, and team building skills such as problem-solving and civic involvement. Students should be educated in environmental sustainability practices, and business models.	1																	
28	Each child needs to feel included in the investment of the school. They need to learn social, economic and cultural skills that help them be and feel invested in their future.	1																	
29	Use research/studies as a guiding force to changes in teaching practices.	1																	
30	Perform extensive research to see where the economy is going and work with students so that they may be well prepared.	1																	
31	Could go on and on. Keep the basic core studies and make certain that there are progressive advanced courses in them so the kids can be competitive in college and get decent scores on their SAT's and ACT's.	1																	
32	i believe programs for struggling readers are important, as they need reading to be successful in all other subjects.	1																	
33	Senior Exit Project is too much emphasis on community service. 21st century skills are important as well. Get rid of Senior Exit Project-too much time spent on it. Community service projects can still be required. It's hard to keep coming up with NEW ideas...it's same old, same old...	1																	
34	Focus on the basics, have student input from all social groups of students.	1																	
35	Don't forget the gifted and talented students. We often focus on the lower end, which can be good, but we need to serve ALL students.	1																	
36	Emphasize math, science, technology and shop courses.	1																	
37	Make certain that courses are offered to give our students the best opportunities to be successful adults, no matter if the student is pursuing a 4 year college, a 2 year college or entering the work force immediately after school. Also, make certain that our students are graded by looking at the entire child and not just their test scores. I fear that the way some of the high school teachers currently grade, will keep some of our young students from pursuing a college education.	1																	
38	What could be done better to educate the B/C student? School cannot be all things to all people-the goal is to educate. Become active partners with other agencies to work with social issues. Get the basic foundation strong-reading, writing, math.	1																	
39	Keep in mind that the Arts are a valuable tool for individual learning, and in some cases, the Arts maintain an enrollment of over half of the student body (in any building).	1																	

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40	Remember that we are investing in the future of our country. These young people need to have diverse skills that allow them to function and grow in a global economy and marketplace. The focus and reward should be not be on standardized testing performance, I feel that those tests are not that reliable as many things can come in to play for performance. Imagine adults having to test on concepts that they may not use all the time or are expected to memorize. We should look ar overall performance throughout the year on how well they do everyone has an off day once in a while. Just remember they are the future and we need to make sure they have all of the tools and opportunities to succeed and move our country forward.	1																	
41	Always need to be listening to the teachers and staff and actively discussing ways to be more effective and efficient. Stay connected with the big picture and how important it is to find ways to keep/get USA students at the same or better levels than students throughout the world.		1	1															
42	Class size is absolutely a factor in the ability to delivery quality education to all. In fact it may trump most other imputs possible when looking at the student population as a whole.		1	1															
43	exist yet in terms of technology and information systems. We also need to remember that the "family" structure is changing and our students are not coming home to the same type of homes that they did 30 years ago. Our educators have a very unique		1	1															
44	social development of that individual student. This time should be quality time, not sitting in front of a computer, rather interacting with other students and teachers/staff. Emphasize problem solving. Accept and encourage alternative learning styles. Accept		1		1														
45	The focus needs to be on the students. It is most important that they receive a quality education so that they can prosper. There education not only needs to be about academics, but awareness of the world around them. They are the future and will be the ones making these decisions in years to come, so giving them the skills to be prepared for that is what school education and life experiences will do.		1		1														
46	Our district seems to be concerned greatly about the standards and testing. There's a lot of pressure put on the teachers which then is put on the students---which negatively affects both the teacher and student. I think it's important to make sure first and foremost that our children are in a positive and healthy environment to learn----low class sizes, safety, exploration time, time to take risks, time to connect with adults----42 minutes at the Middle School can leave students lost amongst the numbers with no adult connections, asking that kids are reading by the end of kindergarten can make some hate school at an earlier age because they're not ready to read or there's too much pressure. If the learning environment is positive and healthy, the rest will fall into place.		1		1														
47	Consider the needs of the whole child when making decisions about education. Reconsider the value and effects of standardized testing. Think creatively, teach creatively and teach students to use creative problem solving...they will need it to solve our 21st C problems!		1		1														
48	I don't mind my tax dollars going toward education & will not complain if taxes go up because of quality.		1			1													
49	Remember that ALL students in the district deserve the right to receive a quality education. Be cautious when deciding on which programs will be cut.		1			1													
50	Make smart budget decisions while keeping the students' better interest in mind.		1			1													

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51	Don't cut programs for our children. We moved here b/c it is an awesome school district. I, along with other parents, want the best education for our children. A well-rounded education is the one thing we can give them that will last a life-time. Building a great future starts with teaching our children basic skills along with the many other courses they can take to build their character. I want my children prepared to enter the adult world with an understanding and appreciation of the world, along with the concrete skills they will need to succeed. If there needs to be a tax increase, I am more than willing to pay more to ensure that my children get a good education. When opportunities start to disappear, then I believe our enrollment will also start to reflect that. Everyone wants the best for their kids-lets keep that here in WS.	1						1						
52	Develop strategies that keep/bring back the best and brightest students. We need to develop the community as a progressive district that values educational innovation.	1							1					
53	The schools need to lead the growth and progress of the community. We must maintain the communal benefits of our smaller district while introducing true educational excellence. Curriculum and activities need to move beyond the past emphasis on ag, vocational and technical training to better prepare our students for their futures.	1							1					
54	Continue to maintain good, clean facilities to allow a good education to our youth to enable them to have a good start to their future endeavors.	1										1		
55	Keep quality well balanced educational system without sacrificing the school facilities and surroundings.	1										1		
56	Provide dynamic programming for children Improve facilities diversify instruction to meet the needs of all learners	1										1		
57	Maintain quality facilities, the best educators and innovative programming. If you do that the community will see the value and increases in tax levy won't be as difficult to get passed as community members will know it benefits their children in a big way.	1										1		
58	Maintain the high levels of education and community that brought me and many other alumni back to the school district so that our children could experience what we did growing up in a tight knit school district and community.	1											1	
59	Don't think about new or the latest technology or methods are the best, tink about alternative, inexpensive ways to teach our students (volunteering, gardening, physical education outside, helping local farmers)	1												1
60	If you build & maintain quality facilities, people will come. If you have exceptional curriculum people will come. If you have leadership that is true to the ideas of education and not their egos, staff will come and enjoy their profession. If people come money will come with it. Make sure you focus on the core elements. If you have that, the other satellite activities will fall in place - because your core will be quality and energized.	1												
61	If you have a faculty that will not compromise its values, then the other things will naturally follow. High standards will draw the best teachers, which will then enhance the public perception of the school district. If i beleive that the school has these values and standards, i am more comfortable when my taxes are increase or more of my money is going to this institution.	1												
62	I know this is out of your control, but I feel the students in our country are falling behind other nations. The main way to fix this is to increase the number of days of the school year.	1												

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63	It sounds cliché but, it's true...children are our future. Every opportunity to give them success and happiness will benefit all of us in our community, country and the world stage. Just think of the kids and what's best for them.	1																	
64	Start thinking about what is best for our children vs. what has been the norm of society for the past 50 years. I brought my children to this school because I went to school here. But as my kids go from elementary to middle to high school, I am noticing this is not the same school that I attended. It does not allow the parent to help guide their children in what the parent may feel is in their child's best interest. School policy is school policy no matter what the scenario. Seems that some of the policies have been set due to some bad parents and children thus being generalized into a policy of restriction. Punishing the higher education and development of the good. It's not the school I went to anymore (30 years ago).	1																	
65	cont with education as the top priority	1																	
66	I love that the schools are close together and that everyone seems to work together so well. It really feels like one big school group instead of three different schools. West Salem seems unique in that way. Keep doing what you do.	1																	
67	Maintain high standards and challenge the students to work to their abilities as well as the teachers.	1																	
68	Keep it simple and make the kids proud of their school and community	1																	
69	Always strive for the best. Our children need a great education. This world at times can be very scary. Give them an environment that is safe and allows them to become great adults.	1																	
70	Recognize the benefit you offer to families in the local/surrounding communities - Answer the question - 'why is West Salem a superior education to what is available in Holmen, Onalaska, La Crosse...'	1																	
71	It is important to provide a quality education to all students. This will ensure prepared, competitive future citizens.	1																	
72	do what is in the best interest of the student do not treat each incident alike get to know the students and staff personally		1	1															
73	Never forget your dealing with real people ( students, teachers, administration...people's lives		1	1															
74	Remember that whatever decisions are made will have a lasting effect on the children you serve either directly or indirectly. Retain quality teachers and reward them with staff development opportunities and competitive salaries so they have a continued interest in teaching my children.		1	1															
75	Identify the teachers that want to be there, have good attitudes, foster learning and love what they do make sure we can to retain them. The teachers who no longer are effective remove them- there are plenty of unemployed teachers that want to make a difference looking for work. Focus on the student first. Treat them as individuals.		1	1															
76	Consider what is best for students- to send them in to the world balanced and well rounded - with the skills needed to be successful in future endeavors. Consider what is best for teachers/staff so that they are able to work in an environment where they can provide the best learning situation for the students in their charge.		1	1															



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95	The number of administrative positions should be closely monitored and controlled. That is where I have seen other districts struggle to maintain the correct balance.			1										
96	Maintain a school system that attracts and keeps high quality teachers/employees. Keep students & employees as SAFE as possible.			1										
97	Keeping high quality staff and paying them according to surrounding school districts. Providing quality staff based on student needs rather than having the just 'the numbers' required by the state. (If a teaching area needs added staff/support staff to help better service the kids, cut somewhere else and get help for those areas!)			1										
98	Always keep class size under 20 students			1										
99	Is it necessary to have assistant principals at the elementary and middle school levels?			1										
100	Balanced budget. Nutritionally sound meals provided. Class size.			1	1									
101	To always keep our children a top priority for education, social skills and keep the emphasis on learning and challenging themselves. I think to much emphasis is put on sports programs.			1									1	
102	Invite people from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures to work with the students somehow (diversity training, introduction to another culture program). Perhaps work something out with the local universities to give credit to students willing to participate.			1										
103	keep the serving of students foremost in planning consider serving students as an investment, not only in the individual child, but as the greater good for the community, state, & nation.... understand that there will be pressure from both sides in this debate as you develop a strategic plan prepare your self and ready your resolve			1										
104	Please look at the needs of all students-not just the "gifted" or lower functioning ones. It seems the kids that are just above the area where you can get extra help in a subject are lost in the shuffle.			1										
105	Check with current graduates both in college and in the workforce to see what they would suggest students take in high school and how to make the most of their high school years			1										
106	Keep the students in mind, not just the bottom dollar.			1										
107	Keep your eye on the ball - "put learners first."			1										
108	Create a safe learning enviroment for all students.			1										
109	Always keep the students' future as top priority to enable them to succeed in this challenging world!			1										
110	Keep the focus on what is best for the kids.			1										
111	Think of what is best for our students not just the cost involved.			1										
112	Keep in mind the needs of all students.			1										













