



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 47**

**Community Forum on Education**

**May 8, 2019**

# VALUES

Respect	43.5
Social Responsibility	31
Inclusion	29
Relationships	26.5
Collaboration	26
Engagement	25
Empathy	19
Integrity	18
Teamwork	18
Accountability	16
Innovation	12
Openness and Transparency	11
Dignity	10
Equity	5
Responsiveness	5
Diversity	5

# Learner Success

## Improve Student Achievement Results

### START

Better definition of 'student achievement'
Growth mindset vs reaching the goalposts
What is the end goal – varies at different grades and for different kids (grad vs lifeskills)
Not focused on one piece of data – more holistic of 'achievement'
Tie in values/social development – not just academic
Better communication of ability, more concrete when reporting on achievement, narrow in on where a child is.
New curriculum not concrete enough, need to establish scope/sequence/expectations *gifted program separate – balance.
What is student achievement?
Introduction of AP Courses
Increase academic rigor of program
Measure student 'happiness' – enjoying what they do – multiple snapshots in the year – track students specifically – correlation between achievement and happiness
Longitudinal measurements (K-12)
Increase access to Fine Arts
Prepare for University
Life Skills 101 – Taxes, Student Loans, Over Arching, Financial Planning, Resume, Dress for Success (x3)
More Counsellor options
Advanced Placement
Equitable distribution of funds for all
Achievement of all students equally valuable
Introducing scholarship information prior to grade 12 (Grade 10-11) during course selection
Counsellors introduce more about University – academic opportunity
Beyond Brooks – Bring it Back – Bring the Community in.
Intervention/Supports for the mainstream at Brooks
Learning support, not just behaviour support
More advance classes at elementary (gifted program)
Give multiple options on assignments – reaches all learners – al ages
Feedback/rubric/criteria on all assignments
Inconsistent planning courses – too confusing – can't take hold
Planning 10 teacher seems 'designated' (filler)
Some counsellors not fully informed on academic planning
Isolating kids to work in the hall, not monitored so more distracting
Updating courses with more current content – Indigenous lens – new books
Individualized pathway for student – explicit – K-12
More accountability (on their education path)
Design thinking
Streaming – personalized
Career Day/Fair

## STOP

Current use of e-portfolio not communicating enough to parents/students
Trying to do it all. Need to pick and choose what is important to class and teacher
Too much pressure on students for FSA – too much time
Removing Education Support tool from students during exams
CLE is terrible – poorly done. Already done – not moving forward
Large classes (Primary grades)
Focus on written output – so many ways to show what you know (creative)
Assessment time
Keeping kids sitting inside to learn all day (need movement, interactions, outdoor on site)
Education needs to address all aspects of life – success, spirit, physical, mental, emotional
Planning courses keep changing – no continuity
Changing Curriculum

## CONTINUE

Expand our specialists to address various needs of kids – from gifted to intervention
Preparing kids for post high school
Moving away from standardized assessment
Trades sampling
Personalized learning
Non-traditional approaches
Early Intervention-Joyful Literacy
Learning and success look different for early learning

# Learner Success

## Support Mental Health Needs and Well-Being of Students and Employees

### START

School District supported Quality School Breakfast and Lunch program in all schools – not dependent on PAC
More school based Counsellors (x4)
Have counsellor who focuses just on mental health problems etc.
Baseline of counselling depending on needs at school of special needs students
Reducing stigma for students to go to counsellor – classroom visits by counsellors
Improved privacy for students at Brooks visiting Counsellor – open windows – no privacy (curtains)
Teaching teachers more about mental health and how to support (x2)
Mental health first aider in each school (it is a course like medical first aid)
Increase awareness of where to go for support/and what you can go get support for – steps
Making relationships more important
Youth Care Workers again (x2)
Private areas for students to phone home
Mindfulness training and use in elementary schools
Regular daily check in with every child (x2)
Adult daily buddy check in for students
Buddy Program multi level
Grade to Grade transition programs (x2)
Spreading out requirements for students so the pressure doesn't come all at once – ie: scholarship binder in grade 11 – especially difficult in grade 12
Spreading out projects for elementary students – reduce stress
Relationships between staff and students so important
Make facility changes to support mental health – sensory – reduce anxiety
Increased support/services for at risk students at a young age – preventative rather than reactive
Designated Safe Space – physical – nook spaces/pods
Class on everyday learning/self care/mental health/learning how to interact with peers who may have struggles (x3)
More multi purpose rooms
More unused/unoccupied space in school to use for small groups, quiet room etc.
Drug and Alcohol awareness/vaping sooner
More support/rehabilitation for kids who get suspended for drugs
Volunteering
Trauma awareness/support for students/staff/parents (x2)
Incorporate Mental Health sick days
Have no technology days
Homestay liaison worker
Mentorship programs peer to peer – adult to adult

School connectedness
Peer group –works for children
Gender neutral bathrooms – at elementary
Increased use of alternative programs/assessments
Survey of homestay changes
Therapy dog in every school
More funding
Wellness grants in school – teachers and students - funding
Serving vegetarian meal options with nutritional value in cafeteria
Activities for diversity of learners
Housing
District wide goal/mandate
Manage stress – stress management (x2)
Personal person to help each child plan academic and school career
New teacher mentorship/Induction time for new teachers
More prep time
Compassion challenge monthly
Cultural diversity and inclusion at all schools
Mindfulness – podcast run by students
Celebrate all successes
Relax bus schedule times so kids have more after school times
Unit plans for teaching SS about mental health ie: Mind Up

## STOP

Ban Cell Phones (x2)
Current drug policy – consequence vs education/support
Out of school suspensions – some students want to be home
Stress/pressure without supports, re strategies
Stop Contact interruptions
Looking for “A” fix
Stereotypical materials and facilities
Excluding students from school/bus as a consequence
Turing away people who want help because the problems aren’t perceived as big enough
Calling out students for counselling in front of the class – find a private way

## CONTINUE

Food available at school if kids hungry – Breakfast and Lunch programs (x3)
Community Funding for Food programs
Outside agency supports – Youth Family Service – Public Health – Youth Mental Health (x3)
Nurse at school
Accountability for all partners and stakeholders

Educational re: Technology Use
Breakfast Programs at Elementary Level
School Counsellor at every School/More Counsellors (x23
Better access to counsellors for students (x2)
Counsellor visiting classrooms to talk about topics/resources
Meet kids where they are at
Link Crew – helps alleviate anxiety
With current plan to change EFAT – to focus on mental well being of staff/students/parents
Clear communication around drug/alcohol policy – revisit
Improving practices around mental health in general-communication awareness at high school (x2)
Providing more resources and education for employees and families on mental health, understanding, empathy for students, the triggers and warning signs
FSLW – continue
Communication/working together – multi generational and multi school to ease transitions (x2)
Developing school/community connectedness
Community wrap around supports
Therapy dog at every school
Outdoor Activities
Inclusive materials for classes(x2)
Providing mental health resources
Anti anxiety strategies
Activity with all international students together, to make their relationships stronger and more relaxed
Anti-bullying programs
No bells in some schools
Aromatherapy
Find and expand programs to include all learners
Mindfulness Minutes/Apps (x2)
Fun Events
Teaching mental health language to decrease stigma so that students feel that they can express their feelings and are what they need (x2)
Teaching supports to all students so that they can access as they need
Increasing/improving inclusion – heading down the right track but need more
Recognize behaviours are a symptom not the problem (staff training)
Mental Health Day

# Engagement and Connections

## Improving the Communication Needs of our Community

### START

Asking parents which method of communication they would like
Offering a non-tech option for notifications
Facebook (for parents only)
School App
YAPP APP is very successful at some schools/encouraging more use (x2)
Bring back TAG for consistent announcements/info
Instagram (for students etc)
Providing info about dual credits in a variety of forms – Parent/Student Info night is great
Ensure Students are aware about academics
Better communication to the wider community about our International Student Program
Look at providing students with more post-secondary opportunities earlier
More info on academic streams (as opposed to trades)
Youth care workers as communicators with homes in schools
Expand invites to other agencies and organizations
Seeing School Board Trustees in schools more often
Find a way for students to access Trustees easily – louder student voice
Community engagement and connections day as once was done at June day
How to access student reporting (parents)
Improve communication via e-portfolio (more explicit sense of how child is doing)
Look at other ways to reduce paper consumption
Make process easier to access portfolio report card/include grades in portfolios
Establish constant criteria that each school must meet for reporting
Give grade 11 students access to scholarships
Assign PR Council member to each school
Youth engagement worker at all elementary schools
Bring in more community resource people
More communication with/to other community agencies – and to all staff about what's going on at all schools
Use food as a medium for connection and communication to community
Putting a focus on the balance between human needs: emotional, mental, physical and spiritual, through creation of space to help people connect
Exploring 'parent computers' at school sites
More access to counseling re career/post secondary at high school/start it earlier/not just trades (x2)



## STOP

Assuming everyone has internet access/is online (x3)
Using personal devices (staff) for School District purposes
Assuming people check email at any hour of the day
Depending on electronics – don't rely on it to get the message out
No more agendas
No more TVs
Guarding scholarships
Feeling isolated
Revisit the way parent-teacher conferences are done

## CONTINUE

Begin day with same important message
TV in halls (x2)
Newsletters/Weekly emails of newsletters to parents, students and staff
Monday morning Memos being emailed to parents
Allow parents to request a paper copy of news or alerts
Love e-portfolios – keep it online
Like e-portfolios but also like the piece of paper at end of year
Like the District Forum
Teacher-Parent contact still valuable
PR Living Special Story
Education week with PR Living
Open Houses
Twitter
YAPP APP (x3)
Daily in person check-ins between staff (and students/parents) “How are you doing?”
Include Community Members – invite to events
Looking for consistency in student reporting K-12

# Organizational Sustainability

## Improving Organizational Effectiveness

### START

Dual Credits – single contact point (ie: VIU to SD47)
Grounds Crew – dedicated to school gardens (curricular, ie: re: mulch)
Sharing resources – ie: City/SD/Reg. Dist etc. Maintenance in particular. Maintenance always tricky – SD, PACS, Schools – who else/all others
Outdoor spaces/shelters (given our climate) (Secondary) – How to drive kids outside more beyond field spaces – similar to elementary's safe spaces
Sustainability – is this even doable – or define/redefine what sustainability is.
What happens – where does money come for – for sustainability – would this take money away from something else?
Master Gardener – CUPE involvement (hiring) summer care for gardens
With regards to recycling, 3-Rs – wThis years champion – not there
More bike opportunities – bike racks with roofs – expand bike library
After school programs – variety/expand types - bigger
0 Emissions/0 Waste/0 Litter lunches – solar panels/charging stations even/especially at older schools
Zero Waste and Compost/Recycling Policy
Compost
School based recycling, compost
Energy Consumption
Building efficiency
Resource kits – centralized – sharing high end resources
Communication channels
Feedback for teachers
Tech availability support – more technology – uniformity in tech
Adopt and implement the UN's SDG's to inform policy, ie: waste reduction
SD apprenticeship program – succession planning – ie: carpentry kids start apprenticeship program
Emphasis on trades
Increase on academics post G12
Bridging to programs
Organize transitions from grad 6 all together to grade 7 throughout the school – also with some ESP SPED and PIE Students
Trans meetings – but facilities ie: a wing?
LinkCrew have to commit to the two days in August
Scholarship 'end of school ' thinking/planning time – prior to grade 12
Partnering some jobs (ie: Grad transitions) – a) New ideas/b) Succession plan option
Movement In-District (changes)

## STOP

"SILOS" – SD47 Info to-from Community (ie: invites to this event)
Assuming everyone is tech savvy
Differing 'costs' class to class – ie: some charge \$10/French Book and some not at all

## CONTINUE

Maintenance – Foreperson + Contractors – "on the job" – great crews
Busing – great for field trips – expand for students – schools. Bus will take kids from airport to Brooks but not to Edgehill and still need to get from 'out of town' to bus stop.
Bus Services for field trips (no cost)
No student Fees (x2)
Community Partners – OLC amazing opportunity
Food Supports – muffins, veggies, fruits, sustainable – from community families
After school program(s) – variety/expand types - bigger
Promote alternate transportation forms
Improve business process
Invest in schools
Improve communications
Explore ways to monitor bus ridership

# What Has Been Missed?

Diet Related Inclusion
Healthy free food available to all students – not vending machine
Food – Canada only grade 8 nation without a K-12 food program – nutritional needs - \$? Time?
Lunch program at Brooks
Reporting-Access
Tech Equality
Bus – Safe transportation for all
Not enough \$ for Special Needs Students to be supported in schools
Staff supporting special needs students need more students
Not enough environmental awareness and action within our schools, ie: composting/recycling
Get rid of water in vending machines – Grade 8s provided with water bottles
Compost and recycling at Brooks – better system
Lack of environmental push at Brooks
Support for environmental issues
Outdoor Ed opportunities for grades 8-11 bridge the gap – create opportunities – cross curricular
Equal push for academic programs as well as trades tracks tour – no academic tour
One Eco Team works
Good environmental at elementary – doesn't extend to Brooks
School discipline policies need to be fair/consistent
Not enough support re: rehabilitation for students suspended for drugs/alcohol – review policy
Review suspension policy overall – suspending can be counter-productive
ISP – look for more support for students who have difficulty speaking English
Importance of health of 'whole person'
Yoga and meditation
School wellness – wellness month
Influence of technology and impacts on children. Cell phones. Question the need vs negative effects
Technology improved life, more access, labs, faster computers. The tech budget needs to increase for all schools
Phones and mobile devices – is time on used well? How to use as tool – embrace technology – not a toy. Have to teach this. Can't assume it will be known – Coding Courses (ADST) Who will help this/these skills be used?
Stop thinking like Eyore and start thinking like Tigger
Support for gifted/struggling learners
Relationship building – workshops/retreats
Indigenous Plan – connection – inter connectivity – engaged together. What is important to Nation, to families? What is success?
Support community members who come in for AB Education/Nation Members, Knowledge Keepers – fair compensation
How to reduce anxiety
Climate Change – the Science not just the headlines – environment awareness incorporated, not just Earth Week – solar panels, green roofs

Introduce mentorship/shadowing
What happens after school grad?
Awards/scholarships – post secondary paths – work and career
More community connections
More District-wide initiatives
Full funding for resources so PACS are not fundraising to buy books, classroom resources, art supplies
Better communication of what is available to teachers and students – resources, programs, community resources
Creating connections between teachers ie: Watch Brenne Brown together and discuss
Teachers – collaboration – making space and time for teachers to share best practices.
Globalization of students, programs and teachers
School to school buddy programs
Teacher/adult book clubs
Upper admin connections
Superintendent support
Employee mobility
Multiple paths for education outlined for students
Middle School – the gap between elementary approach and high school is greatly damaging many 8/9's success (x2)
Grade 12 burn out – run out of steam
Better Career prep/life prep/life skills/work force
Class choices conflict with timetable.
Not limiting student choices ie: languages – should be able to take all three
Before school care at Elementary
Bus pass use more universal – ride stand by
Bussing – Cranberry – City planning for Routes – Kid Safety – Shuttles – more routes
Roads without shoulders – work with the City -
ISP continued focus