

CLAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Strategic Planning

Session 1: Clayton Pride/What is Working Well in the Clayton Public Schools

October 4, 2017

On Wednesday, October 4, the Clayton community gathered to initiate planning activities to consider what they want for the future of their children. School District Board of Education members, families, students, teachers, staff, community members, and school administration were represented for Session 1 of this planning process, “Clayton Pride/What is Working Well in the Clayton Public Schools.”

Meeting participants worked in small groups. They began by recording their individual responses to the question of Clayton Pride. After group members had an opportunity to each share their thinking with other group members, they agreed on 3 to 5 consensus ideas about Clayton Pride that they wanted to report out. Each of the small groups then presented their consensus ideas to the full group of meeting participants. Discussion then ensued about the many common themes that emerged across the small groups. There was a great deal of Clayton Pride evident in the meeting!

What follows is a summary of the work done by the small working groups. First are their consensus Points of Clayton Pride. Second is a summary of the individual group member ideas.

For those reading these notes, and who were not able to participate at the first meeting, we hope you will join us for the second meeting, “Expectations for the Future.”

Session 2: “Expectations for the Future”

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

6:30 to 8:00PM

Clayton High School Cafeteria

GROUP #1

CONCENSUS

Caring and dedicated teachers and staff
Community support
Extra-curricular activities and programs
Technology

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Community support	Technology
Support services for students	Teachers and administrators working together
Dedication of teaching staff to students	Expansion of building (new wing, PAC)
Clayton gives the personal touch; it’s difficult for students to go unnoticed or feel left out	After-school program ie all the clubs and sports offered to the children
Many activities, clubs, sports, and resources are made available to students	Technology is always updated and implemented in classes
Caring leadership	Teachers
Building improvement ie performing arts center	Caring teachers
Community outreach programs	

GROUP #2

CONCENSUS

Strong sense of community as ONE! Staff/Students/Parents/Admin
Staff dedicated to overall development of students beyond the classroom.
Little School/Big Spirit
Clipper Pride

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Amount of program offered to parents to assist in high school years and beyond	Student achievement in classroom furthering their education
Participation in student activities/athletics	Students have a voice
Teaching staff genuinely cares about students beyond the classroom	BOE committee to facilitate technology improvements
Plenty of opportunities for everyone's interests (clubs, sports, etc.)	Class sizes are small enough to have one on one attention
Sport events bring the community together (supportive)	Everyone matters in a way at school – no one's left out/diverse
Bullying #'s are low	Community pride
Community support	Family engagement specialized
Programs that are provided for students	Investment in early childhood
Investment in all students	Teacher dedication to students
Supported activities by teachers, administration, students, and families	Strong sense of community (school presence in Borough)
Good balance of courses given size	Variety of clubs, sports, etc.
Strong teaching staff	Strong staff presence at activities
Admin and staff seems to have mutual respect for one another	Majority of students speak positively about Clayton experience
Alumni involvement	Class size
Diversity	Voice

GROUP #3

CONCENSUS

School climate
District resources
Support from Board of Ed

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

The amount of resources extended to the students to help them succeed socially and emotionally as well as academically ie Clayton Place, 21 st CCLC after-school program, school day support, updated technology	What are we proud of in Clayton Public Schools? What's working well? Facilities – newer, upgrades, clean; Friendly staff – positive, active; Activities for students – co/extracurricular; Curriculum improvements over the years; Technology – iPads, clear touch boards, state of the art copiers, etc.; Supportive Board of Education – supports district initiatives; Community Services – Food pantry, business supports
After-school activities (middle school with busing; elementary school Micro Society)	Administrative follow-through/support; sports; academic concerns; curriculum concerns
School pride initiatives; Renaissance	District resources/support
School climate	Sports programs
Building improvements	Community partnerships
Opportunities for students	PreK Program

Opportunities for students	Administrative support
Internal collaborations	Green Team initiatives
Food pantry	After-school programming
Counseling and support services for families (Simmons)	District's willingness to be open to new opportunities
Technology	Full day PK4
We offer so many programs to be a small school; students have an opportunity to pursue their dreams in a safe environment	Variety of grants to supplement needs that encumber school budget (After-school programs; breakfast programs)
Education Foundation	Beautiful sites
Technology at all grade levels	Experienced counselors (non-academic) at all sites for support
Small classes	

GROUP #4

CONCENSUS

Dedicated teachers/admin
Constantly moving forward
Every child, every day, in every way

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Teachers and administrators care	Parent involvement is good
Lots of activities for students	Good course selections for a small district
Continued facility improvements	Programs for parents and community offered
Events/activities – book fairs; reading nights; trick/treat nights; 21 st century summer/after school; concerts; sports; theater/include kids	Strong dedicated teachers: come to community events; communicate with parents; talent/skilled in teaching; care about kids in and out of school
Opportunities w/GCIT – scholarship help; college nights; planning of future	Whole child – week of respect; teaching empathy; teaching social skills
Clayton pride	Great kids
Communication with parents	Teachers' passion to teach students
Students graduating – high college rate	Sports
Involvement in activities – something for everyone	Listening/feedback between parents and district/BOE/admin
PBSIS – student/staff involvement – working together	Always evolving with times – technology; teaching structure
PBIS – caring coupons; school pride	

GROUP #5

CONCENSUS

Facilities – PAC, gym, football field lights
Programs (academic, diversity of activities, ie band, choir, drama, ROTC...)
Services – ie full day PreK and 3 year old program, Century 21 (ms after school program), elementary school program, Clayton Place, SAC, CCC (elementary school)

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Technology	Programming
Activities	Administration
Teachers engaged with students and teaching for long-term (not moving from district to district)	Involvement in community events by clubs in Clayton Day, etc
Teachers	Students
Choir	Student Athletes and band/theater
ROTC	History of the school district

Administration focus on the students	Variety of curriculum/offered services
Progress – Facilities	Being a small district
Closeness of students	Clayton pride
Facilities – new construction supported by community	Technology available to both teachers and students
Always looking for ways to improve, not just test scores	Choir/Drama – pride in select choir in performing in many events in and out of school
Providing all-day preschool programs	Students slowly beginning to help other students
Sports – students’ sense of pride in each other	

GROUP #6

CONCENSUS

Small school community that’s diverse with opportunities for all
Up to date, clean and “green” facilities
Approachable admin, board of ed, faculty

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Sports programs	Arts
PJ day/Clayton pride day	Our properties are clean
Solar	Secretaries – very accommodating
Administration Support	Sports Dr/Trainer
Fields	Education
Acknowledged as “most important business in our town”	Programs that are small enough and large enough that all can find an activity to be involved in
Summer enrichment program for Middle School is great and free	Small – lots of opportunity; participate without fear of being “cut” or overwhelmed by student population
State of the art library	After school care
Solar utilities	Technology
Up to date facilities	Improving grad rate
Nice looking facilities	Approachable staff
Strong admin/faculty	Good BOE
Improved Academics – PreK-12	Updated facilities
Technology	Opportunities for all
Growing community	Athletics

GROUP #7

CONCENSUS

Teachers who appreciate and value student diversity
Administration is approachable and receptive to concerns
Well maintained and up to date facilities with advanced technology

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Facilities are well maintained – so clean!!!!	Friendly staff
Good educational resources – ie technology, textbooks, etc.	Lots to offer students in terms of support and after-school activities
Receptive administration and superintendent – they always listen	Dedicated teachers
Good working environment	Good moral in general in the MS/HS
Facility	PAC Center
Great teaching staff	Supportive administration
Supportive superintendent	Teacher input
Availability of resources	Technologically advanced

Forward thinking	Professionalism
School Spirit	Athletic programs
Clubs/activities	Diversity
Clayton Place resources	
Early childhood education – PreK for 3's; PreK for 4's; transition into kindergarten; parent involvement @ early ed level; workshops/discussion groups; bring cultures to school; CCC services; staff relationships w/students	PD promoted and supported to improve effectiveness
Great administrative team that supports teaching staff	Beautiful teaching spaces and facility
Down to earth faculty and staff that understand the challenges facing students and their families	Connections: amazing HS English dept that supports the work going on across grades, across curriculum, etc. Also, a genuine love and appreciation for each other as individuals
Despite being small, we have a wide variety of athletic and extra-curricular programs; great sports programs!	Connections: because we are small, students generally do not slip through the cracks. They are connected to something meaningful and bigger than themselves.

GROUP #8

CONCENSUS

Celebrating achievements
Dedicated staff
Programs/offerings

INDIVIDUAL IDEAS

Preschool offered as young as 3 half day, 4 full day, kindergarten full day; very affordable; bus offered	Newer additions/development of high school
Small close-knit community	Small class size
Curriculum – individual focus for development	Children work in “centers” – learn by playing; music and art
Noticing newer technology available for teachers to use	Remind app
Small district/class size	Supportive and safe
Teachers/staff very involved	Engaged leadership
Investments in facilities and technology	Lots of opportunities for students to participate
Broad course offering	PreK program
Continuous improvement	Community-School bridge
Celebrate achievements	Community service projects
Student of the month	High School art show
Food/clothing drive	Halloween trick or treat
Classroom dojo	New auditorium – revenue
Great teachers	Music shows
Awards events	Dedication to technology
In-class tutoring (upper classmen visit lower classmen)	“Senior” prom – senior citizens
Offer preschool for three year olds	Small school district/more time to speak with parents
Teachers seems to truly care	Close community
Strong focus on the arts (new arts center)	School administration seems to be very determined to improve school district
School curriculum	Celebrate achievements
Strong community	Dedicated administration/school board