

**Lakota West (Side) Staff
Community Conversation
February 26, 2013**

Community Conversation Process Feedback

No one came here to complain

We've been on committees in the past and input was disregarded

"Lakota engages students in learning" Partners with staff

35 Meetings into the process and we just got invited!

I am grateful for the invitation and opportunity to participate

Is this a feel good exercise

Fear of repercussion

I am exhausted – Do I have the stamina to participate?
Do I have the time?

Tension: Told to stay positive, but now want feedback, input

Pressure

Just keeping head above water
So...I will just go with what I am told
And I'm valued by district only
Re: The scores, so.....

Some parents and principals are very supportive

We get lots of change every year
It's recycling the same stuff

We are not anti-change
We are against change without our support

Process Requests

More than token voice – Really value input

In the room when decision is made
Put us with disagreeing people

Define our role clearly

When do we have power

Our voice should count more than parents

Clear decision making process

flowchart

communication

Clear explanations of decisions – why, who, etc.

Use research

Add our classroom experience (with our population) as “expertise” to the research and decisions based on it

Incorporate staff competencies in where we are placed, especially with plan changes

Even school-by-school delivery of researched decisions needs staff input

Training on the plan and expectations

Role in implementation

Future Success

Meet needs of students

Where they are

e.g. Why no lower level math?

Yes, ready for college, but...

Need more individualization

We do meet their needs and do assessments on where they are

Kids are blooming, and yet they're not ready for college

But in high school, college is bottom line

Less flexibility

Middle kids need more support and different opportunities

Different Opportunities/Tracks

Less connected to school

Less attentive

Less brain development

Less whole person

Collaboration – Team work

Employable out of high school

Electives – Phys. ed., arts in elementary schools

Practice in community

Life experience

Community service

Gives kids a chance for excellence

Think on own; express themselves
Higher level critical thinking

Make kids more responsible for their own learning and how to apply to life

Hold kids back – Strict number accountability

More administrators' presence in schools – A relationship with Central Office

Integrate art into other classes

Music increases test scores

Keeps families in schools

And other specials

Kids need breaks

High school electives so kids can make career and life choices

Teachers who are not burned out

The current cuts are unsustainable for a teacher's standpoint