Reimagining Middle Schools
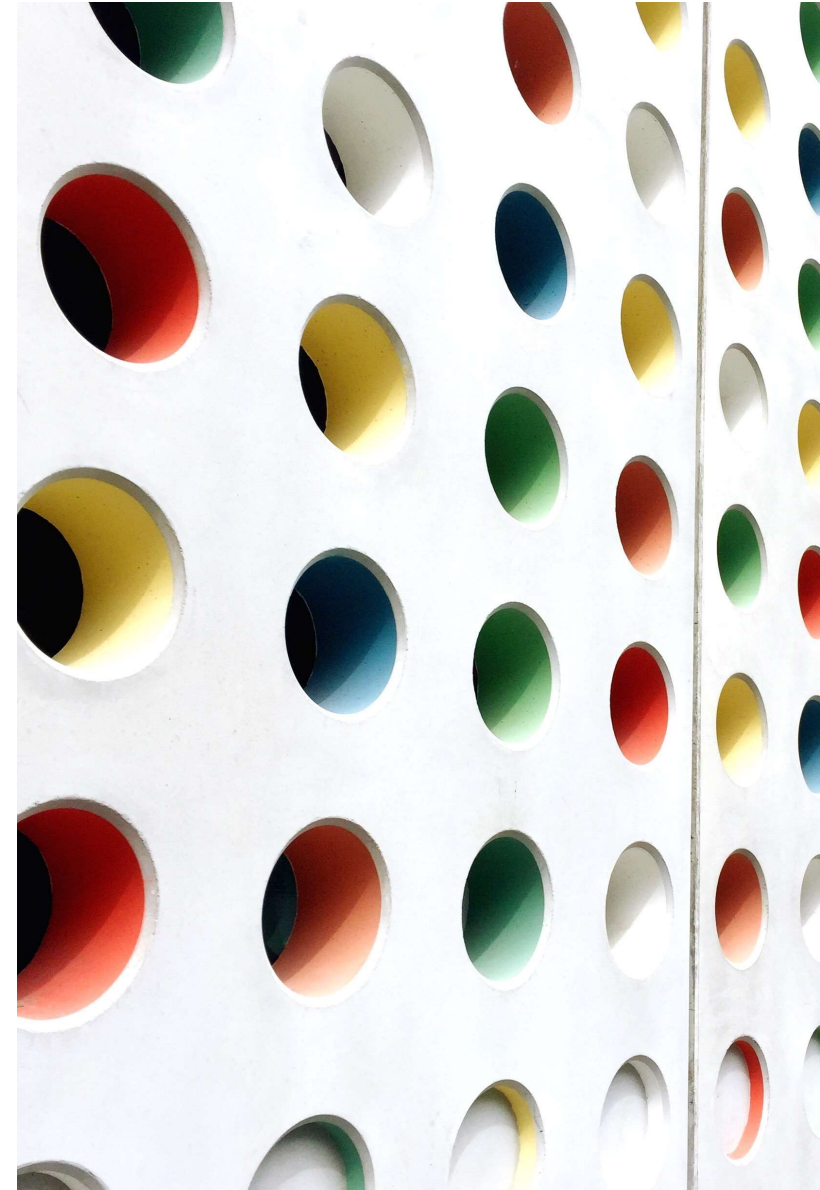
BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #14 (4/6/23)

Welcome

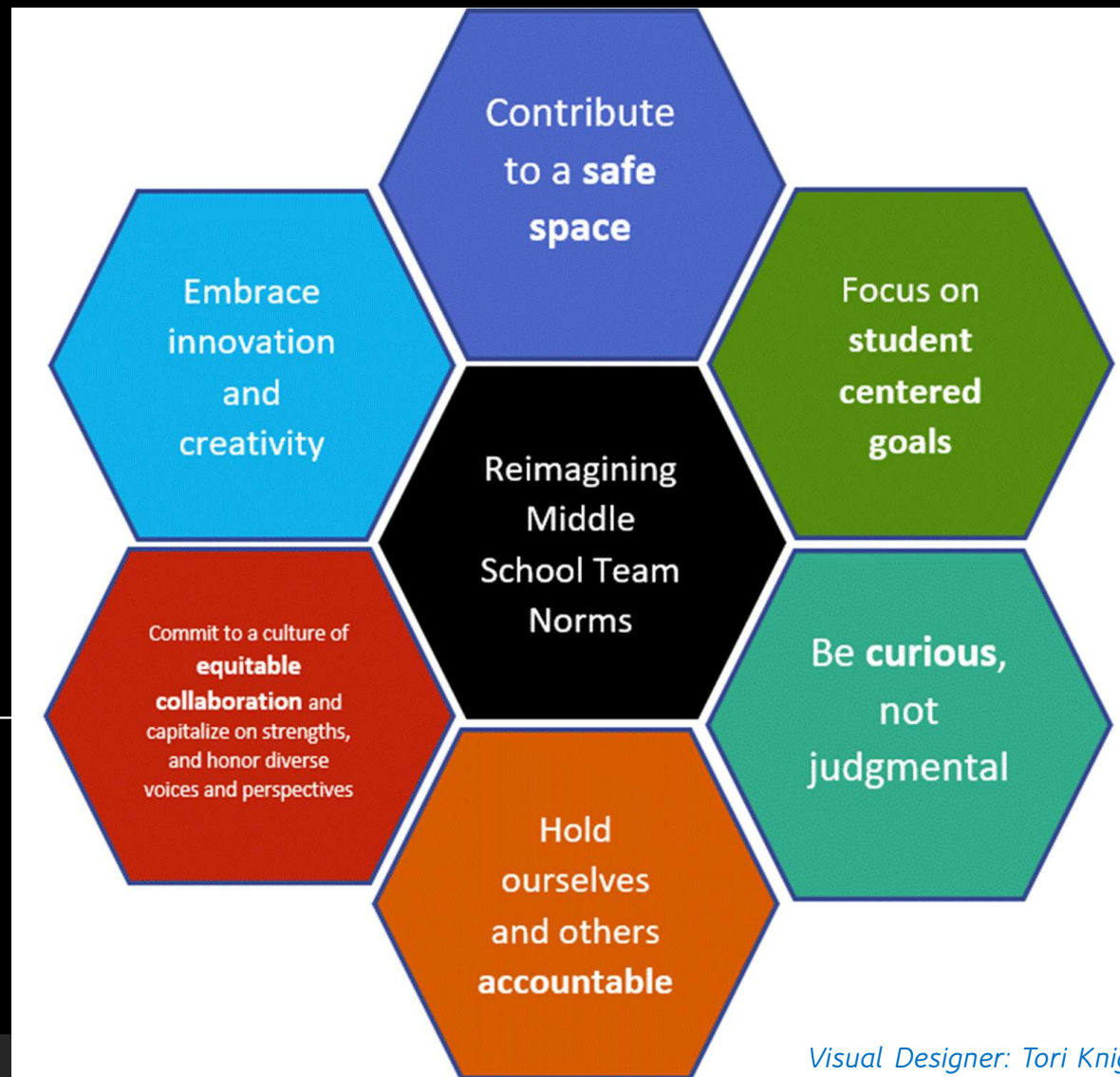| TEAM #1 Project Based Learning	TEAM #2 Advisory/ Homeroom	TEAM #3 Block Scheduling	TEAM #4 Teacher Teams with Cohorts
Anna	Kalena	Tom	Regen
Valeri	Courtney	Annisa	Dan
Ishaan	James	Susan	G
Scott	Danielle	Mariela	Mathew
Nellie	Jessi	Sahaj	Susie
G	Noelle	Drew	Gabe
	Thea	Giovani	
	Darren	Diego	

Today's Objectives

We REFINE our PROTOTYPES using:

❑ Staff, student and family prototype feedback summaries

❑ Critical Criteria "draft"

❑ Innovative School Visits presentations

Community Agreements & Roles

Note Taker	Process Monitor
Prototype Teams TBD during Sharing	Self-Reflection

Reimagining Middle School Team Norms

- Contribute to a **safe space**
- Focus on **student centered goals**
- Be **curious**, not judgmental
- Hold ourselves and others **accountable**
- Commit to a culture of **equitable collaboration** and capitalize on strengths, and honor diverse voices and perspectives
- Embrace innovation and creativity

Visual Designer: Tori Knight

Parking Lot

Put your questions, comments, needs etc. here!

Parking Lot

-In all this
planning -
We need a way to
free up the admin -
from discipline to
working with teachers

Dean of Students?

AGENDA

Welcome

Content: We Refine!

Nuts & Bolts

Closing

RMS Project Goal: "To collaboratively craft recommendations to be shared with our Superintendent and Executive Team about middle school structures and practices that better serve the developmental, social-emotional, and academic needs of our middle school students. These recommendations will be based on **authentic and extensive input and feedback from our students, families, and staff**, evidence-based best practices, and will include global competency principles and equitable grading practices." (*RMS Steering Committee Summer Retreat 8/17/22 PPT*)

"I like that you people wanna make our school better. I also like the way you guys care about our opinion and want us to give opinions to make the school better."

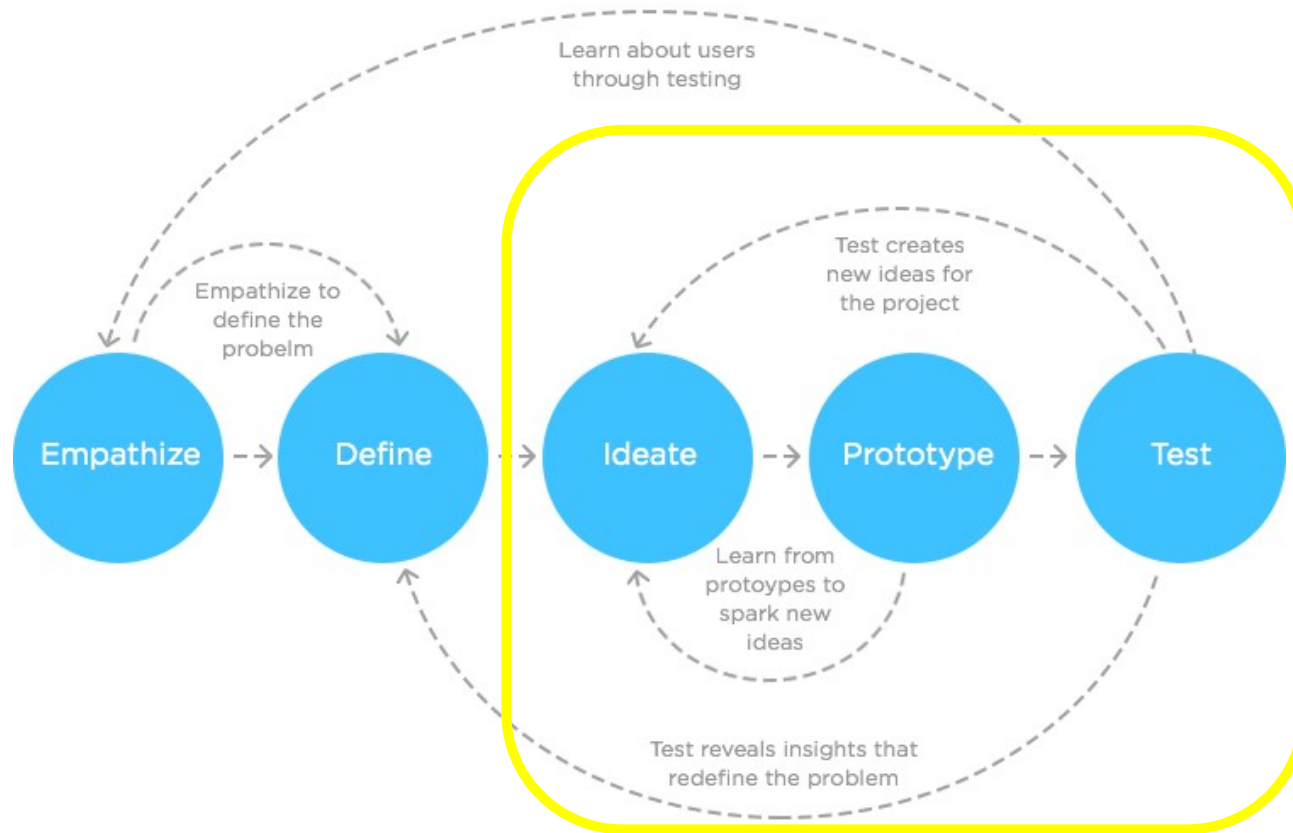-BSD middle school student

The Big Idea:

Stakeholder feedback provides us, as an RMS Steering Committee, with **a window into people's minds**.

It helps us answer the question, "**How is our community reacting to our ideas for reimagining middle school?**" We want feedback (positive, negative, neutral/mixed), because it helps us understand and respond to stakeholders' questions, concerns, suggestions, and levels of enthusiasm, belief in, and support for this work.

IF we understand stakeholders' most critical questions, concerns, and suggestions, we will THEN be able to address/build on them and **strengthen our recommendations**. This will also set the future "RMS Implementation Team" up for success in their work next year (2023-24).

DESIGN THINKING:
A non-linear process

Learn about users through testing

Empathize to define the probelm

Test creates new ideas for the project

Empathize → Define → Ideate → Prototype → Test

Learn from protoypes to spark new ideas

Test reveals insights that redefine the problem

RMS Listening Campaign Round 2 (March 2023): Stakeholder Feedback on Four Prototypes

Round 2 Objective: **Present and gather reactions to and feedback ("I Like", "I Wish", "I Wonder") on the 4 "scrappy" prototypes from a selection of middle school stakeholders**, including:

❖ **Staff** (~75 total staff members interacted with us during Outreach Visits to each of the 5 schools)

❖ **Families/Guardians** (~100 family members/guardians interacted with us across 7 Outreach Visits)

❖ **Students** (~75 students interacted with us across 6 Listening Circles: Special Education class, Black Student Union (BSU), Leadership class, MLL/Dual Language class, Advanced Learning group, Student Advisory Committee)

[Quality (not quantity) of stakeholder feedback]
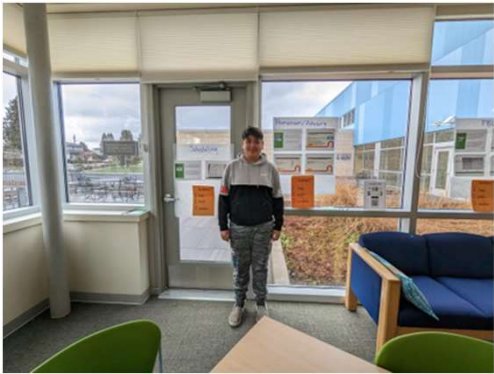
RMS Listening Campaign Round 2 (March 2023): Stakeholder Feedback on Four Prototypes

	Staff	Families	Students
Survey (Microsoft Forms)	✔	✔	
Handwritten Comments	✔	✔	✔
Recorded Notes (from conversations during Outreach Visits)	✔		

RMS Listening Campaign Round 2 (March 2023): Stakeholder Feedback on Four Prototypes

	Seem to Feel Favorably (% of participants)	Seem to Feel Unfavorably (% of participants)	Provided Mixed Feedback, Felt Neutrally, or Did Not Indicate Overall Stance (% of participants)
Homeroom/Advisory (*N*=160 participants)	61%	6%	33%
Longer Classes/Block Scheduling (*N*=207 participants)	40%	22%	38%
Teacher Teams with Student Cohorts (*N*=178 participants)	48%	13%	38%
Project/Problem-Based Learning (PBL) (*N*=160 participants)	47%	11%	43%

Data Summary & Suggestions

❏ ~~The focus quality of data (sample size of the population)~~

❏ Structure/format of the write-up (data analysis)

❏ Likes, concerns, wondering/questions
  ❏ Explain the column of mixed feedback, felt neutral, or did not indicate

❏ Stakeholder Suggestions
  ❏ Decisions you make are based on <mark>students' "opportunities"</mark>

Keep our "opportunities" in the center!

Content Question: WHAT should our middle school designs be focused on?

Define

What are we trying to solve?
- What patterns did we see?
- What did they hear most often?
- What difficulties did the middle students have?

Identified Problems **Opportunities** by the RMS Committee Members

1. Not enough **meaningful connection** to/with peers and adults
2. **Sense of belonging**
3. Irrelevant **instruction** and **use of time**
4. There is a disconnect between the skills being taught and the **skills needed to succeed in the future**.
5. Sense of meaningful **engagement** and **student voice**
6. Student lack **interactive learning environments**
7. The school day and classes not typically structured in a way that **empower students** and promotes their ownership of learning
8. Students need **break time**! (Only lunch)
9. There is no **bridge** to 5th grade students to transition to middle school.

Consideration: Every action, there a reaction. Every decision may affect many people; **unintended consequences** of decisions.
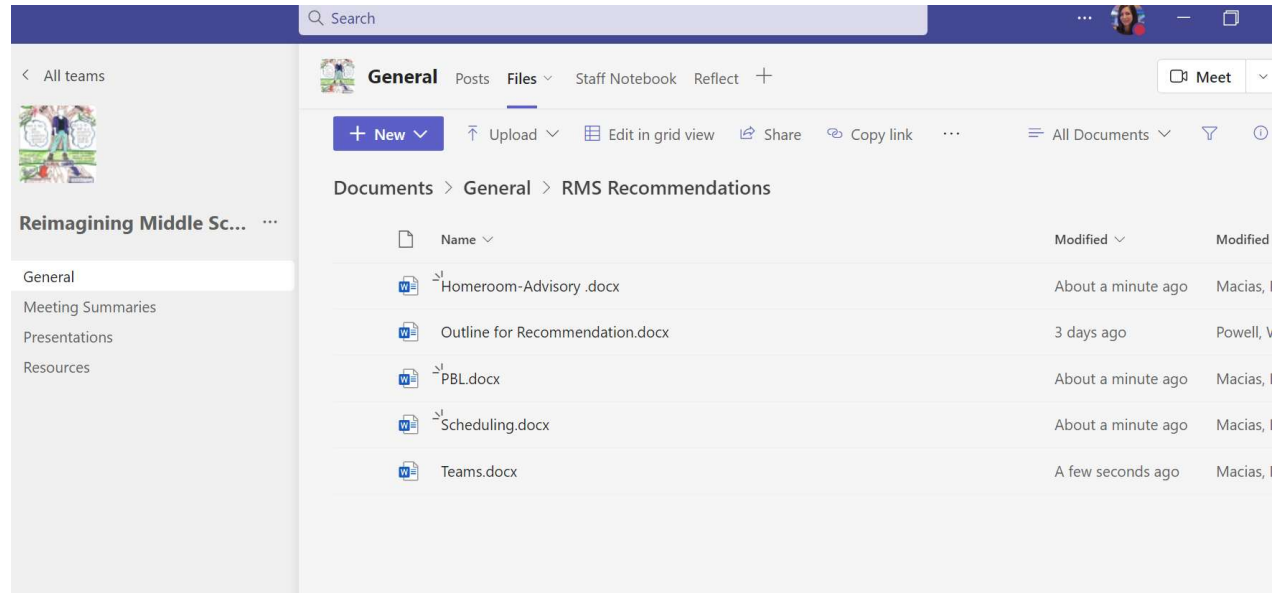
Strengthen & Refine Our Prototypes

→ Review your group's data summary 5 minutes

→ Share one idea that NEEDS to be refined (data, opportunities, critical criteria)

  • 20 seconds/person to share one idea

→ Group agrees on big topic for refinement

→ Refine

→ Record in Word document

Time to work: 50 min
Time check at 5:40 pm

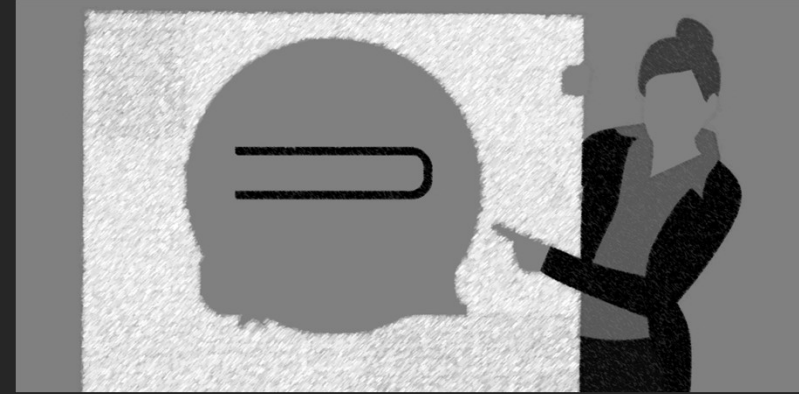❑ Current Iteration of Prototype

❑ Refinement

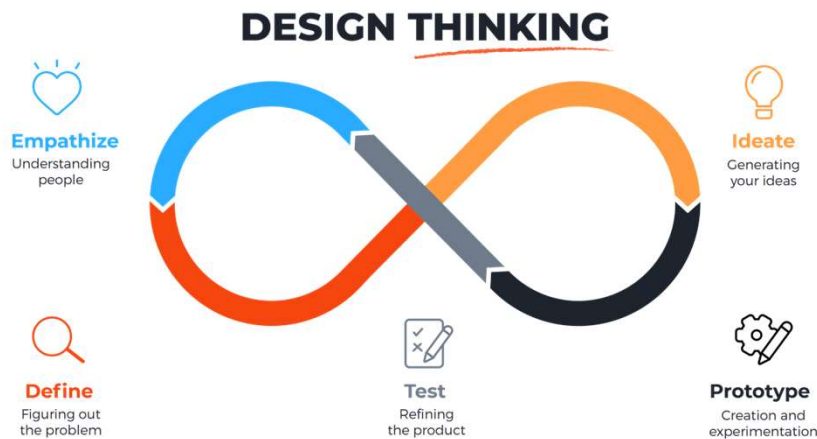# Record Refinements

(see Word document)

Sharing

<4 minutes (or less!)

What have you refined in your prototype?

Put your questions, comments, needs etc. here!

P→ ARKING

Need a notetaker!

Nuts and Bolts

- ❑ Next Meeting- APRIL 20 at ESC 200
- ❑ REVIEW CRITICAL CRITERIA before 4/20
- ❑ <mark>What is coming up: Continuing to Draft Recommendations!</mark>

Closing