

Board of Education

Linkage Meeting with Elementary and Middle School Students

04/14/2015 @ 6:00PM

- **What do you like the most about being an elementary or middle school student?**

Answers to this question are unavailable at this time.

- **What is the most difficult part of being an elementary or middle school student?**

Student

- Difficult part is when you're ahead but the teacher has to slow you down to help the other kids on track
- First time being in schools transition
- As you grow more your time and work increases so time and focus becomes more intense
- Bullying both physical and emotional verbal
- Always talking and socializing, electives are good and lunch is good
- Teachers are allowing slackers to slack and get away with things
- Noise level in the modules and distractions, it makes it hard to focus
- Teachers aren't being respectful of other classes around 2 rooms-Turnberry
- Consequences
- Over testing-too much testing and not enough learning
- Paper test would be better
- Computer screens give headaches and vision
- Teachers are hard-expectations
- PE teachers are grumpy
- Confusing with test would rather work on projects
- PVMS way too much drama
- Growing up way to fast
- Swearing-Language mostly girls
- Language is vulgar and no consequences
- We represent the school so we need to be better
- Kids are the reason that Ms. S. is so hard

- Homework is a bit too much
 - Spread out when assignments are due so they are not all due on the same day
 - Language and be harder
 - Kind of hard because of friend problem, social aspect, some kids talk too much and make it hard to learn
 - Sometimes when we test or computers it's easy and then they make it harder
 - Knowing that going to ES-MS is a big transition
 - Testing really hard to process what's going in your mind
 - Frustrated because they're asking them the same things over again
 - Process all of this stuff but no time to actually doing
 - Writing on paper is better than typing
- **Do you feel your child is being prepared academically for future success? Why or why not?**

Parent

- West Ridge is good would like to see stream programs
- This year 2nd grade picked up on needs
- Work with parents
- Yes for the future PVMS 90% pm assignments
- Ability to keep caring back
- Don't like reassess in HS and college it doesn't help them in the future
- Yes, they challenge her because she can get bored
- "Great book kids" college and pick majors
- Some of the HS are helping students find there pathway earlier like more
- Great challenges DPS,+A12, and online
- Best schools moving up
- Both kids are in 95% so need more of a challenge
- This lack of differentiation is make highs and lows both struggle-Henderson/Brantner

- **If you could add a class or activity or rule, what would it be?**

- **Parent**

- Afterschool activities-Enrichment classes of schools
 - Foreign language added to curriculum
 - Opportunities for kids to go to local sporting events
 - Speakers coming to schools
 - Study hall at middle school (ELO)
 - Tutor programs
 - Saturday School
 - More afterschool activities, home crafts, legos league at Middle School
 - Destination Imagination
 - Art class, Artistic schools-need classes
 - Band-Afterschool band
 - Jazz Band
 - Choir
 - Music, Art, Shops, Home E C in middle schools
 - Science at all elementaries
 - Half day absence for leaving early (Rule change)
 - Pennock lunch only 15, only 10 to eat "hot lunch"
 - North lunch too short
 - Drug and Alcohol Awareness at Elem
 - Orchestra

- **Do you feel your classes are meeting your academic needs? Why or why not?**

- **Student**

- Yes, learning fun, remember for test, show us what we need to learn
 - Yes, put good directions make it simple
 - No, focused on behavior too much/grades suffer
 - Yes, many teachers give time before/after school work with all kids, no matter on learning ability
 - Yes, real organized makes us kids are paying attention, help come out of shell
 - Most teachers don't keep kids on topic
 - Need firm teachers, need kids to pay attention, major problems
 - Strict at first, allow leniency
 - Yes, (PVMS) interaction is very strong (Awesome)

- No, experience more too confusing tests learn more from experience
- Yes, switch classes my favorite wing, shows error without pointing out students
- No, goes to fast, too quick more focused on advanced students “bring kids down” prefers advanced students
- Yes, teachers helping out, steady lunches, infinite campus “play a big role”
- No, teachers goes “superfast”
- No, a lot of things, many mistakes, keep getting challenged without explanation
- Yes, explains all lessons, checking homework, answer questions “on examples” how lessons was taught.
- Students realize mistakes and fixes it.
- Yes, too easy for some, too hard for others-separated classes by test scores/ability
- Yes, pretty easy, math is easy more digits in addition “reading is not a challenge” most people in reading fail due to talking and not paying attention
- No way too easy
- No, higher level not challenge, held back by slower learning kids, kids on independent study, higher elementary grades to help advance kids
- No, not learning enough has trouble with penmanship, not enough teachers interact, rush on writing
- Yes/No teacher is challenging review is not needed

• **If you were the principal of your school, what is one class or activity or rule that you would add or change?**

WESTRIDGE: Wouldn't change anything, everything good.

PVMS : Add more passing period time, students can't go to lockers after each period because there are too many students. I would put all lockers one level so students can have access and don't have to wait for student whose locker is on top which at times makes them late for class.

SOUTH: I would have a teacher rotation, add lunch teachers and extended recess time to 20 minutes instead of 10.

PVMS : Change the start time of school it is too early it starts at 7:20 when most schools start at 8:25 or 8:30. Take out sustained silent reading - it is the first class, 1 hour everyone has to read & do homework this should be done at home not during first class period it cuts into class learning time. It's a lot of time to spend reading when you get graded on but doesn't count on GPA. Extend core and exploratory classes.

VIKAN: Things are good!

NORTH: Add more reading & music, add art. More after school programs beside the dance.

PENNOCK: Have organized indoor activity recess, there needs to be more discipline with students who don't want to participate they make it very difficult for others to hear. Change the rule if a parent picks a student up from school for an appointment even if it's an hour and does not return to school should not count as an absent. Put in new sound system, the current sound system you can't hear the programs. More after school programs such as music the only one they have is mad science which is too expensive for some students \$50.00. Student council for younger students, currently it starts at 4th & 5th graders it should start in 2nd.

BRATNER: Add art, have teachers add more writing in their classrooms. Add more posters all around the school against bullying and fighting, we do have some but not enough. Add more science classes. Add rule teachers cannot be on their cell phones texting while in class or give signs on their head when a student asks a question. Add rule teachers need to have proper dress code (halter tops and short shorts to back to school night). Add a fence around the school - safety.

HENDERSON: Change the lunch program they are bad right now. Add 5 more minutes to recess. Add rule teachers cannot be on their cell phones while tending recess or lunch duty.

THIMMIG: Add more science and social studies, add science projects for students.

SOUTHEAST: Add more space for the music room so music teacher can have room for tools and activities, need more funding to buy the equipment in the music room. Change rule when one student does something wrong the whole grade or class should not get punished for it. There should be investigation to find out what happened and who did it and make them responsible.

SOUTH: Change the weekly schedule to Monday - social studies, Tuesday - Art, Wednesday - scholastics, Thursday - science, Friday - more science.

OVERLAND: Add more athletic time, keep things the way they are it is well balanced except, change the way the transition is with teachers, have more support from the district to support the students when a teacher is let go in the middle of the school year. Have better communication with the parents and students when there is a transition with teachers. Make it easier for students and families to accept the change.

NORTHEAST: Add more math, add art. Add more discipline for bullying.

STEWART: Change the ID procedure, it is useless cost of money, takes away from learning time.

TURNBERRY: Change dress code to uniforms, dress code needs to be enforced. To many students wearing short shorts and tank tops. Very distracting.

- **Is there anything else you think the Board of Education members and the Superintendent should know about your child's school experience?**

WESTRIDGE: I am concerned that my students needs will not be meet at PVMS, I currently have a 7th grader that is going to school out of district because I had concerns about him going to PVMS. I called the secretaries and did not get a ton of help.

PVMS: My children have had a very good experience, although I am concerned about them attending PVHS.

SOUTH: A good school.

NORTH: Both parents love the school they like the fact that it is very challenging for their child.

PENNOCK: Mother was very reluctant to have her daughter attend 27J, but is very happy she is here. She would like to see student council for the younger ages.

BRATNER: Better communication when things directly affect their child, communication is very limited. There is a safety issue with no fence around the school, there is no boundaries to keep the children safe. Another concern with no fence how can 2 teachers tend to all those students on the playground at one time.

HENDERSON: No real food, student says food is terrible. It's the same meals, no variety. Student has packed lunch most of the school year.

SOUTH: Pillars of character is an awesome program. I don't like the breakfast program in the classroom, this was suppose to be a 10 minute process and it takes at least 45 minutes. It takes way too much time away from their classroom learning time. It's messy, gets food on their books, work and clothes too time consuming.

THIMMIG: Awarding the students with academic awards is very encouraging to them, I am so happy about self contained classes.

OVERLAND: A great continuance program, made it fun and easy to want to go to another school.

NORTHEAST: This is a great district, but we need teachers who are caring, honest and committed to the students. Most of the teachers are great here.

STEWART: There needs to be more accountability by the teachers with the students. When students need help the teachers need to pay attention and help the students with their questions. There needs to be more consistency within the district. It seems they put policy in place but they are not enforced!

VIKAN: Has done a good job, is positive and does a good job on a one on one with students. Teacher who are doing a good job should be recognized.

TURNBERRY: Teachers are not giving equal attention to students, if a student does well they get attention. But if there is a student who needs help they are not getting the help they need.