

**Okemos Public Schools
Strategic Planning 2020 – 2024
Community Forum, October 10, 2019**

As Okemos Public Schools (OPS) initiates its Strategic Planning 2020 – 2024 commitment, it held a Community Forum on October 10. Carmelita Murphy, OP, of LEAD, Inc., facilitated the dialogues. The outcome of the Community Forum that engaged 28 community members is as follows:

1. What is outstanding about an OPS education?

- Rigor; excellent academics
- Community (within and without the district)
- Diversity; inclusion with attention to needs of all
- Collaboration
- Development of whole child
- Preparation for life
- Leadership at all levels
- Culture of success

2. What must OPS address to improve the OPS experience?

- Mental health
 - Balance between mental health and high academic demands
 - Mindfulness
- Student voice
- Interventions for high school students
- Inclusion
- Support for special education (students, staff, support)
- Proactively meeting the needs of all
- Equitable outcomes
- Growth challenges / issues
- Attract and retain educators that reflect student population
- Involving and empowering community
- Culturally responsive instruction
- Environmental education; nature with experiential learning
- World languages
- Safety measures
- Transparency of data, extracurricular
- Balance with technology
- Nutrition, lunches

3. What 2 challenges must OPS address in the next 4 years?

- Mental health
- Resources and expertise to meet diverse student needs
- Capacity and staffing
- Cultural competency- recommit to the work
- Diversifying workforce
- Addressing opportunity gaps- equity
- Infrastructure, facilities, space
- Environmental value (solar power, clean energy, sustainability)
- Global thinking
- Innovation- at every level
- Growth in community
- Funding: Think outside the box for funding, expertise, resources from parents and community
- Safety issues (school violence)
- Prevention