

CCSD Board of Trustees

Community Listening Sessions Synopsis

Overview

The Charleston County School District Board of Trustees held community listening and engagement sessions over the course of two weeks with 24 stakeholder groups and gatherings. A separate community feedback survey also was conducted with findings identified in separate synopsis. The sessions utilized five questions.

Community Participation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO INFORM NEW BOARD GOALS			
Group/Organization	Date	Time	Location
Teachers of the Year	September 15, 2022	4:00 p.m.	Zoom
D9 Session* (Wadmalaw & Johns Island)	September 15, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Mt. Zion Elementary School
D9 Session* (Wadmalaw & Johns Island)	September 15, 2022	6:00 p.m.	St. John's High School
Early College Students	September 16, 2022	daytime	Early College High School
West Ashley CAS Students	September 16, 2022	daytime	West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies
Cooper River CAS Students	September 16, 2022	daytime	Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies
East Cooper CAS Students	September 16, 2022	daytime	East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies
D23 Session* (Hollywood, Ravenel, & Edisto)	September 19, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Baptist Hill Middle High School
D4 Session* (North Charleston)	September 19, 2022	6:00 p.m.	North Charleston High School
D23 Session* (Hollywood, Ravenel, & Edisto)	September 19, 2022	6:15 p.m.	E.B. Ellington Elementary School
City Councils	September 20, 2022	4:00 p.m.	Zoom
D3 Session* (James Island)	September 20, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Camp Road Middle School
D10 Session* (West Ashley)	September 20, 2022	6:15 p.m.	West Ashley High School
Constituent District Boards	September 21, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Burke High School
D20 Session* (Downtown Charleston)	September 21, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Burke High School
All stakeholders*	September 22, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Zoom
All stakeholders*	September 22, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Zoom
Higher Education, Businesses, and Nonprofits Session*	September 22, 2022	3:00 p.m.	Zoom
D4 Session* (North Charleston)	September 22, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Northwoods Middle School
D4 Session* (North Charleston)	September 22, 2022	6:15 p.m.	R.B. Stall High School
School Board Candidates	September 23, 2022	1:00 p.m.	75 Calhoun Street
Constituent District Boards	September 27, 2022	5:00 p.m.	Lucy Beckham High School
D1 & D2 Session* (Awendaw, McClellanville, & Mt. Pleasant)	September 27, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Lucy Beckham High School
D9 Session* (Wadmalaw & Johns Island)	September 27, 2022	6:00 p.m.	St. John's High School

Questions and Highest Frequency Topical Occurrences

The following questions were asked through board member facilitated sessions / breakouts and stakeholder breakout groups with feedback synthesized into full session collaborative response. The combined results were organized topically and then evaluated for frequency of occurrence.

- **Q1: Looking into the future, how should we be able to describe a graduate of Charleston County School District?**
 - Seven C's: College, Career, Critical Thinking, Creative, Communication, Collaboration, Citizenship: Refers to the need for real-world skills, which includes technical skills in the schools (taxes, personal finance, etc.), experiences and internships, and career pathway access for students who don't wish to attend college. "Well Rounded"
 - Academic Mastery: Academic preparedness including emphasis on core subjects such as math, reading / English language arts, numeracy
 - Financial literacy
 - Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
 - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Wellness competencies and preparedness: relationship skills, grit, self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, perseverance

- **Q2: What are things you'd like CCSD students to know or be able to do to be successful by the end of elementary, middle, and/or high school?**
 - Overall upon completion¹:
 - Career and/or College Ready or Next Step Ready
 - Able to meet or exceed national standards in reading, writing, and math
 - Financial Literacy
 - Strong Work Ethic
 - Elementary
 - Strong literacy and numeracy skills by completion of 3rd grade
 - Exposure to languages
 - Foundations of cultural awareness and experiences; exposure to diverse learning environments
 - Strong foundation of self-discipline, love for learning, emotional intelligence
 - Middle
 - Career awareness and planning
 - Conflict resolution
 - Deep / Deepening exposure and access to arts and music
 - Critical thinking, communication, and homework/time-management skills
 - Academic success of gateway coursework for high school transition
 - High School
 - College and/or Career Individualized Plans
 - Mentorships, Career Networking, Financial Literacy
 - Meet or exceed literacy and numeracy standards
 - Strong communication and public speaking skills
- **Q3: From the list you just made in the previous question, what do you believe should be the top 3 priorities of our school system?**
 - College and Career Preparation
 - Meet or exceed literacy and numeracy standards
 - Financial Literacy
- **Q4: With the priorities you've identified in the previous question in mind, what do you believe Charleston County School District should avoid or stop doing as it focuses on accomplishing those priorities?**
 - Stop ignoring the holistic needs of children
 - Stop curriculum changes and programming turnover
 - Stop allowing and/or ignoring structural inequities (i.e. – discipline, staffing assignments, resource allocation)
 - Stop overemphasis on standardized testing to the detriment of whole child learning
 - Stop politicization of learning in the classroom
 - Stop evaluating students on test scores alone
 - Stop making adult problems student problems
 - Stop not respecting individual student uniqueness's, traits, and experiences (i.e. – gender, race, culture)
 - Stop Title I Pilots
- **Q5: From the list you just made about what CCSD should avoid or stop doing, what do you believe should be the top 3 of those items?**
 - Stop curriculum changes and programming turnover
 - Stop overemphasis on standardized testing to the detriment of whole child learning
 - Stop allowing and/or ignoring structural inequities (i.e. – discipline, staffing assignments, resource allocation)
- **Other themes across questions:** privatization / private partners; increased board listening sessions; staff culture; budget/staffing

¹ Aligns with "Seven C's" of Q1