



Robbinsdale Area Schools

Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030 Community Engagement Recap

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Feb. 19 and March 24, 2025 | Virtual Zoom meetings

Executive Summary

On Feb. 19, and then March 24, 2025, Robbinsdale Area Schools (Rdale) held [Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030](#) community engagement meetings virtually via Zoom. A total of 46 individuals attended the first meeting on Feb. 19, and 27 attended the second on March 24.

Families, students, staff, and community members shared bold ideas and offered feedback that will guide long-term planning for the district. Attendees of both participated in facilitated breakout room conversations around three guiding questions focused on reimagining what school could be, identifying what's working in Rdale today, and helping define the qualities and skills every student should possess when they graduate. The responses below summarize the key themes that emerged during these important engagement sessions.

What if...? Reimagining School for the Future:

Participants offered a wide range of ideas for how to design future schools that are inclusive, supportive, and adaptive to student needs and passions. Common themes included:

- **Hands-On & Flexible Learning:** Strong emphasis on experiential and hands-on learning, including life skills, field trips, elective options, and arts integration. Suggestions included modular learning, year-round calendars (e.g., 10 weeks on, 2 off), and non-traditional schedules.
- **Support for Diverse Learners:** Calls for improved supports for students with ADHD, anxiety, and other needs. Greater flexibility in learning styles, movement-based instruction, and options beyond "sit and get" were prioritized.
- **Social-Emotional Growth & Belonging:** Prioritized mutual respect, SEL, and emotional validation throughout the day. Participants stressed the importance of schools being places where students are affirmed, supported, and celebrated.
- **Updated Success Metrics:** Interest in redefining student success beyond test scores and traditional grading systems. Encouraged schools to consider confidence, community impact, and personal growth as valid indicators.
- **Innovative Teaching & Staffing:** Advocated for more qualified, experienced educators; departmentalized upper-elementary models; cross-grade specials; and science specialists in each school.
- **Parent & Community Involvement:** Desire for deeper engagement between

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schools and families, including virtual principal-parent meetings and stronger community-school bonds.

What's Working in Rdale:

Participants expressed strong appreciation for several programs, practices, and values already present in the district. Highlights included:

- **Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** Families noted the importance of protecting DEI work, ensuring all students feel they belong, and providing platforms like Black History Month celebrations to elevate student voice.
- **Strong Staff & Community Culture:** Attendees celebrated caring, committed staff—especially support personnel like educational assistants—and the close-knit, respectful community culture in schools.
- **Arts, Music & Extracurriculars:** Ongoing support for music programs, fine arts, clubs, and extracurriculars that build student confidence and real-world communication skills.
- **Experiential & Outdoor Learning:** Enthusiasm for hands-on learning, outdoor classrooms, field trips, and STEM/STEAM-based approaches. SEA and FAIR Crystal were cited as models for engaging instruction and teacher development.
- **Reading & Early Learning Support:** Programs like Reading Corps, Pre-K options, and strong early literacy supports were seen as vital to student success.
- **Safe, Supportive Environments:** The district's focus on physical, social, and emotional safety was appreciated. Families emphasized the importance of sustaining spaces where students feel seen and safe.

Profile of an Rdale Learner:

Attendees offered clear ideas for what a successful Rdale graduate should know, do, and be. Key traits and skills included:

- **Foundational Skills:** Competence in reading, writing, math, and science remained a baseline expectation, along with job-specific skills and personal finance literacy.
- **Confidence & Problem-Solving:** Emphasis on perseverance, self-awareness, and belief in one's ability to overcome challenges and find solutions.
- **Communication & Collaboration:** Strong verbal communication, public speaking, and teamwork skills were consistently valued—both in-person and virtually.

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- **Global Awareness & Empathy:** Encouraged fostering critical thinking, a global perspective, and the ability to understand and work with people from different backgrounds.
- **Community Engagement:** Participants stressed the importance of volunteering, civic responsibility, and students contributing to their communities with purpose.
- **Personalized Growth:** Students should graduate knowing how they learn best, how to stay organized, and how to pursue their individual dreams—whether through college, career, or other pathways.

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