



Robbinsdale Area Schools

Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030 Community Engagement Recap

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Feb. 24, 2025 | Location: Sandburg Middle School

Executive Summary

On Feb. 19, 2025, Robbinsdale Area Schools (Rdale) held its third [Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030](#) community engagement meeting at Sandburg Middle School. A total of 21 individuals attended, with intentional outreach to engage members of the Pan African community.

Families, students, staff, and community partners shared bold ideas and offered feedback that will guide long-term planning for the district. Attendees 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 this important engagement session.

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

Participants imagined learning environments that prioritize hands-on, human-centered experiences and give students the freedom to explore their passions. Key themes included

- Hybrid & Experiential Learning: Support for out-of-the-box approaches, such as project-based and experiential learning, small-group formats, and virtual extension classes.
- Student-Directed Learning: A desire for student agency—letting learners choose classes that match their interests and strengths.
- Preserving Human Connection: Emphasis on retaining the human elements of education; participants cautioned against replacing teachers with technology and called for relationship-driven instruction.
- Real-World Relevance: Learning should result in finished products students are passionate about, with clear applications to life outside the classroom.
- Teacher Quality & Retention: The need for committed, supportive educators who can inspire and guide students was strongly emphasized.

What's Working in Rdale:

Attendees identified current programs and values worth preserving and expanding:

- Cultural Relevance & Restorative Practices: Appreciation for cultural studies and restorative practices that center community and accountability.

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- Hands-On & Career-Connected Courses: Continued support for vocational tech, FACS, and other practical courses that engage students in learning by doing.
- Fine Arts & Extracurriculars: Praise for the arts and extracurricular programs that give students creative and social outlets.
- High Expectations with Accountability: Teachers who set strong expectations for behavior and academic performance were valued.
- Tech Balance & Foundational Skills: Support for limiting screen time and teaching essential academic strategies—like how to take effective notes.

Profile of an Rdale Learner:

Participants shared a vision for well-rounded graduates prepared to succeed and contribute in diverse ways:

- Lifelong Learners: Students should know how to learn, maintain focus, and stay engaged in their own growth.
- Social & Emotional Intelligence: Empathy, self-awareness, and resilience were repeatedly named as essential life skills.
- Civic Responsibility & Community Service: A strong sense of citizenship, community engagement, and service to others should be part of every learner's experience.
- Life-Ready Skills: Financial literacy, media literacy, and technology use were noted, along with broader "real world" knowledge and practical common sense.
- Prepared & Caring Graduates: Above all, Rdale learners should be safe, respectful, caring individuals—ready to face the future with confidence.

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