



Robbinsdale Area Schools

## Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030 Community Engagement Recap

5:30-7:30 p.m. | March 10, 2025 | Location: FAIR School Crystal

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### Executive Summary

On March 10, 2025, Robbinsdale Area Schools (Rdale) held its fourth [Reimagine Rdale: Vision 2030](#) community engagement meeting at FAIR School Crystal with intentional outreach to members of the American Indian community. A total of 59 individuals attended.

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 envisioned schools that are culturally grounded, emotionally supportive, and centered on student strengths and identities. Themes included:

- Individualized, Strength-Based Learning: Schools should focus on aptitude, not age. Participants called for personalized instruction based on student interests and strengths, with options like cooking, taxes, and other real-world skills.
- More Flexibility & Voice: A shift away from rigid grading and standardized assessments toward student choice, on-demand learning, and more project-based and experiential models.
- Culturally Sustaining, Decolonized Spaces: Calls to de-institutionalize school environments and affirm students as whole humans through culturally responsive, land-based education, especially for Indigenous learners.
- Outdoor, Hands-On, Real-Life Learning: Suggestions included weekly visits to nature, cross-generational learning, apprenticeships, and peer-to-peer instruction. Practical skills like financial literacy, tax prep, hygiene, and household management were highly valued.
- Mental Health & Human Connection: Prioritizing SEL, relationships, transparency, and student voice, with a strong emphasis on empathy and joy in learning.
- Technology as a Support, Not a Replacement: Tech should supplement—not replace—learning and teaching. Applications should be meaningful and balance traditional practices.

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### What's Working in Rdale:

Attendees named several valued practices, programs, and district commitments that they hope will continue or expand:

- **Strong Arts & Magnet Programs:** Continued support for orchestra, band, theater, visual arts, and language immersion—particularly at arts magnet schools—was encouraged.
- **Community Engagement & Enrichment:** Indian Education programming, enrichment opportunities during the school day, and field trips were praised for expanding student experiences.
- **Supportive Adults & Caring Staff:** Participants highlighted the importance of administrators, teachers, and support staff who build relationships and invest in student success.
- **Academic Rigor & Access:** Programs such as AVID, advanced classes, and gifted services were seen as valuable when paired with inclusive, equitable practices.
- **Restorative Practices & Safety:** Continued emphasis on SEL, restorative approaches to behavior, and clear protocols for physical and emotional safety were supported.
- **Libraries & Media Specialists:** Full-time librarians were named as essential hubs of school learning and inquiry.
- **Flexibility & Responsiveness:** Families appreciated open enrollment within the district and flexibility to change classes when needed. There was also support for repeating classes to retain learning and offering after-school opportunities.

### Profile of an Rdale Learner:

Participants offered a deep and expansive vision for what an Rdale graduate should know, be, and do. Common themes included:

- **Academic Readiness & Life Skills:** Learners should be literate, numerate, and equipped with “adulting” skills—time management, personal finance, hygiene, interview skills, and job readiness.
- **Self-Awareness & Resilience:** Graduates should be self-confident, emotionally intelligent, and able to regulate their emotions and bounce back from setbacks.

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- **Community-Minded & Purpose-Driven:** Students should be motivated by more than money—they should be grounded in purpose, compassionate, and committed to making a difference.
- **Global & Cultural Awareness:** Rdale learners should develop a worldwide view, acceptance of all people, and inclusive thinking that respects cultural differences.
- **Curious, Creative, & Collaborative:** A love of learning, creative thinking, communication skills, and the ability to work with others were emphasized as vital traits.
- **Capable of Leading & Listening:** Participants called for strong communicators who are also active listeners, community advocates, and collaborative leaders.

*March 10, 2025*

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