

REGULAR LISTENING SESSION RESULTS



Blueprint 181

Investing. Growing. Leading.

LOWELL ELEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

MARCH 1, 2017

“Regular” Listening Session with Non-Certified Staff

There are typically several common themes that emerge regarding the needs within the district.

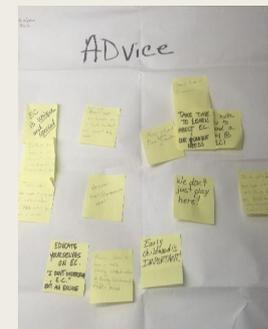
- The common themes are identified and agreed upon by the group.
- Themes are written on paper and placed on the wall. Each person is given sticky dots.
- The quantity of dots is typically about 70% of the number of themes.
- Participants are then asked to place the dots on what they feel is their highest priorities and not allowed to place more than one dot on a single theme.

This process (STEP 2) enables participants to efficiently outline and prioritize needs.



Regular Listening Sessions (Non-Certified Staff)

- Developing Common Topics / Themes.....



- & Prioritizing Topics (placing dots).....



Outline of Needs

-Questions and Results-



What great things are happening in the Brainerd Schools? (#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Community education (2)
- Blue ribbon school (2)
- Agate program (2)
- Handicap accessibility (2)
- Caring, dedicated staff (2)
- Title school
- S.T.E.M. programs
- Students matter
- Helping kids to be independent & organized
- Sports
- Closing the gap (achievement)
- STAR program



What great things are happening in the Brainerd Schools?

- Professional environment
- Staff is like family
- Flexible
- Great teachers
- Preparing well for college – lots of opportunity
- Moving toward a 21st century school



What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools? (#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Lack of space (9)
- Kindergarten E.A. subs (5)
- Lack of subs (4)
- Old buildings (3)
- Teaching to test instead of teaching to learn (2)
- Need more staff bathrooms (2)
- Need more special education space to accommodate needs (2)
- Need individual work space (2)
- Too much! Overload on students and teachers.
- Need more heavy lap pads
- More E.A. staff
- Health room



What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools?

- More E.A.'s for SPED kids
- Lounge/storage room
- BIR in health room
- Book room
- ISS room
- Non-classroom classrooms
- Noisy doors
- ISS and health room combined
- No clean room for nursing mothers
- Bathroom facilities
- Office areas are in closets
- Dyslexia challenges



What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools?

- Decent or relevant training
- Pertinent training for E.A.'s
- Too many tests



How have facility needs changed over the past 20 years? (#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- More space needed for special education kids/small groups (3)
- Awareness and need for different learning styles (2)
- Technology in the classroom (2)
- Facilities haven't kept up with technology (2)
- Standing desks
- Need more space for contracted mental health
- Need more privacy
- Sensory rooms are more needed now
- More flexible teaching space
- Need for handicap accessibility
- Need for hearing impaired kids
- Need space for kids to move around in the classroom



How have facility needs changed over the past 20 years?

- Declining space
- Aging patchworked infrastructure



If you won the lottery and were required to spend it on your school, how would you spend it? (#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Art – art professional (4)
- Buildings that have great space. No more space issues (4)
- Accommodate all the challenges (3)
- More gym/multipurpose space (2)
- More E.A. staff (2)
- Multi purpose building
- New buildings
- Nicer bathrooms in building
- Bigger library – keep library
- Keep up-to-date with technology
- Foreign languages
- More sensory space



If you won the lottery and were required to spend it on your school, how would you spend it?

- Expand makers space options
- Hire more staff
- Higher E.A. wages
- Robotics
- Science programs
- Music programs
- More books
- Create non-profit for staff (cannot be cut)
- Sound absorbing panels in the lunchroom
- Diverse activities – theater, art, music, etc.
- Private space for kids having meltdowns
- “Meditation room” to curb behaviors



If you won the lottery and were required to spend it on your school, how would you spend it?

- Cubicles for pull out and an area to work with kids
- Upgrade technology – more 1:1
- Computer lab
- Technology



What would you like the headlines to be of the newspaper 10 years from now about the Brainerd schools?

- Kids Understanding Risk And Failure Is Part Of Learning.
- Top Scores In ACT's
- Technology Leader
- Most College Bound Students
- Brainerd School Gives Back To The Community
- Reading Efficiency Exceeds Expectations
- ISD 181 Exceeds Expectations Again!
- Brainerd Students – Well Balanced Academically And Emotionally
- Brainerd Schools Now Top In Nation
- Leading In Special Education Programs
- Brainerd School District Is Top In Nation



What would you like the headlines to be of the newspaper 10 years from now about the Brainerd schools?

- Rated Among Top Schools
- Record Graduation Rate
- Autism Awareness In Community



What advice would you give to the decision makers?

- Come and observe an entire day.
- Spend a day with an SPED student.
- Understand what E.A.'s currently do during the day.
- Experience what we live day to day – then make decisions.
- Come and visit us!
- Sit in classrooms with us.
- Our role, responsibilities and dedication should equal our pay.
- Have retired people come and see what we do in limited space.
- Students first.
- Do what's best for our kids.
- Come visit and see us in action.
- Do what's best for kids.



What advice would you give to the decision makers?

- Technology breaks down
- Be willing to change initial plans. (adapt)
- Be proactive, not reactive.
- Come eat lunch with the kids.



STEP 2: Prioritized Needs



Greatest needs (Prioritized)

- Visit our school sites – hands-on experience – extended visit (17)
- Flexible space (17)
- High student achievement (16)
- Aging and restricted space (15)
- Shortage of special education space (15)
- Quantity and training of E.A.'s (14)
- Increase technology (6)
- Great staff (2)
- Student preparedness

