

# World Cafe Update



Committee of the Whole  
April 2, 2025

# Agenda



- ❑ Purpose
- ❑ Structure
- ❑ Participants
- ❑ Analysis
- ❑ Next Steps

# Purpose



To gather student insight into their experiences and perspectives.



# Structure

- ❑ Free-flowing dialogue in response to three questions.
- ❑ Grade levels by school (Only 5th through 8th grade students)
- ❑ Grade levels divided into smaller groups (5-10 students)
- ❑ One hour per group facilitated by a staff member
- ❑ Three identical questions for each group at each grade level
  - ❑ *What do you like most about your school? What do you wish were different about your school?*
  - ❑ *In what ways does your school do a good job in making you feel safe and welcome?*
  - ❑ *What is something you would like us to know?*

# Participants

School	Grade	# of focus groups	# of participating students
Ames	5th	9	71
Blythe Park	5th	4	35
Central	5th	10	77
Hollywood	5th	3	23
Hauser	6th	21	178
	7th	22	192
	8th	22	184
Total		91	760



# Fifth-Grade Analysis

## What Students Like Most:

- ☐ Positive feelings towards the welcoming and kind nature of teachers and staff
- ☐ Positive learning environment
- ☐ Enjoy the availability of various activities such as lunch, recess, sports, and clubs
- ☐ Appreciate the efforts to make the school environment safe and secure

## What Students Wish Was Different

- ☐ Changes in structure and content of the school day
- ☐ Better playground facilities
- ☐ More comfortable learning spaces
- ☐ Fairness with access to green space and playground equipment
- ☐ Consistent rule enforcement

# Fifth-Grade Analysis



## How the School Creates a Safe and Welcoming Environment

- ☐ Presence of safety patrols
- ☐ Locked doors
- ☐ Visitor Protocols
- ☐ Teachers and Staff greeting students by name

## How the School Can Improve Safety and Welcoming

- ☐ Improve supervision in certain areas
- ☐ Revise safety drills to be more effective
- ☐ Address Bullying
- ☐ Ensure all students feel included and supported
- ☐ More mental health support
- ☐ More opportunities for open communication

# Fifth-Grade Analysis

## Things Students Want Us To Know



- ☐ They have opinions on the learning environment - from the temperature of the room to the availability of supplies.
- ☐ They care about fairness.
- ☐ They would like more clubs and activities.
- ☐ They would like better food.
- ☐ They have specific suggestions for safety drills.
- ☐ They want to feel heard and supported - especially regarding bullying and mental health.
- ☐ They value the efforts made to welcome students, but they want it extended to all.
- ☐ They want the adults to understand their perspectives.



# Hauser Jr. High Analysis



## What Students Like Most:

- ☐ Appreciate the friendly and fun teachers
- ☐ Enjoy the variety of classes and activities, including Encore classes and clubs
- ☐ Appreciate the opportunity to socialize with friends
- ☐ Like the food
- ☐ Enjoy moving between classes

## What Students Wish Was Different

- ☐ Wish there were longer lunch and passing periods.
- ☐ Wish there were breaks
- ☐ Would like less homework
- ☐ Would like less screen time
- ☐ Dissatisfaction with certain facilities (e.g., bathrooms and locker rooms)
- ☐ Dislike the use of SmartPass
- ☐ Overcrowding and hallway traffic

# Hauser Jr. High Analysis



## How the School Creates a Safe and Welcoming Environment

- ☐ The presence of friendly staff
- ☐ Locked doors
- ☐ Safety drills
- ☐ Efforts by administration and staff to create a welcoming atmosphere
- ☐ The availability of social workers and resource teachers

## How the School Can Improve Safety and Welcoming

- ☐ Increase supervision
- ☐ Addressing bullying and student behavior
- ☐ Improve cleanliness and condition of facilities
- ☐ More inclusivity
- ☐ Greater emphasis on listening to student voices

# Hauser Jr. High Analysis

## Things Students Want Us To Know



- ❑ They have opinions on the use of technology like Chromebooks and IXL.
- ❑ They would like better food options.
- ❑ They want rules to be applied fairly and consistently.
- ❑ They want more freedom and choices, like being able to choose seats, wear hats, and use their phones in the auditorium before school.
- ❑ They want more mental health support.



# Next Steps

- ❑ Explore the specifics aligned with our values and goals
  - ❑ Equity and Inclusion
  - ❑ Collaboration and Engagement
- ❑ Data point for the upcoming Strategic Plan
  - ❑ Help inform what might be addressed in the next Strategic Plan



Thank you.  
Questions?