



Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
1000 11TH STREET WEST
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Community Collaboration Committee Purpose Statement:

The Community Collaboration Committee is a link between the Hastings School District and the ISD200 community. The committee focuses on identifying avenues to continuously improve the district's communication process for increased transparency and to better articulate the district's goals with its stakeholders. The committee seeks opportunities for shared learning, knowledge, awareness, experience, and growth to create a stronger, more united community.

Date & Time: September 23, 2026 at 4:45-5:45 PM

Location: District Offices

In Attendance: Elaine Mikel-Mulder, Matt Bruns, Philip Biermaier, Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp Herman, and Kari Gorr

Overview

The September 23rd meeting picked up where the committee left off in June: waiting on the Finance Committee and Ehlers levy presentation before planning the next community collaboration events and a follow-up conversation with staff. The committee discussed the timing of the next staff and community events in light of the upcoming school board election, the survey companies being recommended to the board that evening, and the School Perceptions survey, which has been moved to late November. The committee agreed to wait for the School Perceptions results before scheduling the next community collaboration events, which will likely take place in January. The committee also checked in on the action steps from the prior community collaboration meetings.

Key Discussion Themes and Findings

Timing of the Next Community Collaboration Events

- The committee discussed whether to schedule a staff or community event soon. With the school board election underway and many candidate meet-and-greets and after-school events on the calendar, members were concerned an event held now could get lost in the noise or add to event fatigue.
- The committee noted that there is already a lot of community engagement around an election and that it would be best to let the election conclude before coming together again.
- The committee agreed to wait until after the School Perceptions survey results are available, likely January, so the next events can be informed by the most current data.

Community Survey and Referendum Planning

- The committee discussed the presentation to the board that evening, which would cover the information shared with the Finance Committee and the three survey companies reviewed, along with a recommendation for the board to consider.
- The committee agreed that it would look to this survey for further information to lead the collaboration event meetings.



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School Perceptions Survey

- The committee discussed the School Perceptions survey has been moved to late November. Last year the survey was given in October. The questions are being tweaked to ensure we get further explanation of community results to, again, assist in leading future collaboration meetings.

Using Survey Feedback Productively

- The committee discussed and prepared for how to best dig deeper and utilize the results of the surveys. It was noted that after last year's survey, results were brought back to each building and staff were asked what they wanted from the board. The committee agreed that we need to keep requesting feedback from staff as to what they might need from the board.
- The committee discussed an approach for this year: after analyzing the survey data and comments, walk through the recommendations with staff and sort them into board responsibilities and non-board responsibilities, if applicable, at a potential event.
- The committee also discussed asking staff to prioritize their top three concerns, since neither the board nor administration can take on every recommendation at once. This could come through the survey results or the collaboration meetings.

Staff Community Collaboration Night

- The committee agreed that another staff meeting is a must and that staff and community events should remain two separate meetings.
- The committee discussed holding the staff event directly after school, as was done last time, noting that small details matter to staff.

Follow-Up on Prior Action Steps

- Board presence in schools: A calendar of school events has been shared with board members, with several events highlighted. The committee discussed following up with principals later in the year to ask whether board presence in the buildings has become more noticeable.
- Facebook updates after board meetings: The committee confirmed that brief summaries of board meetings are being posted to the district's Facebook page.

Next Community Collaboration Committee Meeting

To be determined.

The committee will reconvene once School Perceptions survey results are available to plan the next staff and community collaboration events and to review progress on action items.