

Becker School Board Strategic Planning

2013 STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Question 1: What should students know and be able to do so they can thrive in our changing global community?

1. Students should learn effective communication skills.
2. Students should learn the importance of life-long learning.
3. Students should learn problem solving and critical thinking skills.
4. The district needs to help prepare students for college and tech/vocational institutes.
5. The district should offer more languages and to younger students.
6. Students should learn the proper use of technology, using social media, Keynote.
7. Students should take business classes geared toward life skills (mortgages, home budgeting, checkbook).
8. The district should partner with area businesses.
9. Students should know core curriculum: (Reading, Writing, Math, English, History, Science).
10. Be self-sufficient/self-motivated.
11. Students should be able to advocate for themselves.
12. Learn social skills.
13. The school should have a customized plan for each student with flexibility.
14. The school should support whole person/student (mental/physical/spiritual).
15. Students should learn time management.
16. Students should know that drugs & alcohol create barriers to learn for themselves and others.
17. Math should be more of a focus.
18. Students need to learn to set goals and have a plan on how to achieve them.
19. Learning in different environments (college vs. high school).
20. Becker students need more cultural awareness.
21. Students would like better relationships with teachers, and more one-on-one time.
22. We would like to keep the class sizes small.
23. We would like more study hall time.
24. Becker students should have the same opportunities and programs that are found in bigger school districts.
25. Becker students need to know and understand accountability.

Question 2: What do you expect from the Becker School District?

1. A consistent flow in math progressing through the grade levels.
2. To earn back our reputation of Academic Excellence (quality, challenging education).
3. Offer drama, photography club, etc., for those not interested in sports.
4. Sports are always in local paper – we need to advertise and focus more on academic achievements.
5. Promote leadership skills (leadership training course).
6. Partner with sister schools across the globe.
7. Math should be offered all-year.
8. Prepare our graduating students for college and to be productive members of society.
9. Foreign languages are important.
10. Teach life skills (basic home budgeting/checkbook/handling money/credit cards).
11. Encourage/promote quality teachers – push enrichment programs and allow parent evaluations of teachers.
12. Keep encouraging kids to participate in different things to be well rounded, including cultural awareness.
13. Great overall experience and offerings – keep the curriculum broad based.
14. Open communication with school board and administration.
15. High expectations and rigor tailored to each student.
16. Clear focus - keep driving for goal and readjust as needed.
17. Intervention services for students in need.
18. Gifted and Talented programs.
19. Consistent application of policies.
20. Teach core values of integrity and character.
21. Staff wants to feel supported in their endeavor to teach.
22. Lunches – increase portion sizes and have microwaves available.
23. Clubs – French, Irish, etc.
24. I feel safe here and that should continue.
25. Education should not be so competitive for advanced classes. A weighted grade system would allow average students to get involved with PSEO.
26. Increase academic rigor to challenge more advanced students.
27. Ability for students to specialize in one area of interest instead of all the required electives.
28. Teachers for Becker Schools should have good communication/interaction with parents and students, including watching for emotional distress of students.
29. We would like to see a way to terminate the employment of tenured teachers who are not doing a good job.
30. We believe teachers should be held accountable to student achievement.
31. Continue band programs.

Question 3: What should the Becker School District be like in ten years?

1. Partner with other schools offering online choices.
2. Offer more high school classes/electives.
3. Have a streamline process in place for preparation of college education.
4. Maintain a one-campus area.
5. Maintain college credit offerings.
6. Have updated/modernized facilities.
7. Have a good reputation (“a favorite place to move to!”).
8. Continue as a top academic institution in core curriculum.
9. Continue to model behavior/high standards in ethics.
10. Continue to be technologically advanced.
11. Maintain an up-to-date curriculum.
12. Be financially sound.
13. Maintain small classroom size.
14. Take care of those who don’t qualify for special ed services, but are struggling.
15. Math and English year-round for all students.
16. Campus / University type feel.
17. I would like to see more 1:1 time with teachers.
18. I would like to see more offerings for applied math for engineering-driven students.
19. Teachers need to learn and use new technology just as the students do.
20. Long-time teachers should consider changing their teaching styles.
21. More study halls.
22. Use laptops instead of iPads.
23. Be globally competitive.

Question 4: Under what circumstances (if any) would you provide additional financial support to the Becker School District?

1. It will be hard to ask the community for more money when we are experiencing budget cuts.
2. If we do ask the community for more money, be very specific about why and how it will be used (question #2 was not very specific or tangible).
3. We already help with funding sports.
4. Get involved in programs (like Script) that will return a percentage of sales back to the schools.
5. Maintaining a good reputation is necessary for continued financial support.
6. Staff should be more involved with the next levy – door knocking and phone calls.
7. All programs add value to all students, I will support different projects whether I'm interested or not.
8. "District Needs" should be expressed/communicated.
9. I would provide additional financial support if the number of fundraisers were reduced – we have too many fundraisers.
10. Need a guarantee that money will go to the enrichment of students.
11. Very supportive of additional financing of programs that would enhance student learning opportunities.
12. Athletic programs are very important as they encourage team thinking and I would provide additional support for these programs.
13. I would support offering Laptops, not iPads.
14. I voted yes for last two elections. Children are our future, and I will give as much as I can, but need to see results that are above average.