Overview

The Hudson Public Schools administrative team created a draft statement of Vision and Values to help Hudson Public Schools identify strategic goals and action plans to guide the district into the future. The draft was circulated to staff in late June 2012. In January 2013, the district sought input from staff, parents and community members.

The Vision, Values and Involvement Survey was emailed directly to district employees, parents and community members for whom the district had email addresses. A public URL for the parent and community member survey was available on the district's website.

Survey topics included:

- Core Value Statements
- Vision Statement
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Communication
- Parent and Community Collaboration and Involvement

The survey was open from January 8 to February 15, 2013.
Participation Rate

More than 300 people participated in the survey. The majority of respondents were parents and community members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responding Group</th>
<th>Number of Responses (n)</th>
<th>Max Possible Responses (Nmax)</th>
<th>Response Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Members</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents and Community Members</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>2,221*</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:*Total number of emailed invitations.
Core Values

Staff members and parents were asked to rate the degree to which they believe the core value stated is shared by the Hudson Public Schools faculty and staff.

- We believe in addressing the needs of the whole child, fostering students’ intellectual growth, creativity and well-being. (100%)
- We believe successful instruction is student focused and allows learners to construct knowledge and develop critical thinking skills while showing continuous improvement. (99%)
- We believe that every educator is an active contributor to a community of learners focused on continuous improvement. (96%)
- We believe in the interconnectedness of school, families, and the community and in partnering to provide broad educational opportunities for students and service to the community. (98%)

Percent "Strongly Share" or "Moderately Shared"
Vision Statement

The Hudson Public Schools draft vision statement reads, “In partnership with the community, we will prepare our students to be active citizens in an interconnected world.” Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- The draft vision statement is easy to understand. 97% 87%
- I agree with the draft vision statement. 98% 87%
- I have a suggestion in regard to the draft vision statement. 22% 30%
Core Values Relation to Vision Statement

“In partnership with the community, we will prepare our students to be active citizens in an interconnected world.” Please indicate how strongly the core value statement is related to the vision statement.

- We believe in addressing the needs of the whole child, fostering students’ intellectual growth, creativity, and well-being. 
  - Staff Members: 99%
  - Parents and Community Members: 93%

- We believe successful instruction is student focused and allows learners to construct knowledge and develop critical thinking skills while showing continuous improvement.
  - Staff Members: 98%
  - Parents and Community Members: 92%

- We believe that every educator is an active contributor to a community of learners focused on continuous improvement.
  - Staff Members: 95%
  - Parents and Community Members: 93%

- We believe in the interconnectedness of school, families, and the community and in partnering to provide broad educational opportunities for students and service to the community.
  - Staff Members: 100%
  - Parents and Community Members: 98%
Foundation for District’s Goals

As a whole, do the core values and the vision statement provide a solid foundation for district goals and strategic planning?

Staff Members

- Yes: 74%
- To some degree: 26%

Parents and Community Members

- Yes: 59%
- To some degree: 35%
- No: 7%
## Vision and Core Values Suggestions and Comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many survey participants expressed some confusion with the wording of the Vision and Core Values Statements. The terms “interconnected” and “active citizen” were particularly misunderstood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some respondents feel that parent involvement and participation should be included somewhere in these statements. They mentioned the importance of creating a sense of community through the involvement of community members other than students, teachers and school administrators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents and Community Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many survey participants said they would feel more welcome if school district members were to reach out and seek their participation.</td>
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<td>Some respondents feel that more school-organized events and face-to-face time with teachers and school administrators would contribute to a greater sense of community and connectedness.</td>
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<td>Some participants expressed that there are more pressing issues for the school district to focus on than providing a welcome feeling for parents and community members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respondents feel somewhat unsafe in the school environment and would feel more welcome if measures were taken to improve security.</td>
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*Note: Only respondents who answered “No” to the question “Do the core values and the vision statement provide a solid foundation for district goals and strategic planning?” were presented with an opportunity to share suggestions and comments.*

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Parent and Community Engagement

Respondents were asked to read each statement below and indicate whether they agree or disagree. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- School staff are welcoming toward parents and community members.
  - Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree": 97%

- School staff make parents comfortable when visiting the school.
  - Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree": 98%

- School staff reach out to involve community members.
  - Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree": 86%

- Communication between school and home is effective.
  - Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree": 87%

- Schools seek input from parents and community members.
  - Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree": 73%

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Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Please share your suggestions and comments to improve two-way communication between schools, parents and community members.

Comments

Some respondents mentioned language translation as a key to communication. Suggestions included email translations, as well as in-person translators.

Some survey participants feel that providing more information for parents would be a good step towards improving current communication between school and home. It was recognized that not all community members make use of information, but all information requested should be available for those who do wish to use it.
Parent and Community Engagement

Staff members were asked to read each statement below and indicate whether they agree or disagree. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- We can increase opportunities for parents and community members to help out at school. **93%**
- There are learning opportunities for students within our community. **94%**
- Parents and community members are school partners responsible for improving student learning. **95%**
- School staff work effectively with parents and community members. **91%**
Parents and community members were asked to read each statement below and indicate whether they agree or disagree. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- There are opportunities for me to help out at school: 88%
- There are learning opportunities for students within our community: 81%
- Parents and community members are school partners responsible for improving student learning: 88%
- School staff work effectively with parents and community members: 82%
Parent and Community Engagement

Respondents were asked if schools actively promote collaboration with parents and community members regarding the topics listed below. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- **School Policy:**
  - Staff Members: 88%
  - Parents and Community Members: 72%

- **Health and Wellness:**
  - Staff Members: 85%
  - Parents and Community Members: 81%

- **Curriculum and Instruction:**
  - Staff Members: 62%
  - Parents and Community Members: 55%

- **Expanding Parent and Community Involvement:**
  - Staff Members: 83%
  - Parents and Community Members: 75%
Parents and community members were asked to read each statement below and indicate whether they agree or disagree. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- School staff are welcoming toward parents and community members: 87%
- School staff make me feel comfortable when visiting the school: 86%
- School staff reach out to involve community members: 73%
Parents & Community

Parent and Community Engagement

Have you visited a school since the school year began?

- Yes: 97%
- No: 3%

What was the reason for your visit?

- Teacher conference: 83%
- Open House: 72%
- Principal Coffee: 8%
- Worked as a volunteer: 33%
- Home and School Meeting: 20%
- Parent Workshop: 13%

Note: Only respondents who answered “Yes” to the question, “Have you visited a school since the school year began?” were given the opportunity to answer this question. Multiple answers per participant possible. Total percentage may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

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Parents and community members were asked to read each statement below and indicate whether they agree or disagree. **Answer options:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Not Applicable

- Communication between school and home is effective: 88%
- Schools seek input from parents and community members: 76%
- Classroom teachers share suggestions to support student learning: 77%
- I receive information from schools that is helpful: 86%
Parents & Community

Responses to Open-Ended Questions

What information was helpful?

Comments

Many survey participants were pleased with the use of communication and the level of transparency shown by the district. Specific avenues of communication that were well received include newsletters, Round Robin, iPass (Parent Portal) and schedule of events.

Note: Only respondents who answered “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” to the question, “I receive information from schools that is helpful” were presented with an opportunity to share what information was helpful.

What information would be helpful?

Comments

Respondent suggestions included a variety of topics, including updates on student progress in between parent/teacher conferences, classroom webpages with topics being taught, information about school-based programs, and timely updates regarding events and calendars.

Note: Only respondents who answered “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree” to the question, “I receive information from schools that is helpful” were presented with an opportunity to share what information would be helpful.
Parents & Community

Parent and Community Engagement

How do you typically receive information from schools?*

- Email: 69%
- In-person meeting: 12%
- U.S. Mail: 16%
- My student: 25%
- My student's backpack: 43%
- Telephone call: 8%
- Telephone "all call": 29%
- Website: 20%
- Other: 5%

Note: *Multiple answers per participant possible. Total percentage may exceed 100.

What is your preferred method of receiving information from your child’s school?

- Email: 70%
- In-person meeting: 3%
- U.S. Mail: 3%
- My student: 4%
- My student's backpack: 2%
- Telephone call: 4%
- Telephone "all call": 2%
- Website: 13%
- Other: 2%

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Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Please share your suggestions and comments to improve two-way communication between schools, parents and community members.

Comments

Many survey participants find emails to be the most useful and accessible avenue of communication. Reminders and event updates are especially appreciated within the community.

Some respondents expressed a desire for personalized communication, saying it would be more helpful than an increased volume of communication. Specifically, parents would like an occasional personal call from a teacher, counselor or other school administrator so they can speak specifically about their child.

Some survey participants feel that an online community that includes events, reminders and other news would be helpful.
Suggestions to Improve Collaboration

Please share your suggestions and comments to improve collaboration between schools, parents and community members.

Comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Members</th>
<th>Survey respondents feel that shared responsibility and involvement between community members and school employees would be among the most helpful collaboration efforts.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parents and Community Members</td>
<td>Some respondents feel the school system should be more considerate of suggestions made by parents. Some survey participants said the communal feel between the school and other community members is lacking, with a disconnect being mentioned. Respondents feel one of the best ways to improve the school system is to gain a sense that “we’re all in this together.”</td>
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</table>
Conclusions

Highlights

- There is a strong sense of agreement with the current Core Values and Vision statements.
- There is a high sense of parent and community engagement among staff members.
- Collaboration regarding Curriculum and Instruction was unexpectedly low. Issue of wording?
- The majority of Parents and Community Members find the information from schools to be helpful.

Next Steps

- Review the survey results with school leaders, staff and the School Committee
- Strategic Goals Subcommittee Revises Statements
- School Committee Approves Vision and Values Statements
- After final review, post results on the District’s website
- Vision and Values become foundation for strategic planning.