

## What does the community value?

**SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS** where there is a strong sense of community.

**AMAZING TEACHERS AND STAFF** who work so hard to create a positive learning environment.

**THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION** students receive both through rigorous academic standards and enrichment.

## How is district leadership performing?

**60% DO NOT SEE COMMUNITY VALUES IN DECISION MAKING.**

**88% DISSATISFIED** by the **decision-making** of district leadership.

**91% DISSATISFIED** by the district leadership's handling of the **balancing the budget**.

## What has been missing from the budget conversation?

### \* **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY**

There is a desire for clearer communication from the district regarding budget decisions, expenditures, and the rationale behind them.

### \* **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION CUTS**

Respondents called for cuts to these positions rather than programs directly serving students and questioned the high proportion of budget allocated to the district office.

### \* **EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO SCHOOL CLOSURES**

There was a consensus that school closures should be a last resort and that other options have yet be thoroughly explored.

## How to balance the budget?

### \* **IMPLEMENTING PERSONNEL CUTS FURTHEST FROM STUDENTS**

Reducing positions within the district office and salary cuts to central administration were a common theme.

### \* **APPLYING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS**

## **EXPANDING REVENUE GENERATION**

Preschool classrooms in every neighborhood school, facility rentals, and seeking partnerships with local organizations and businesses.

## **LOBBYING STATE GOVERNMENT**

The community is ready to help lobby for both increased state funding and restructuring funding mechanisms to better suit all sizes of districts.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY**

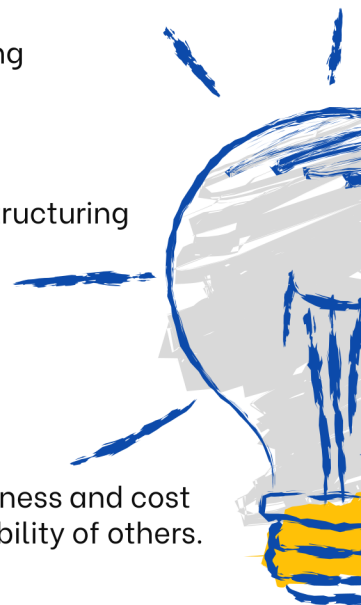
Crucial to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ADJUSTMENT**

There was a consensus on the need to evaluate educational program effectiveness and cost efficiency, with proposals to expand successful programs and reassess the viability of others.

## **FOCUS ON ACADEMIC PRIORITIES**

A substantial number of respondents stressed the importance of prioritizing academic programs and student needs over non-essential initiatives to attract families back to public schools.



## **Where should future efforts be focused?**

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING**

Helping community members, including parents, retirees, and local businesses, to get more involved in schools through volunteering, mentoring, and supporting school events and activities.

### **SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF**

Supporting teachers and staff through adequate resources, fair compensation, and recognition for their efforts.

### **ADVOCACY FOR FUNDING**

Advocating for increased funding for schools, either through legislative action or community initiatives. This includes supporting levies and bonds, lobbying for state funding, and exploring fundraising opportunities.

### **EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Fostering equity in education, including access to resources, support for students with special needs, and addressing disparities across schools and student populations.

### **COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY**

Improving communication between the district, schools, families, and the community.

### **EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Maintaining a focus on academic excellence while also addressing social and emotional needs. This includes supporting programs like music, arts, STEM education, and providing additional academic support where needed.