



Executive Summary

A result of the small group work activity

Community Engagement Session 1 • Sept. 24, 2019

An estimated 220 participants attended the *Destination 158* community engagement session on Sept. 24, 2019. Facilitating Team members, Board of Education members and some District leadership are not asked to sign-in.

In Community Engagement Session (CES) #1 of the *Destination 158* community engagement program, Dr. Scott Rowe, district superintendent, delivered a “State of the District” presentation. To view the presentation [Click HERE](#). The verbatim responses to the work activity are also available at this website.

Following the presentation, participants worked in small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. Following is a summary of the group responses.

Task #1: What should the District’s priorities be?

As a starting point, write at least five goal or priority statements to serve as the basis for developing the district’s next strategic plan. Do not feel limited or constrained by the pillars or goals discussed in tonight’s presentation.

In total, there were more than fifty categories of responses given in response to this question. Presented below are the most common responses given across the 29 tables completing work activities:

Category	Number of times mentioned
College/career readiness, including things like internships, trade academies, real world experience, partnerships with area businesses, etc.	24
Social emotional learning	19
Teaching life skills (a wide variety of types of learning were mentioned – this does include “back to basics” types of responses)	13
Teacher retention, recruitment, compensation and professional development	11
Closing achievement gaps	10
Appropriate use of technology	8

Improved communications (this was mainly focused on better communications regarding current or new programs)	8
Enhancing safety and security	7
Dual language improvements/world language improvements	5
Providing individualized instruction	5
Maintaining or lowering student/teacher ratio	4
Maintaining fiscal responsibility	4
Improving student performance including the graduation rate	4
Addressing inclusion/diversity issues	4
Expanding extra-curricular programs/participation	3
Improving district/community connections	3
Increasing school resource officers	3

Also, there was a wide variety of specific suggestions to enhance curriculum and instruction that did not fall into a category. Those suggestions can be found in the verbatim comments.

TASK 2: What Other Information Do You Need?

Following this meeting, the Facilitating Team will be developing informational presentations for upcoming Community Engagement meetings. What topics would you like covered? And what information would you like presented regarding each topic? On the worksheet, there are some suggested topics. But don't feel limited by those — there is space under "Additional Topic Suggestions" for you to add topics not listed on the worksheet.

Suggested Topics:

Student Growth and Achievement

Responses tended to mirror the most common response to Task #1 — more information about teaching life skills, closing performance gaps and college/career readiness instruction with a focus on careers.

Student Health, Wellbeing, Safety

By a considerable margin, the most common response in this category was the desire for information about what the district is doing, and could be doing, to promote social and emotional health. Also mentioned was what type of professional development staff was receiving with respect to this issue, and what safety and security enhancements could be implemented.

Quality Staff

Common responses for information on staff was data on compensation and how compensation compared to other districts, professional development programs (including teachers receiving advanced degrees), retention and recruitment programs, and diversity of staff.

Community Engagement

The most common response in this category also mirrored priorities and goals from Task #1 – various partnerships and relations with area businesses. Also mentioned were things like increasing community/district connections, increasing parent involvement with the schools, and continuing community engagement meetings (like this current meeting).

Fiscal Responsibility

Perhaps because participants were running out of time, limited responses were given for this topic. Comparative (to other districts) financial data was mentioned, plans for maintaining the high quality of facilities, information about the status of HVAC equipment and needs for upgrade, and what is being done to attract businesses to the area.

Other Topics

Other topics mentioned included information about STEM programs and other types of issues that generally fell into the curriculum and instruction category (gifted instruction, early childhood education, etc.

CONSENSUS POINTS

Points of general agreement from the work activity

- At the start of the process, Destination 158 participants had a variety of suggestions for goal or priority statements to serve as the basis for developing the district's next strategic plan. Topics relating to college and career readiness, social emotional learning and teaching life skills (critical thinking, problem solving, etc.) were the most commonly mentioned topic areas.
- More than any other topic, Destination 158 participants would like more information about what the District is doing to promote the social and emotional health of students, including programming, professional development and safety and security.
- Other topics that should be addressed through the Destination 158 process are:
 - Curriculum and instruction for all students and closing achievement gaps
 - Student growth and achievement
 - The recruitment, retention and professional development of a diverse staff
 - The continued development of partnerships and relationships with the community and area businesses to support the college and career readiness of students

**For a complete listing of all responses
see the CES #1 Verbatim Response Document**