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# TOP THOUGHTS - FPC THOUGHT EXCHANGE

## RESULTS

Lawrence Public Schools USD 497

In order to continue to make progress towards our objectives within the Futures Planning Committee, what are our most important next steps toward solutions?

**We need expenditure numbers. We have only been given numbers on funding / funding sources.** There's no way to decide on cuts without knowing expenses breakdown



**Create a list of options for cuts** Creating a proposal takes times. We should start listing and prioritizing options



**We need to know what our current state is and what dollar amount we are ultimately trying to get to to meet the district and community needs** It will allow us to see the current state of the district but then give us a goal in where we can find or make savings and plan for the future



**Knowing exactly what is needed to balance the budget.** We need to know our current budget situation and if there need to be cuts this year in order to make informed decisions.



**Examine school boundaries and school closure scenarios** The biggest money saver. I prefer a few taller stacks of chips than a multitude of small ones.



**Costs of...** Different programs, amount to operate schools, etc. So that when we start making recommendations, we know how the play with the numbers to get to goal



**Detailed information about the cost of running each building, how many kids are in each building, how manhow many kids can each building absorb, etc..** Without these details we can't give educated recommendations.



**Have tough discussions about each school enrollment, class size, building condition and programs where legally you shouldn't cut (special education).**



**Concrete numbers for salary increase** It would be helpful to get a % of what the board is aiming for for salary increases. This way we have a rough number of what we need to find.



**More time and more open format for discussion and participation**



**We need to gather data regarding multi-age classrooms and how they are impacting student learning and teacher well-being.** Multi-age vs. closure are the two main options as far as maintaining the savings necessary from last year's budget. Are we ready to commit to it?



**Be willing to consider anything as long as it benefits the children**



**A thoughtful conversation and review across this group regarding the options available for consideration to meet our objectives.** We have been (& will be) presented w a lot of information but discussions have been limited. There is so much on the parking lot to review together!



**See research on best practices when it comes to school closure and consolidation** We need to be informed of how to look at those options



**We need reliable data on the various subjects under consideration**



**How much money do we need to save or think about to make sure we are being financially responsible?** I think if we have a general idea what money we need to save that can help us make



more informed decisions

1 ★

Share KASB presentation on top heavy admin

3.7 ★★★★★ (7)   
 Ranked #17 of 49



A comprehensive exit survey for data collection of why families and staff are leaving and how to recruit them back to the district

3.6 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #18 of 49



More open conversations about how to meet our objective and transparency about what can or can not be cut & why

3.6 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #19 of 49



Receive enrollment data by school w/ SES info and enrollment trends. Needs to include average class size. To provide a picture of enrollment and cost of staffing buildings.

3.6 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #20 of 49



Understanding enrollment projections, for programs and staffing To discuss the best way to use resources for our students

3.6 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #21 of 49



To have resources as well as retain and recruit staff Teachers need resources to teach in addition to a salary that will retain and recruit staff.

3.5 ★★★★★ (14)   
 Ranked #22 of 49



Individually and at tables identify concrete recommendations to the board that would support meeting our objectives. Taken together, these would give us specific points with which to agree, disagree, or further ponder. This helps us compile the collective wisdom here

3.5 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #23 of 49



We need to look at boundary changes associated with any school closure

3.5 ★★★★★ (10)   
 Ranked #24 of 49



Find out if any more cuts can be made and where To save money

3.4 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #25 of 49



See information from BPEC groups to not reinvent the wheel Data is there let's look at it

3.4 ★★★★★ (13)   
 Ranked #26 of 49



**Understanding per pupil costs and what makes them up to understand what is driving to difference. Is it all overhead?**  
Need to know what role facilities costs plays in the differential to help understand ideal section size



**An opportunity to explore ALL cost savings options, not just school closures.**



**To ensure staff are supported and have ways to meet the needs of students given staff shortages** Quality of instructions is compromised and staff are leaving g



**We need a more transparent and CLEAR explanation for this committee. There needs to be more immediate feedback when questions are asked during meetin** We will continue to be at a standstill in making active and immediate change. The process needs to be more action and less talking about charts



**An opportunity for creative solutions and projected cost savings**



**Find a way to determine why families/staff are leaving the district and then brainstorm possible retention plans.**



**I'd like to hear recommendations from group we hired to lead this committee so we can debate the recommendations made to make informed decisions.** This is important bc this is why we hired them, to guide and facilitate our decision making process.



**Two consider all options s and the impact the options have on student learning and staff retention** See above



**We need a clear presentation of the challenges and decisions at hand and where we need to go now**



**Can resources go to kids with greatest needs** That can help create greater equity



**I think we need to start at 0 and build the budget that aligns with our values and goals** Over time, I think with a large organization it becomes where we are chipping away rather than strategically planning our budget.



**Identify what aspects of Lawrence and/or Lawrence schools might to attract new families to move here.** Cuts are temporary solutions to a larger issue of a shrinking district. A growth mindset is necessary for a permanent solution.



**We must identify a structure for the district for school size and the number of each level of school and it location.** Because it's the starting point for who to plan



**Lee an open mind and keep students first with an emphasis o staff retention** Must have quality staff who are supported and maintain self care



**I don't like the fact that all conversation focuses on cuts.** Perhaps it's time to examine revenue enhancement too.



**Look at estimated school funding for the 23-24 year and the proposed budget in order to see what direction to go.** For the health of the district, to meet student needs, and retain quality staff.



**We all need to understand in schools savings you are always talking about cutting people.** Then we all understand that cuts hurt



**What is our budget actually allocated to? It is important to get really clear information about our actual spending to use going forward.** I find the board approved budget to not be helpful because it has areas that are purposely larger so that we have the authority to spend.



**We need to be able to quantify how the decisions being made will improve the educational and work experience for kids and staff rather than guess**



**A goal sum for cost savings**



**Can we afford equity initiatives** Achievement gaps are a big problem

2.8  (14 )  
Ranked #47 of 49



**To understand the processs and what it means** Some people are saying we are just talking due to lack of understanding or limited knowledge or understanding for language ysed

2.8  (12 )  
Ranked #48 of 49



**Can we integrate schools by SES status?** It may lower achievement gaps

2.7  (13 )  
Ranked #49 of 49

