

## Community Forum

Information Gleaned from our first Community Forum which was held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Richmond Heights Gym.

Participants involved were from Community, Parents, City Hall, Teachers, Staff, and some students. Breakout session topics were elementary, secondary, finance, security/transportation, academics/technology, and community.

### **ELEMENTARY**

#### **Tutoring:**

- Only available for reduced lunch? Wasn't clearly stated.
- Poor rating? Poor Communication.
- Elementary School is offering tutoring to some students.
  - Incentives for teacher
  - Money
  - What can we do to accommodate more students? Qualifications?
- Other avenues of free tutoring: library, church, college students, high school students, peer tutoring, etc.

#### **Cultural Sensitivity Training:**

- Professional development
- Speakers

#### **Better Communication**

- Current activities
- Cancellation of events
- Update website

## **Classroom Dynamics**

- What can be done for ability grouping?
- Can K-2 have enrichment classes

## **Professionalism**

- Notifications
- Yelling at students at lunch time
- PBIS is being put in to place
- Build relations

## **How does Richmond Heights compare to other districts?**

- What order do we follow on the curriculum map
- Why are other schools ahead of us?

## **What can parents do to help?**

### **More parent involvement/Parent accountability**

- Progress book
- Look through folders
- Homework
- Visits
- Newsletters
- Expose your child to things outside school
- PTO

## **What is turnover rate of elementary teachers?**

## **Can we open the school to community?**

- Teach students a foreign language
- Volunteer time/skills
- Use their resources

## **SECONDARY**

### **Academics**

- Offerings, limited due to \$/small school

### **Ratio**

22/25: 1

### **Quality Assurance Team**

- February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (Need parents to represent)

### **Get the Information to Parents**

- University of Toledo (tuition program)
- Excel-Tech (Junior and Sophomore)

### **Cool School: Tech Grant 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- Pathway (tracking system)  
Grades 9-12

### **OGT**

- Out of the box tutoring

## **Credit Recovery**

- Crutch?
- A benefit?

## **FINANCE**

### **Tap into Foundation**

- Cleveland Sports Teams

### **Development Office**

- With a grant writer
- Foundation
- Corporation
- Alumni
- Individual
- Major donors
- Sponsorships
- Special Events
- ONE MAJOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

**Try to limit the number of special needs students going to other schools, “stay in house” (32 outsourced)**

**Need a Levy (6 mills)**

**Action Plan to cut**

## **Bring back parent groups**

- Secondary

## **Tap into business and individual /alumni**

### **SECURITY/TRANSPORTATION**

- Everyone must care
- Classroom Management
- Majority of teachers being able to relate and educate a majority of African-American students
- Bullying Policy: One is in place
- Strong relationship between security and student body
- Identified advantages of being small
- PBIS – Positive Behavior Initiative Systems
- Behavior Management (working with challenging students)
- Structure and Expectations
- Support system and having a positive environment
- Cultural Awareness
- Respect from students and faculty (mutual respect)
- Lack of communication
- Student behavior on the bus
- Driver's responsibility to operate the bus safely vs. managing student behaviors
- Cutting bus services to save funds
- Lack of trust for volunteer support

### **ACADEMIC/TECHNOLOGY**

- Repairs
- Upgrades
  - Work on software
  - Update virus software

- Server Improvements
- WI-FI
  - Currently only specific locations
  - Getting quotes, this year
- School website
- Fix filters for teachers
- Teach tech to teachers
- Who has access?
- Improve 21<sup>st</sup> century technology in schools, “Not just a toy”
  - Competitive generation
  - Begins at elementary computer teacher
- Meeting with Charter One and other businesses to contribute/fund
- Chamber of Commerce
  - Met with Mayor Ursu
- Join with College/higher learning
- State of Ohio has new outlines to follow
- Laptops?
  - Elementary cart and High School cart (15 each)
- 310 computers in District (majority student centered)
- Open-source (free)
- Some iPads in District too (elementary teachers trained)
- Increase amounts in labs
- Same needed in every building
- Use of cell phones and iPods for surveys
- Smart “TVs”; other forms of interactive items
- Keep and recycle older technology
- Involve students
- No academic piece and our group was labeled for it
- Elementary Academics
  - Improvement Plan K-5
  - PLC’s, research, student work, etc.
  - Working on improving small group instruction

- New textbooks (workshops/coaches)
- Walk-throughs
- Looking for multiple areas (rubrics, word walls, etc.)

## **COMMUNITY**

- Disconnect between community and school
- Strategies
- Open door policy
- Schools should be more welcoming
- Newsletters to all community members, including adults without children
- Make RHSD website more user friendly (update the website)
- Use City Edition from RH City government to broadcast RHSD news (one full page) cost factor?
- Examine history of RHSD and city government relationship
- List positive achievements of RHSD – publish this
- “Ownership” issue
- Involve parents – PTO, Booster Club??
- Involve staff to encourage participation
- Profile extracurricular (sports) activities in a prominent way
- Student exodus driven by “lack of discipline”
- Invite parents by letter and phone in advance
- Re-create school calendar to distribute (all events including city and school) \$\$\$
- Superintendent must control media and deliver a positive message; be consistent with consequences for violations of discipline; support the teachers.
- Implement community service requirement for students
- Phone buddies to inform (phone chain) community members
- Liaison between RHSD and Richmond Heights City government
- Ask retirees to volunteer (background check!) maybe Richmond Heights Garden Club
- Improve teacher and student morale
  - Too much discipline?
  - Build our students up. How?
  - Provide students 2<sup>nd</sup> chances

- “Make the classroom environment better”
- Bring back student council at the Elementary School