

# Community Engagement Update

April 19, 2018  
Kara Beach



# Community Engagement Process

## Phase I:

- Superintendent search

## Phase II:

- Phone and online survey

## Phase III:

- Interviews
- Focus Groups

## Phase IV:

- Design21 Sessions



# Phase III: Interviews

- Twenty-two stakeholders
  - Parents, teachers, school board members, district and school administrators, elected officials and other community leaders
- “Generate information and perspectives from a cross section of the district’s stakeholders ... to inform the direction and content for the next steps of the research.”



# Interview Themes

- **Educators are Key:** Tremendous asset to the district, one worth investing in.
- **Curriculum and Instruction and Academic Preparedness:** Rigorous and high-quality content provided to students, to include core, exploratories, specials, and extra-curriculars.
- **Technology:** Important tool to enhance curriculum and engage students in their learning.



# Interview Themes

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Bringing different cultures together is important but can pose challenges.
- **Communications and Community Engagement:** Important to utilize all lines of communication to share story and to be accessible and visible at school and community events.
- **Opportunities and Challenges of a Consolidated School District:** Large geographic footprint presents opportunities and challenges.



# Interview Themes

- **Facilities:** Emphasis on 21st century learning spaces, air conditioning, updated indoor/outdoor spaces and security enhancements.
- **Finances:** Cost-savings measures strategically protected the classroom; question of potential future cuts negatively impacting students' education.



# Interview Key Takeaways

- Identity and branding
- Best kept secret
- Full-day kindergarten and dual language programming
- Cutting-edge facilities and technology
- Fiscal responsibility and outlook
- Communications and community engagement



# Phase III: Focus Groups

- Eleven focus groups; 118 participants
  - Families, community members, teachers, students, principals
- “Extremely helpful in gathering feedback from district stakeholders in general, and by specific role.”





# Focus Group Themes

- **Educators are Key:** Routinely credited for being strong collaborators and creating positive, supportive environments.
- **Curriculum and Instruction and Academic Preparedness:** High-quality instruction leads to well-rounded education; continual reflection and planning to strengthen programs and offerings.
- **Social Emotional Learning:** Noted as equally important as academic instruction; important to foster connections between students and teachers.



# Focus Group Themes

- **Technology:** 1:1 initiative; recognition that technology enhances effective teaching and learning methods.
- **Diversity:** An asset of the District; seen as preparing students for a global society.
- **Communications:** Use all channels to broadcast story to community; continue two-way dialogue.



# Focus Group Themes

- **CCSD21 - Together as One District:** Need for understanding differences in programs and services within the District and with neighboring districts.
- **Partnering to Support CCSD21:** Collaboration at all levels - among teachers, across buildings, with local government entities, etc.
- **District Test Scores and School Ratings:** Need for an understanding of test scores, correlating real estate ratings.



# Focus Group Themes

- **Facilities:** Community's investment in physical resources, to include 21st century learning spaces, air conditioning, and security.
- **Finances:** Need to understand how schools are funded; consider additional revenue streams.



# Focus Group Key Takeaways

- Clear, shared definition of equity
- Common understanding of district programming
- Updated and cutting-edge facilities and technology
- Understanding of district finances
- Strategic communications focus



# Phase IV: Design21 Sessions

- Four community engagement sessions
  - Session 1: 19 attendees
  - Session 2: 31 attendees
  - Session 3: 10 attendees
  - Session 4: 13 attendees
- “This dialogue will support CCSD21 as it plans for the future in order to meet the needs of all students.”



# Design21 Session Themes

- **School Reform: The Foundation of a Professional Learning Community**
- **Programming to Meet the Needs of the Whole Child**
- **Building Future-ready Facilities**
- **Community-focused Finances and Allocations**



# Design21 Session Key Takeaways

- Surprise in existing programs, services, and structures
- Value of current programs, services, and extra-curriculars
- Priority of air conditioning and enhanced security
- Desire for more information to understand district finances





# Next Steps - Action Plan

Administration will:

- review and analyze of report and findings
- develop Design21 action plan
- report to Board and community (May)



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