

Community Listening Sessions

August 1, 2017



Draft



Introduction

The following are the results of Community Engagement Sessions held in May of 2017. Each session followed a simple basic of rules designed to ensure that everyone present had an equal opportunity to respond to the questions being asked and share their point of view. These rules were as follows:

- **Maximum of 5 minutes for each question.**
- **There are no wrong answers.**
- **Answers come equally from the group.**
- **“Pass” if no answer comes to mind.**
- **No killer phrases.**
- **Have fun !!!.**

Eight sessions were held, with different community members, staff, and students participating in each.

School District of Manawa
Students Choosing to Excel, Realizing their Strengths

You are invited to a Community Listening Session!

A Community Listening Session is a good way to get constructive feedback and share ideas on a common theme. The School District of Manawa would like to hear the community's point of view on:

- Strengths of the district's schools.
- Ways the district can continue to improve.
- The community's vision for the future of the district.

Discussions will include: academic programs, co-curricular opportunities, facilities, and sites. Hoffman Construction Company and Scherrer Construction Company will be facilitating the conversations.

Locations and dates/times listed below are repeating sessions.

Location	Date/Time
Manawa City Hall (larger meeting room)	Tues. May 16 at 9:00 a.m.
Town of Union Hall	Tues. May 16 at 11:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Fellowship Room- main floor)	Tues. May 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Manawa Masonic Center	Thurs. May 18 at noon
Bear Lake Resort	Thurs. May 18 at 4:30 p.m.
Kegler's Bowling Alley	Thurs. May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Little Wolf Sociology Class	Mon. May 22 at 11:35 a.m.
St. Lawrence Hall	Mon. May 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are not needed. Please direct questions to the District Office at 920-596-2525 to speak with District Administrator Dr. Melanie Oppor or feel free to contact any of the Manawa Board of Education Members.



The Each session asked the same six questions:

- 1. What is your School District known for today?**
- 2. What do you hope your School District will be known for in the future?**
- 3. What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your school district?**
- 4. What additional programs or services should be provided for community members by your District?**
- 5. What are the major obstacles facing your School District?**
- 6. If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your school district, what would you do?**

Each answer given was recorded and visible at the front of the discussion floor. After all questions were reviewed those present got a set of seven stickers and instructed to place one sticker on the item they felt was most important to them under each question. The seventh sticker they were told could go on any answer, even one they had already marked, to designate which of the items - of all the items listed - was most important to them.

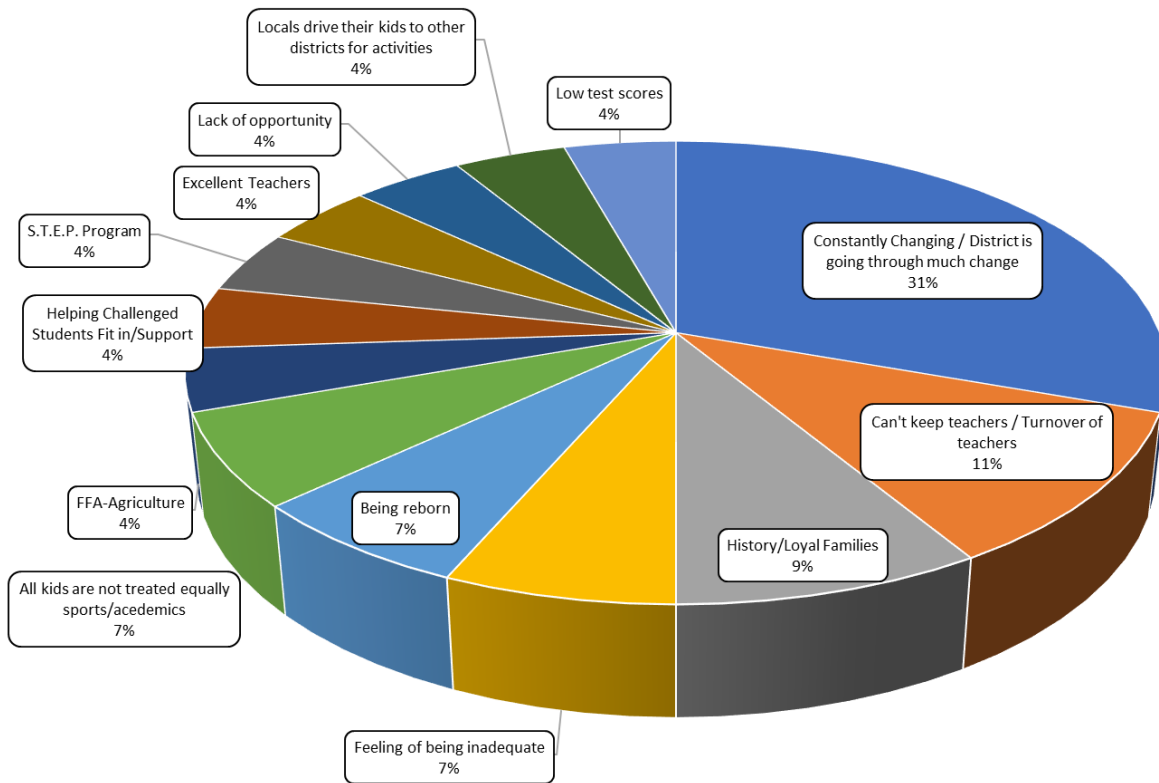
The following report presents graphically a summary of the items individuals felt were most important overall for each question. The summary is for all sessions combined. Similar responses to each question were grouped together to make data easier to analyze.





Question 1

What is your School District known for today?



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- Caring Community/Community Interest
- Lost traditions/proud history
- Poor community
- Arts
- Small Family Feeling District
- School Board Works Well
- Not preparing for future
- Athletics
- Support staff/Bus Drivers/Aides/Janitorial
- Art team





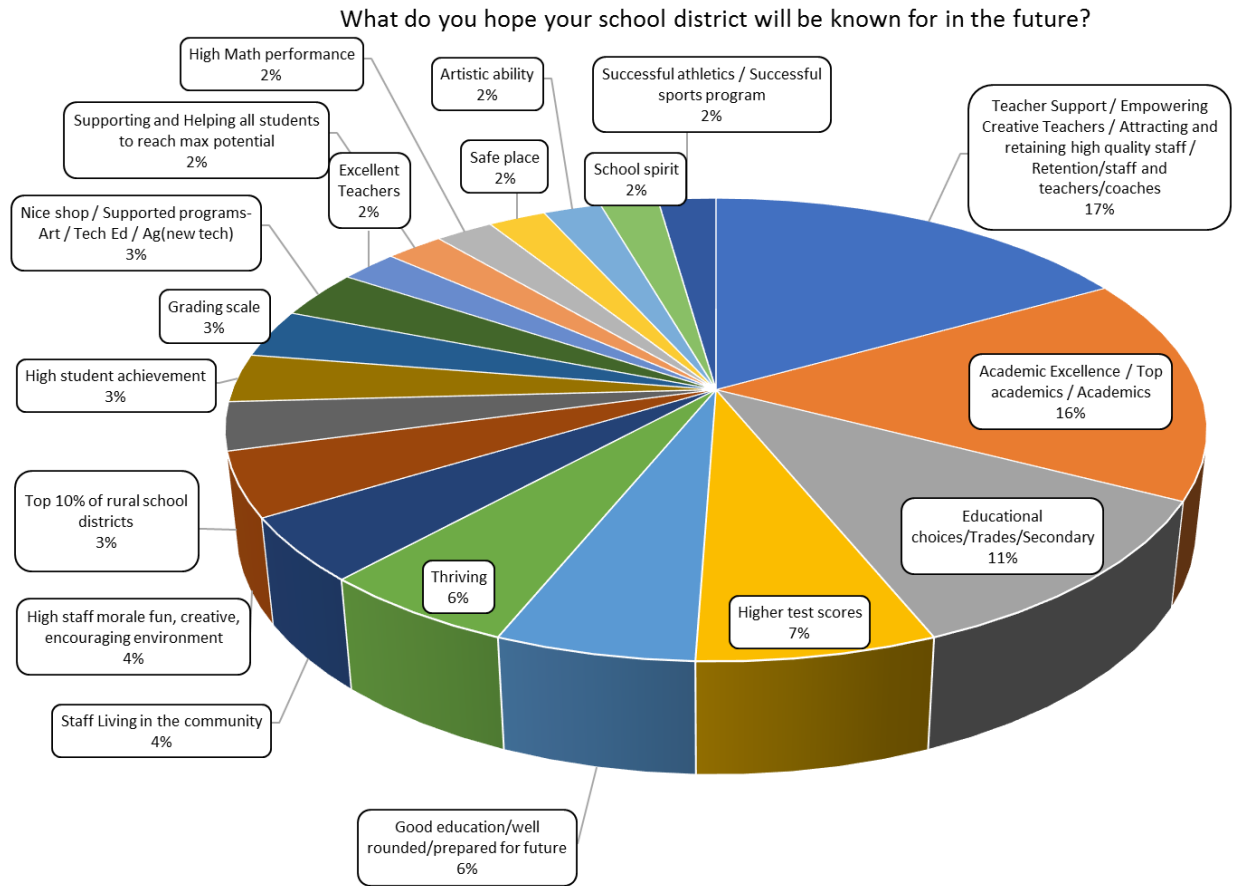
Other Responses

- Rodeo Town
- Moving Forward/getting better
- Lacking Media quality
- Lack of involvement/Apathy
- Being Small
- Rebuilding coming back improving academics
- Successful Alumni
- Small town mentality
- The city/school share the same problems
- Generational changes and differences
- Lowered expectations
- Stability After Years of Instability
- Kids work Hard Academically
- Leadership
- Teachers who spend career here/retire here
- We care about kids
- Good District
- Advanced placement classes
- Students do not come back
- Unprepared for college academically
- Commendable Special Ed program
- No gifted/talented
- Poor Math program
- Elementary School (old) unused
- S.T.E.P. volunteer program
- Bullying
- Good music program-improvement
- Good Art Program
- FFA Program
- Toxic reputation in the past
- Poor academics
- Hometown cleanliness
- Wider range of extracurriculars
- Sports not strong
- State bowling champ
- Lack of participation
- Sports
- Small town
- Small class size
- School is dated





Question 2



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- Destination School districts
- Good engineering program
- Graduating students with skills that keeps them in the community
- Open Enroll in
- Good Student Behavior/Respect
- Progressive
- Stable family life
- Best Bowling
- College placement/Vocational placement
- Famous graduates
- Improved student participation





Other Responses

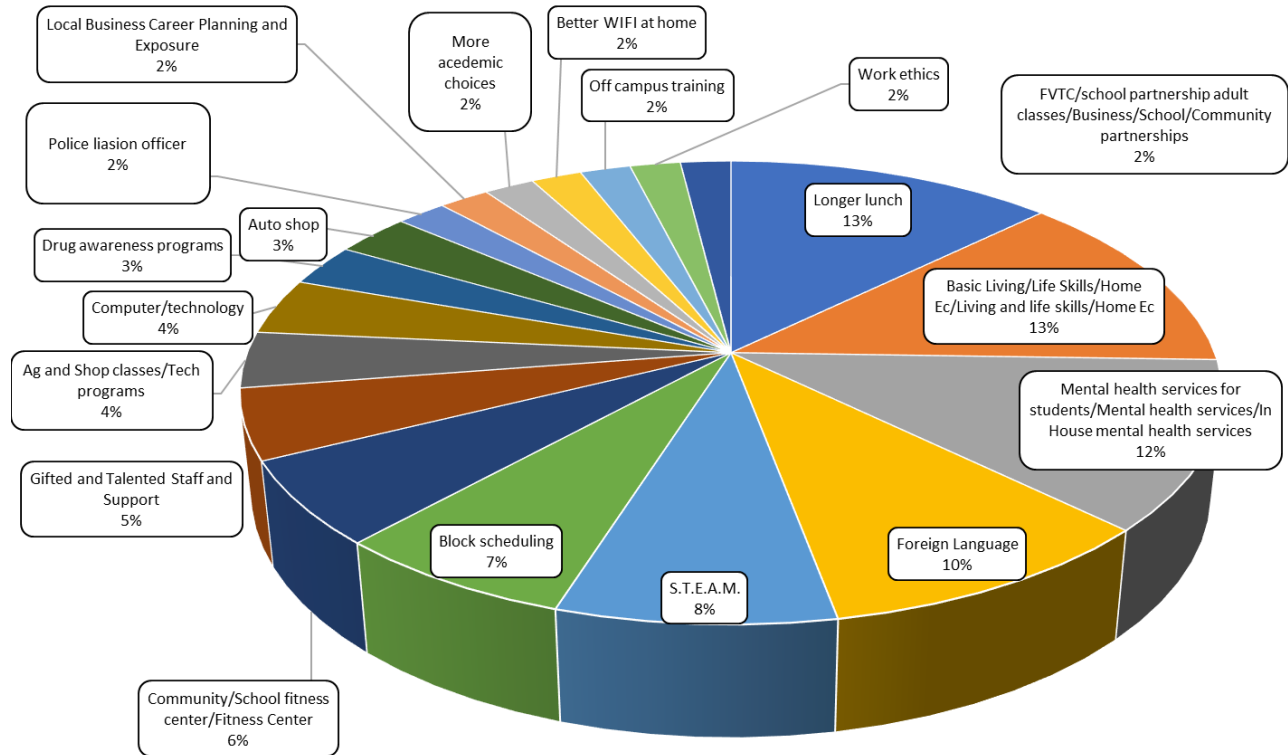
- Successful athletic tradition
- Strong community/city/school district ties
- Life/living skills
- Engineering/Steam
- Business/School Partnership
- Technology/Staffing
- Community Participation and Involvement
- Career Bound Path
- Earlier Foreign Language
- District Cohesion/Working Together/Nice Place to Work
- Community and students sense of pride
- Quality Athletic Program
- Integrity/Leadership/Competitive
- Looking straight ahead not over the shoulder/Leaders not followers
- Parent involvement/support
- School Pride and Spirit
- Noble Prize winners
- Support for student by community
- Top 10% of rural and small school districts
- Living/life skills classes
- Excellent Ag/Shop programs
- Unique opportunities for students (programming)
- Advancement in technology
- Parent involvement accountability
- Non-Bullying
- Everyone treated equally
- Bigger outcomes at all events
- More organized classroom settings
- School on a hill





Question 3

What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- Advanced placement classes
- Articulated classes
- After school tutoring program
- Classical Education Track
- More natural light
- Better air quality/temperature
- Managing Finance/Business
- Advanced placement classes
- Training for jobs that do not exist
- Prepared for change





Other Responses

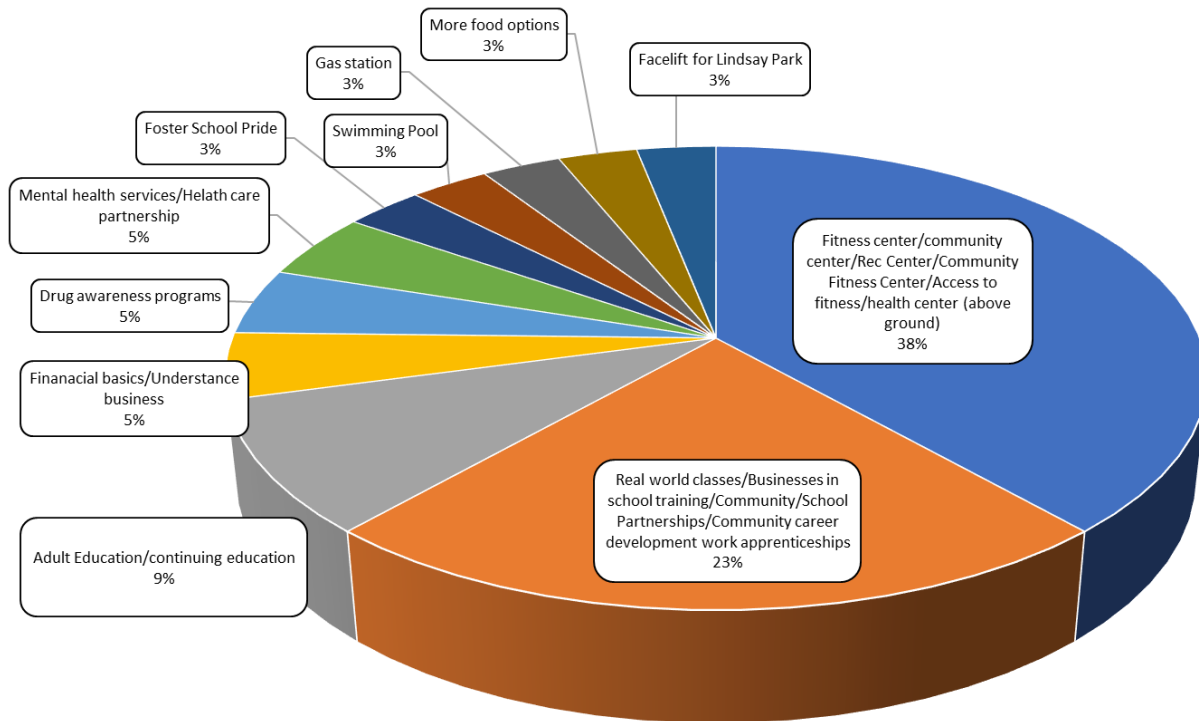
- Swing Choir
- Middle School not Junior High
- Advanced course placement (6th taking HS/G/T)
- Family and consumer ed/child care/hospitality
- Tech Ed Up to date programs
- School Age Child Care
- Better Accommodations for Drama
- Fitness/Sports options/dance/gymnastics
- Involving Students to give back/community service
- Want to learn
- More College/Advanced Level Offerings
- Welcoming environment
- Student expression
- Gifted and talented
- Expand extra and co-curricular opportunities
- College credit courses
- Open use of facilities
- Parent homework support
- Transportation services
- Up-to-date books
- Tutoring system
- Electrical/infrastructure
- College type furnishings-no desks
- Open door policy
- Improved parking lot
- Better lunch
- Cleaner bathrooms renovation/cleaning
- Hot spot
- Improved fitness center
- Rec center
- Math
- Foreign language
- Study skills
- Engineering/Robotics





Question 4

What additional programs or services should be provided for community by your District?



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- More students in community service projects credit
- Use old elementary building
- Website information/more information
- Collaboration with public library
- Community garden



Other Responses

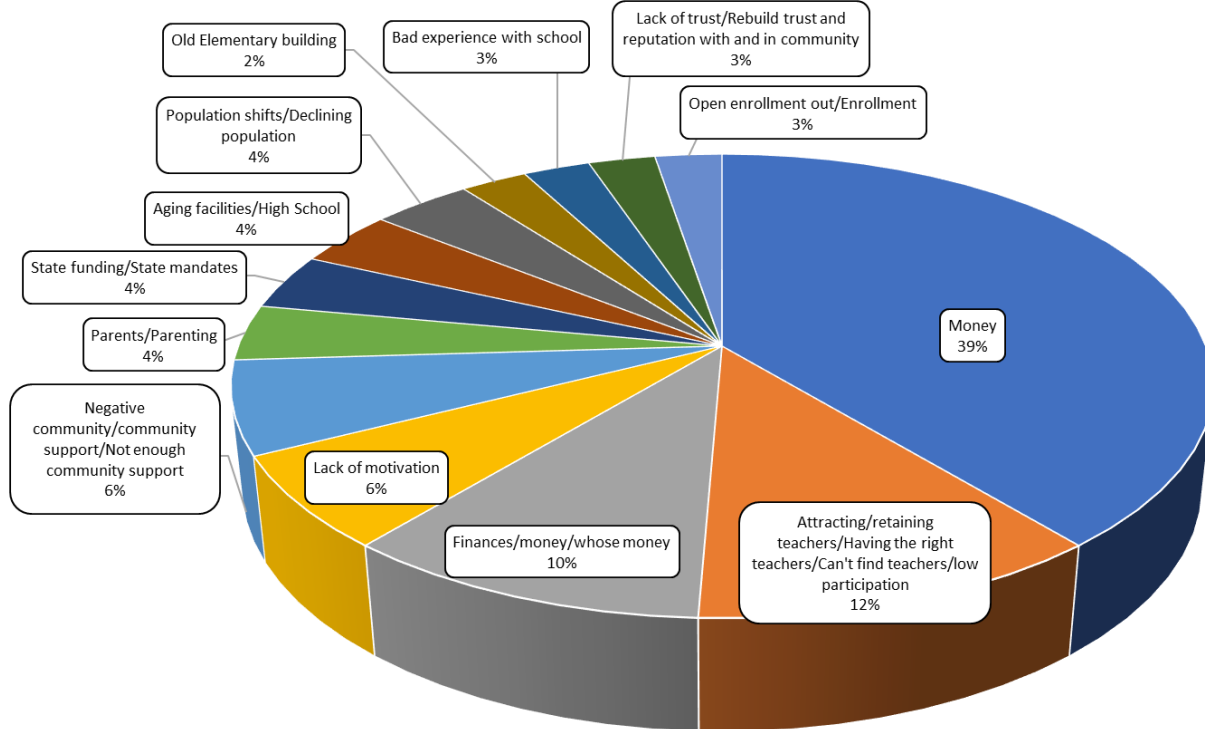
- Adult Learning nice facility could be in community
- Elderly community service and assistance
- Access to individual areas (computer lab) open meeting rooms
- Open Gym
- Technology assistance/help
- Recycling
- Alternative energies
- Collaborate with surrounding communities for program and services
- Student community service program
- Community gardens
- Up-to-date calendar on website
- Partner with outside agencies
- School outreach/community service
- Communication/School event awareness
- Tutoring for parents/college students
- Open use of facilities
- Parent homework support
- Transportation services





Question 5

What are the major obstacles facing your School District?



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- 1969 Building things are wearing out
- Social Media
- Lack of Pride
- Public awareness of school needs



Other Responses

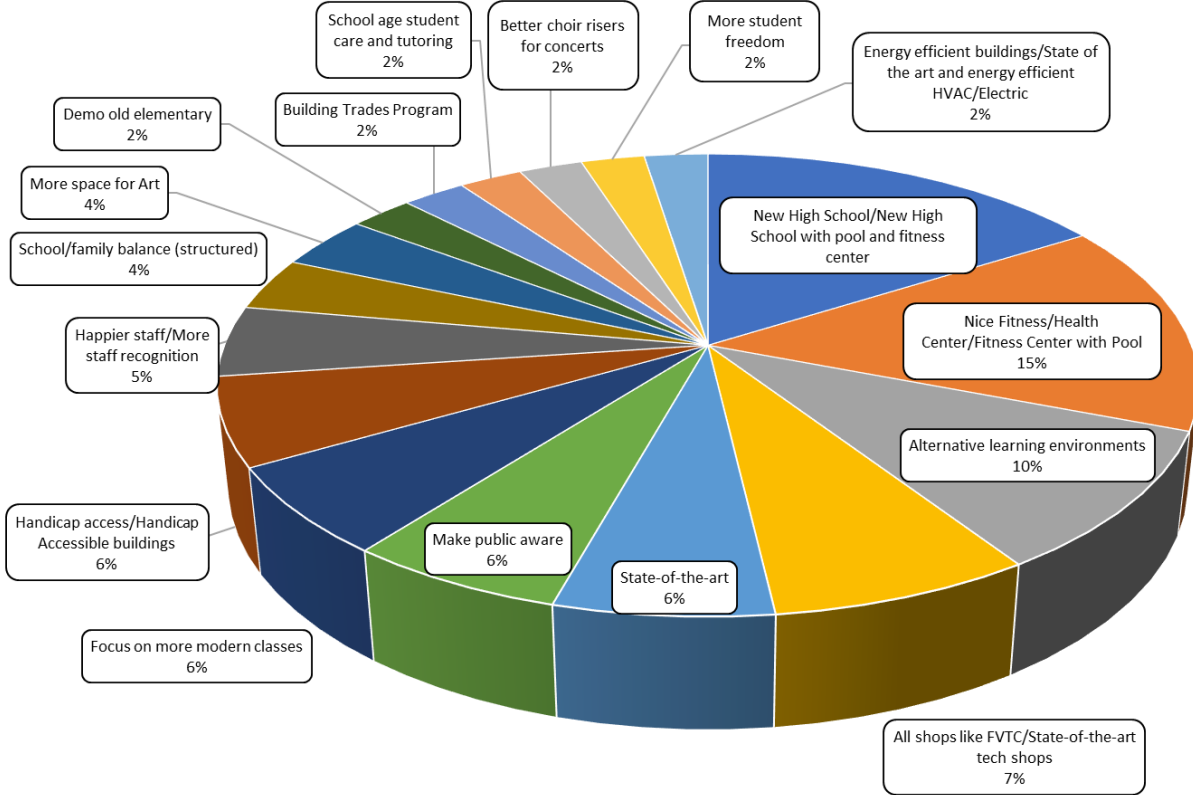
- Understanding School Financing
- Rebuild transparency and trust
- Lack of community involvement
- Keeping up with others/Do we have to do different?
- Open enrollment
- Bad Press
- Insurance restrictions
- Lack of pride/spirit
- Other District Offerings/private school/online industry/local economy
- History
- Housing
- High School Current Learning Model
- Availability of time
- Size of school district
- Community support/involvement
- Aging population
- Safety/society issues
- What's in it for me attitude.
- Budget/allocation of funds
- Programs not making funds/money
- Priorities
- Manawa Economy
- Local funding
- Enrollment-static
- Being rural/population leaving
- Older/Aging population
- Declining student population/lower enrollment
- Outdated materials
- Keep old and improve or get new and replace
- Lack of space in community
- Old elementary





Question 6

If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?



Other Responses Receiving Votes

- Dome
- Kitchen that works for all amenities
- Softball/Baseball/Athletic Fields
- Cameras on busses
- High School sound system that works
- Manawa Beach
- Bright open library
- Teachers more pay
- All furniture/technology like colleges
- Improved technology
- Adult classes



Other Responses

- Better Production Kitchen
- Natural Lighting
- Safe/Secure Entry
- Plantings inside/outside
- Inviting and pleasant Environment
- Build all new
- Auditorium
- Demo old Elementary
- All Athletic fields by schools
- Swimming Pool
- Outdoor play area for younger students
- Better pick up/drop off
- Flexible Furniture
- Rubber track
- Fix old elementary
- Swimming pool
- New bleachers
- Handicap accessibility
- State of the art sound and video system
- Better wireless
- New School
- Auto Shop
- Better Elementary Drop off
- Greenhouse
- Driver's Ed Car
- Fix old elementary for fitness/community center
- Fix things not right at elementary
- Fix it right
- Students helping community
- Respectful students
- Auditorium
- Addition gym
- Auditorium
- Old elementary to be rec center
- Auto center building like FVTC
- Improved gym
- New baseball/softball/football field
- Rubberized track
- Less money to sports/more money to students
- Auditorium
- Athletic complex
- Improved tech ed programs
- New educational materials
- Unlimited media center budget





Responses with the Most Votes

Question	Response	Vote
What are the major obstacles facing your School District?	Money	30
What additional programs or services should be provided for community by your District?	Fitness center/community center/Rec Center/Community Fitness Center/Access to fitness/health center (above ground)	25
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Teacher Support / Empowering Creative Teachers / Attracting and retaining high quality staff / Retention/staff and teachers/coaches	15
What additional programs or services should be provided for community by your District?	Real world classes/Businesses in school training/Community/School Partnerships/Community career development work apprenticeships	15
What is your School District known for today?	Constantly Changing / District is going through much change	14
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Academic Excellence / Top academics / Academics	14
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Longer lunch	13
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Basic Living/Life Skills/Home Ec/Living and life skills/Home Ec	13
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	New High School/New High School with pool and fitness center	13
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Mental health services for students/Mental health services/In House mental health services	12
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	Nice Fitness/Health Center/Fitness Center with Pool	12
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Educational choices/Trades/Secondary	10





What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Foreign Language	10
What are the major obstacles facing your School District?	Attracting/retaining teachers/Having the right teachers/Can't find teachers/low participation	9
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	S.T.E.A.M.	8
What are the major obstacles facing your School District?	Finances/money/whose money	8
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	Alternative learning environments	8
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Block scheduling	7
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Higher test scores	6
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Community/School fitness center/Fitness Center	6
What additional programs or services should be provided for community by your District?	Adult Education/continuing education	6
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	All shops like FVTC/State-of-the-art tech shops	6
What is your School District known for today?	Can't keep teachers / Turnover of teachers	5
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Good education/well rounded/prepared for future	5
What do you hope your school district will be known for in the future?	Thriving	5
What additional programs or services should be provided for students by your District?	Gifted and Talented Staff and Support	5





What are the major obstacles facing your School District?	Lack of motivation	5
What are the major obstacles facing your School District?	Negative community/community support/Not enough community support	5
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	State-of-the-art	5
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	Make public aware	5
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	Focus on more modern classes	5
If you were given a magic wand to improve the facilities of your district, what would you do?	Handicap access/Handicap Accessible buildings	5

