

Listen & Learn 2018: A Community Conversation

April 9, 2018

Carpenter Parents

1.) What do we celebrate at Carpenter and across the AAPS?

- Community social / emotional well being****
- Diversity – SES, religion, All ***
- Dedicated staff and families ****
- Family atmosphere feels small ☺ ***
- Age appropriate playgrounds**
- Positive teacher/student relations **
- Value student leadership / Student voice ***
- School-wide / community communications *
- Events: science fair, Heritage festival, movie nights, carnival, field trips ***
- Teacher / parent / student involvement **
- Grade level collaboration **
- STEAM / STEM / PLTW ****
- High academic achievement **
- Peer to Peer interactions *
- Encourages student activism **
- Positive messages/ promote kindness ***
- District support of building initiatives
- Stakeholder voice in decision-making **
- Promote community involvement **
- Incorporating Experts into curriculum *
- Focus on literacy *
- Safe space – Carpenter feels safe *
- Lots of specials integrated into curriculum (gym, art, music, etc.) **
- Language instruction *
- Educational freedom & exposure
- Science Olympiad after school programming **
- Strong ELL Title 1 program
- “I Got You” ****
- Teacher of the Year!
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Girls on the Run
- Welcoming
- Basketball Shootout
- School wide Title 1 *
- School events
- Relationships
- Readiness for middle and high school
- I Got You ! *
- Acceptance for all students *
- Parent’s step up – Activity information – communication

- Best staff of teachers, admin., support staff you could ask for!
- Diversity & equality ****
- Our students **
- Achievement, social & academic **
- Welcoming atmosphere ***
- Teachers & staff ***
- Safety **
- Student leadership ***
- Our PTO's and increasing participation
- GOTR, Science Olympiad, science fair, movie night, After school programs ***
- Good communication between school & parents ***
- Family & generations attending
- School of choice **
- Location of school

2.) Where do you see opportunities for improvement? (Things we have that need attention)

- Traffic - 4 lanes****
- Communication about start time
- Building up or out
- More lunch supervision
- Crosswalks & sidewalks
- More security – building - playground – walkers / vulnerable to shooters****
- Street lights – sidewalk **
- Bus shuttle stay – Keep it **
- Support for kids – counselors on demand ***
- Monthly community conversation – No room for discussions at PTO meetings – Would people shut up!
- 2-minute discussions
- Open door policy for students (Context?)
- Consequences for inappropriate/unacceptable behaviors
 - **Zero tolerance?**
 - **Consistent practices**
 - **For individuals, not whole class for a single persons disruption**
- Remind kids of expectations – practice proper behaviors & responses (not everyone's experienced)
- Facilities, transportation, funding for field trips – Need more parent PTO participation
- Lunch schedule to late or too early – not enough time ***
- Teacher resources **
- Air conditioning/heat for whole school ***
- Grounds, field, garden – Total plan
- Before school care for drop offs
- Sliding fee scale for AM care **
- Drop off service *
- Parking lot ***
- Drop off lane ***

- After school homework help ***
- Crosswalk needed around perimeter with well lit signage **
- Outer/inner building signs – digital marquee – Knowing what door to go in! ***
- More steps/walkways up the hill *
- Improve surrounding road conditions ***
- Consistency with bussing, drivers, time, etc. Text alert system for parents ***
- Child care – increased staff – schedule flexibility **
- Child care o early release days ***
- Microwave oven for students – Supervised! *
- System to integrate new carpenter families to Carpenter community – Meet & Greet *
- Parent teacher spring conference (at least 30 min.) More time, better scheduling**
- More time for lunch *
- More and better screened staff at lunch to monitor behavior/kids
- More live streaming of school events
- Kindergarten only recess
- Increased and improved special education services
- More mental health access
- Conflict mediation, student led
- Diverse curriculum
- Expanded bus system
- Social academic clubs including LBGTQ *****
- Improve quality of school lunch – Vegetarian & Vegan options **
- Expanded foreign language to lower grades ***
- Tech & STEAM labs **
- More nurses/ clinic options **
- Expand for elementary, make rooms larger
- Partnership with Universities *
- Balanced grading – standards based
- IB style problem solving teaching *
- Career planning, career fair to plan for the future
- Advertise for free tutoring opportunities
- Awards ceremony for more students
- More social workers
- Appropriate use of TV in class as a resource for standards based instruction

3.) As we consider our future, what do we want and dream for our students and schools?

- Safety and security, more secure playgrounds **
- Tech/coding K-8 all grades
- Pool /Athletic teams / Track / Locker rooms/ lockers ***
- IB program, STEAM, Academic rigor ***
- Traditional middle school model specialized teachers in electives
- Auditoriums *
- Smooth transition to high school *
- Vocational school options, skill center **
- Collaborative workspaces for students *
- Celebrate even more our diversity
- Counselor support services, earlier support and detection **
- Full time nurse **
- College or future planning internship for teaching
- Maintain a green area outside the building, field space, trees, and community garden, shade **
- Middle school emotional support for students ***
- Leadership opportunities for the middle school students **
- Speed bumps and crosswalks ***
- Increase stop signs **
- Change traffic patterns around the schools **
- Sidewalks ***
- Traffic, drop off lane, parking lot – More supervision for these areas ****
- More funding for the things teachers need **
- More PD for teachers to support emotional and social issues pertaining to students *
- Multi media center, updated library *
- More fun opportunities for parents to connect with each other and staff
- Healthy food options for lunch – This is really important
- Makers space *
- Movement in classes
- More physical activity
- Emotional wellbeing support, more than academic rigor. Academic rigor is important, but students are to stressed! **
- Project based learning – Taking data while engaging in a project *
- Incorporating brain breaks and mindfulness
- Language immersion
- Globally competitive
- Peer mentoring – Older students teaching younger students
- Positive emotional – peer – No friend left behind culture
- Coat hooks in lunchroom! Please ☺
- Collaboration where we can get donations:
 - **Transportation**
 - **Business partnership with corporations**
 - **In kind donations of time, service, clubs and materials**

- Parent partnerships: Careers, hobbies and sharing their skills
- Larger gym and lunchroom
- Lunchroom just at lunchtime
- Kids working with Habitat for Humanity
- Family resource center
- Athletic fields – sports programs 6-8 – middle school expansion ****
- Expanded media center / tech *
- Auditorium *
- Band / music room / orchestra / choir **
- Opportunity to participate in skilled trades *****
- Creative arts: drama, theater **
- Extra guidance counselors for age appropriate support / academic support *****
- Barrier free access
- Improved security ***
- Parking lot expansion **
- Lunch time activities – yoga, games
- Air conditioning *****
- Update bathrooms – resources for adolescent girls
- Separate for elementary / middle - pool
- Safety plan for bussing ***
- Communications
 - Streamlined
 - Less app.
 - More frequent feedback regarding student progress
- PTSO – Students involved
- School website – portal with everything in one place
- Substantial anti-bully/ School wide behavior / Plan 0% bullying tolerance
- Globally competitive academics as well as district wide
- Supporting the developmentally appropriate brain with breaks and recess
- Tutoring- mentoring from the older students
- Lockers through 6-8
- Outdoors pavilion for outdoor learning
- Farm to Table – preparing meals
- Mentoring
- Extra curricular activities led by mentor students

4.) What else do we need to know and understand?

- Maintain the feel of the community – Most important!
- Neighbor aspect of community, one be happy family
- Daily schedule? And bussing **
- Finding balance between nurturing environment and rigor to prepare grades 6-8 for high school *****
- Peer interaction and mentoring – Helping with mental/social aspect of mentoring
- Bussing for Carpenter & Scarlett
- Change in boundary for school?
- School of choice in expansion zone? *
- Building up and out, how it will impact the school operation *
- Will focus on school change with expansion **
- School culture? *
- How will demographic change w/CI & EI kids & how they get help in school? *
- Neighborhood concerns, loosing green space, loosing space period.
- More playground drainage/shade!!!
- Where does funding come from; state, taxes, etc.
- More admins, assist principals / dean of students
- Grades 6-8th combined sports with Scarlett, until Carpenter has their own – Not a good idea *
- Transportation difficult
- Develop a junior honor society / volunteer opportunities *
- Main office front door redesign / double door. Make visitors entering more visible to office staff to increase security
- Expand parking lot
- Expand bus & parent pick-up
- How will they choose Carpenter vs. Scarlett?
- Large age gap regarding transportation between K-8th graders
- How will the play area be impacted
- Traffic and safety concerns
- As school grows, staffing and qualified teacher concerns
- How will the lunch run, no earlier than 11:00 AM
- Would middle school students have a different start/end time than other students? Safety!
- How many students will be added with addition
- Build up or out *
- Behavior / bully plan and clarify what constitutes bullying
- Lunch / recess staff trained to respond to student incidents – Not happening now
- Student programs like “conflict managers” to minimize conflicts & bullying
- Bring down the façade and build something real
- More bathroom restock and clean ups

*There has been no communication with neighbors other than Facebook. There needs to be hard copies of this information delivered by mail to all the Washtenaw Heights / Oak Park neighbors every step of the way, including before the vote.

* While encouraging a “family” “village” is important, if there isn’t understanding and acceptance for a different point of view or alternative belief, some community members are left out of the “family” or “village” and can become outsiders. It’s a dangerous philosophy when people start feeling excluded or like outsiders. They are then not comfortable in the school community – adult or child alike.

