

February 27, 2018 – Carter Middle School

Group 1: Adults/Parents

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
 - Great Special Education students – in the country. Take great care of the kids. All 3 levels – elementary, middle and high
 - Teachers do the best with what they/we have right now
 - Safety of students – ID's and entry bell. Carter Middle School does a great job. Kudos to all staff that make that happen. East Knox Elementary and Carter HS too
 - Analyze data – all teachers to include special needs – doing a good job as a whole. Students not just a number. Staff available at the schools
 - Great job of communication – stay informed. Standardized in these three schools (East Knox ES, Carter MS and Carter HS). Sometimes a little overload, but no complaints
 - KCS provides teachers with learning opportunities – support to teachers. “My Learning Plan.” Great job with professional development
 - Parents – well informed and caring. Good communication with a teacher makes it a better fit with the teacher at all levels. Even at the high school level
 - Pleased with teacher support – child comes home talking about their day at school and enjoys it. Good information provided
 - Good trainings for incidents – medically-related – provided

2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
 - Law enforcement working more with the school system
 - Schools could always improve with security. Maybe time to go to the next level. Schools “soft targets” – might need to go to metal detectors and more
 - More information needed from the elementary school
 - More nurse time during the weekdays – medical attention for students. (Funding has been cut across the nation, however)
 - More initiative for counseling at school when students have a tragedy in their life – pay more attention to that – maybe pull her out and help her deal with it
 - Transportation – communication – incorrect bus call information (get off the list)
 - Improve on building parental participation and build relationships in the community – get more parents involved. Security “hinders” but necessary
 - Better mental health services in schools and more
 - Nursing & services – medical, physical and mental – more family involvement

3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
 - Security – more funds needed
 - Relationships matter – positive stories. KCS – social media “push out” of good stories
 - More medical informational training to assist students with emergencies. Guidance for first-aid training to teachers – for at school or on field trips. What to do – immediate, waiting on professional. Initial trauma training
 - See more training and resources for trauma training

4. Is there anything else Knox County Schools needs to know?
 - They are doing a pretty good job
 - Take stress off of teachers so they can teach. Sometimes things get lost in the mix because they have more to do than teach. Do an excellent job with curriculum and teach the kids

Group-determined themes:

- Security – all the questions listed. Doing well and additional needs
- Communication – good job overall – room for improvement
- Medical – nursing, counseling and mental health
- Take stress off of teachers so they can teach
- Support students in trauma needs
- Parental involvement

Group 2: Students

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?

- Opportunities for ALL students
- Students have freedom to work with programs like space-iPad program
- Helping to choose path to get to college or where they want to go – help from principals
- ProjectU to show around new students
- Getting lots of kids involved in clubs
- Good football program

2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?

- Update band equipment
- Remodel current school
- Food – more choices, more veggies, real meat
- Food waste for students who don't eat it
- OSS doesn't seem to change behavior – repeat same things
- Option to leave iPads at school to charge
- Clear use of HIS, ISS, OSS
- Spending time on simple math problems instead of other things (having to show work and use Common Core)
- New water fountains (tastes like feet)

3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?

- Maybe 1:1 tutoring for both discipline and academics
- Finger scan instead of buttons in cafeteria
- Bigger desks and work spaces
- New calculators (high school)

4. Is there anything else Knox County Schools needs to know?

- Schools get hot, don't understand why can't show shoulders. No rips above knees. Update dress code
- Different discipline in high school – too high
- OSS for defending yourself – maybe ISS instead

Group-determined themes:

- Remodel current school
- More food choices
- Bigger desks and work spaces
- Updating dress code
- Good support with college path
- Having to use Common Core