

## March 8, 2018 – Cedar Bluff Middle School

### Group 1: Adults/Parents

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - Communication – through text, voicemail, e-mail. Bob Thomas sharing priorities
  - Student-teacher engagement in learning and genuine caring. Cedar Bluff is nice and small
  - Mr. Thomas brings transparency and admits when things go wrong and takes accountability
  - Tennessee as a whole is moving to PBIS to give alternative consequences. It is better than excessive suspensions
  - Good leadership in the schools. Like that administrators are moved to prevent them from getting stagnant and offer fresh ideas
  
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
  - Transportation – the bus comes at 6:30 am and the kids have to sit in the cafeteria for 35-40 minutes
  - More technology is needed at ALL schools. Without enough, TCAPS get spread out over more time. One-to-one
  - Listen to teachers. KCS can be slow to react to correct issues that arise (counseling, staffing). There has been a tendency to ignore until things get worse
  - We need more counselors to help students with disabilities advocate for their needs. Only one-and-a-half at CBMS
  - Need to improve pay. Panda Express managers start at \$50,000 plus bonus. Teachers pay for supplies out of their own pockets. Higher accountability for teachers
  - It takes too long to test kids who need services. Is it due to legal reasons or lack of psychologists?
  
3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
  - More relational skills and lessons on kindness should be taught
  - Kids do not know how to talk to one another – they find it uncomfortable
  - Counselors used to visit classes for lessons on esteem building
  - The counselors cannot keep up
  - We need metal detectors
  - Expand CTE programs
  - One-to-one technology
  - Social Studies needs to be more versatile
  - Continue to recruit more minority teachers. Minority administrators reinforce that the only time kids see someone who looks like them is when they are in trouble
  - Don't do flipped classroom
  
4. Is there anything else Knox County Schools needs to know?
  - Concerned about HVA and HVMS dropping off on the same campus at the same time
  - Re-evaluate student awards and programs (news crews, patrols, etc.) to be more inclusive – citizenship grades, etc.

### Group-determined themes:

- Transportation
- Counselors
- Technology

- Salaries

## **Group 2: Students**

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - Teachers
  - The way we learn
  - 3-D printers in the library
  - Use technology and paper (both)
  - Sports (a lot)
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
  - Basketball only sport supported – all sports should be supported equally
  - Books need to be updated
  - More physical learning activities (for example, social studies not just books)
  - Use phones less
  - Dress code should be more noticed
  - Work in class with meaning – not just busy work
  - Punishments not well planned out – ISS/OSS students don't learn
  - More of a reward for students who do good (too hard to get enough Bluff Bucks and people don't really care about them)
  - Bluff Bucks given to kids who might be bad (have bad record), not necessarily those who are always good (expected)
  - Consistent grading – similar for teachers (example: some problems worth more or less points)
  - Teach not just for test score and more for learning
  - Students punished for one person's actions (example clean up cafeteria)
  - Teachers expecting homework to be done in an unreasonable amount of time
  - Teachers to communicate so they all don't give homework at the same time
  - If too much homework assigned at once, it causes stress and they copy homework and don't learn
  - Need to have a difference between honors and standard
  - Multiple tests to determine honors and standard (not just one test)
  - The option to be in honors should be a choice (a choice if want to take multiple tests)
  - Heating and air conditioner are old
  - Small stalls in the girls' bathroom
  - Gym equipment is bad
  - Can't use gym equipment outside (when not in use)
  - Come to middle school – have to pick chorus, band or orchestra. Not everyone is interested in this
3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
  - If good student with good grade in class – award homework pass
  - Incentives based on learning
  - Bluff Bucks not just for good behavior but also for grades
4. Is there anything else Knox County Schools needs to know?
  - Students cheat on homework or tests using their phones
  - Prefer taking test on paper instead of online/tech
  - Some students go to ISS to have fun
  - OSS – students might do something to get out of school

Group-determined themes:

- More sponsored sports
- Heating & air conditioner system
- Difference between honors and standard
- Building, bathrooms, water fountain
- Methods of teaching – because we are not always learning