

January 22, 2018 – Powell Middle School

Group 1 – Adults/Parents:

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
 - Working with corporations/organizations in community to mentor in schools
 - Encouraging parent involvement
 - Welcoming atmosphere
 - Try to educate whole child, not just grades – also emotions
 - High quality education
 - Recruit and retain high quality teachers
 - Good communication – district and school
 - Strong magnet schools
 - Listening skills improved

2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
 - Need more staff and educator diversity
 - Concerned not meeting needs of whole child due to curriculum and timelines. Education needs to be realistic and relevant
 - Children being in most appropriate programs including special education
 - History needs to be taught chronologically and not by culture
 - Need to allow elementary students time to develop socially and emotionally
 - Need more counselors and services. Every school needs a full-time counselor
 - More flexibility in approaching student educational needs
 - Give teachers more ownership of decisions
 - Two cultures of teachers: 1. Whole class 2. Small Group
 - More flexibility in intervention groups
 - Students need more face-to-face and less computer programs
 - More flexibility and empowerment for teachers and administrators to work with the children
 - Focus on whole child, not only academic
 - Meet children where they are, not “where they need to be”

3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
 - Pre-K in every school
 - Full time nurse in every school
 - More STEM middle schools
 - More focus on middle school/prepping for high school
 - See more diverse teachers/administrators
 - Schools that can handle special needs students
 - More often and longer time for parent-teacher conferences
 - Integrated special education to teach children to work together
 - Consistent tech pathways through all school levels
 - Need teachers to teach technology
 - Increased focus on science/social studies in elementary
 - More community meetings throughout the year and at different times

- Pay teachers more
 - Need better program for high academic students
4. Is there anything else Knox County Schools needs to know?
- Focus on present, not preparing for next always

Group 1's determined themes:

- Need more staff and educator diversity
- Education needs to be realistic and relevant
- Need more counselors and services
- More STEM middle schools
- Schools that can handle special needs students
- Increased focus on science and social studies in elementary
- More community meetings throughout the year and at different times

Student Group:

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
- Have many groups/clubs, like Y-teens/after school clubs
 - Schedules: rotating schedules help; example – related arts and academics
 - Most people are nice to others. I have not seen any bullying.
 - Listening to students and being attentive to our opinions
 - Length of summer, fall, winter and spring breaks are nice!
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
- School lunch – I know people who get it but will not eat it.
 - Band – we have to do a lot of fundraisers because it's so pricey – funding for such would be helpful for the arts
 - Add variety to school lunches
 - Students have to share lockers and with small lockers, space for all belongings is tight
 - More related arts choices – it would be nice to choose
 - You have year-long related arts, that's all for the year. So chances to do other things would be nice, such as go outside (band/art/music)
3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
- School lunches – it's about variety, which we don't have. We should not have the same thing every week. Menus just repeat.
 - In some classes, like social studies classes, we can't always take our books home to do homework, and not everyone has online access, so more books would be nice (because of a class set of books). We have online, but again, not everyone has online access at home
 - Get a book we like and read it and take a test on it. Some people get a book but they don't like it, so they don't read. Choices of books.

Student-determined themes:

- Rotating schedules help
- Listening to students and being attentive to our opinions
- Funding for the arts would be helpful
- Students have to share lockers – space is tight
- More related-arts choices/year-long related arts