

## February 1, 2018 – South-Doyle High School

### Group 1 – Adults/Parents

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - Access to technology
  - School administrators/teachers/Superintendent
  - Working with student behavior-emotional – high school
  - Strong emphasis on community – elementary school, middle school, high school
  - More mentor programs – assign freshman day/catch them as freshman
  - Tutoring AM & PM 5 days/week – South Doyle High School
  - Cohesion – feeder patterns – One Tribe
  - High School faculty visit feeder schools – South Doyle High School
  - Social media highlights – family/community
  - Strategic meetings
  
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
  - As a Mom – frustration with transportation i.e. move a stop (was granted this year). Lack of safe bus stops and easy for students to get to. Buses early for elementary students. Parents may have to transport, Disconnect between what KCS wants plus bus drivers. Falls on deaf ears. Bus driver falls on contractor.
  - Some drive to different stop
  - Communication better – rural not same as city
  - Improve on diversity of teachers – should reflect student population
  - Stronger teachers District 1 – more experienced. Understand students they serve. Not afraid.
  - Distribute teachers throughout the district
  - Need teachers to stay in District 1
  - Finish what we start – example, TAP, Leadership Academy
  - Sustainable plan to sustain technology
  - Better support for what teachers do in classroom – autonomy
  - Things have to change for new programs
  - Are changes KCS or principal –driven?
  - Principal – “I’ve been given autonomy”
  - Develop school for special needs and gifted students
  - Resources appropriated for special needs – correct counseling/placement
  - Attention is on negative behavior and gifted students. Example K-8 school for special needs and one for gifted – possibly high school. May bring students from other counties.
  - ESL population – don’t expect them to perform like all the others. A challenge working with students who’ve never gone to school.
  - Equal resources all schools
  - More CTE courses with certificate upon graduation. Used to have firefighting.
  - More internships/work studies
  - TN Achieve – let students know what’s available
  - Too much emphasis on AP – moved away from skills training

- More dual enrollment classes. Some schools don't have dual enrollment. Challenge to get this.
- Some students do better with dual enrollment instead of AP – communication better with parents
- May need AP and still take in college

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

- Driver's Ed funded by KCS – South Knox
- Students driving without license – break for insurance
- Tough decision for high school principals
- Equal resources for all schools
- New principal evaluation – need more ACT prep
- SDHS #1 growth ACT
- Rapid transition to RTI took precedent
- More diversity – teachers
- Gifted schools – special needs schools
- Community schools increased – parent voice, community members know the needs, serving our customers
- Students in parent responsibility zone need safe way to get to school – look at this again, need resolutions

4. Is there anything else KCS needs to know?

- Look at zones in South Knoxville – students go closer to school
- Don't cut administrators if we want to implement restorative practices and other programs
- Hold teachers/administrators accountable – perform or let them go. Need measure of accountability
- Every child get what they need!

Group determined themes:

- Doing well:
  - Technology access for students
  - Great teachers and administrators
  - PBIS and restorative practices
  - Mentoring program is robust
  - AM/PM tutoring
  - Cohesion with feeders – One Tribe (e.g. principal meeting)
  - Principal autonomy
- Need to improve:
  - Transportation – safety distance, number of stops
  - Disconnect in communication all around
  - Diversity of teachers
  - Number of experienced teachers – need more
  - Completion of projects
  - Teacher support
  - Teacher autonomy

- Longevity of principals
- Special needs student support
- ELL support (more targeted)
- Better communication with parents
- Like initiated:
  - KCS-funded driver's ed
  - Equitable distribution of resources across schools
  - CTE certificate courses – career and technical fields
  - Connection to local needs – internship/work study
  - More ACT prep
  - Diversity in teachers/administrators
  - More community schools – more encouragement of existing
  - Continue safe routes to school
  - More meetings like this! Community input
- KCS needs to know:
  - Don't cut number of administrators
  - All of South Knox should be zoned to their nearest school!

## **Student Group**

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - 1:1 Technology – quality and access
  - Encouragement in academic areas – not overwhelming
  - CTE classes improving more options for the future
  - Credit make-up offerings; i.e. credit recovery
  - Wide range of classes to prepare for future career path
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
  - Tests improvement
  - Need more programs to address bullying
  - Food not the best – but appreciative
  - Internet access – needs more blocking – distracting
  - More testing format options
  - Communication improvements (weather announcements sooner) – students and parents
  - More opportunity for job fairs – “Blue collar opportunities”
  - School cleanliness
3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
  - Incentive program – clarity and enforcement
  - Speaker and teaching programs
  - Vocational classes – more
  - Re-vamp firefighting and implement a law enforcement class
  - Bring back Driver's Ed
  - Encourage participation more in activities than sports, i.e. ROTC, Art, Robotics, and FFA

4. Is there anything else KCS needs to know?

- Clarity on student class fees
- More funding for teachers for materials
- Crowded buses and better trained drivers
- More activities before school starts
- More military forums – students need to know
- Need more foreign language offerings
- More vetting and teacher accountability
- Offer more forums during or after school
- Teacher accountability – student work and not just students
- More random teacher evaluations – consistent teaching needed. Keep ‘em on their toes – teachers are human, but more consistent teaching

Student-determined themes:

- More teacher accountability
- Communication improvements
- More emphasis on vocational classes – wide variety of classes
- School cleanliness
- Improve transportation and bus driver training