Future of Schools
Listening Session Summaries

January 16, 2021

BACKPACKS ON
LAPTOPS OPEN
FUTURES BRIGHT!
Susan Bunte
Employee Listening Session Summary
We asked and our employees responded:

What does the future of Teaching and Learning look like in CPS?
Process & Approach to Listening

Virtual listening sessions to gather input in December

25 Principals, Assistant Principals, and Teachers across elementary and high schools participated

Luckett Davidson’s Old Shore / New Shore change management model used to frame discussions
Change Management Model
“We’ve learned so much in this season; we should not go back to the old way of teaching and learning.”
What We Could be Leaving Behind

- Traditional school day schedule for teachers and students in brick and mortar buildings
- Rigid, one-size-fits-all strategies (e.g., single file lines and uniforms)
- In-person-only professional development
- Paper and pencil assignments for students; paperwork focus for staff
- Limits to technology access

“Maybe the school day doesn’t have to be seven hours in a row...”
What Could Lie Ahead

- Different communication tools to connect with families (e.g., Possier) and deeper family engagement in academics
- Higher levels of flexibility, autonomy and trust for leaders and teachers to meet local needs
- Increased equity if we release our reliance on brick and mortar
- Richer opportunities for student voice to influence major initiatives
- More and different learning opportunities anytime, anywhere, for staff and students

How can we allow a student enrolled at one school to access courses offered at another?
What Could Lie Ahead Continued...

- Home visits with nonprofit partners
- Reimagined Security Response Officer Position (e.g., Restorative Justice Coordinators focused on conflict management)
- More creativity in addressing student behavioral issues (i.e., teachers were very successful with this virtually while Alternatives to Suspension (AES) was suspended)
What We Need to Move Forward...

● Proactive tech supports that keep our educators on the cutting edge
● Consistency (in the context of blended learning model creating inconsistency and many challenges to learning)
● Collaboration
● Patience, grace, and “room to breathe”
● Resources (e.g., reading specialists, communications support for schools)

“We all have to recognize that we are the ones that have to change.”
...Continued

- Unified and focused approach to this new paradigm
- Dismantling of racist and biased practices in our system
- Equitable education funding
- Consistent, streamlined internal communication
- Trust and respect for teachers and principals as professionals
- Inclusion of teacher and principal voice in the planning phase as opposed to in the implementation phase
- More guidance for satellite location staff, specifically teachers in self-contained units
“The new shore is uncharted territory. We have a blank slate to build on with some of the old, some of the new, and some of how we want it to be.”
Tianay Amat
Curriculum
Curriculum

- Select and implement core curriculum (4-5 year rotation): regardless of circumstance students will have access to high quality curriculum, instruction and technology
- Additional Programs: All Male School, Year Round School and Night School
- Expand World Language: offer in elementary and more languages at high school
- Build Computer Science Pipeline: Graduation Seal, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
Shauna Murphy
Parent and Student Listening Sessions
Parents

• Children benefited from virtual learning
• Communication from CPS improved over time
• CPS demonstrated care with emotional and mental health well-being
• Consider expanding learning pods
• Review technology options
• Gear support towards the whole family after the pandemic
• Explore opportunities to continue using a digital platform for learning
• Provide additional workforce learning opportunities
Students

• Appreciate the opportunity to go at their own pace
• Personalized learning (various learning styles and hybrid opportunities)
• Select a more user-friendly platform
• Expand the teacher’s office hours
• Increase emotional support options
• Explore financial literacy, entrepreneurship
• Continue focusing on workforce needs
• Improve communication through better use of technology
Visit CPS-K12.ORG/NEWS/BACKTOSCHOOL for more information.