

Marietta City Schools Community Engagement Initiative

Community Forum – August 25, 2009

Online Survey – August 25-September 9, 2009

To assist the Strategic Planning Team with their work, the Marietta City Schools (MCS) engaged its community in a process to gauge the thoughts, feelings and perceptions that stakeholders hold regarding the district. The engagement initiative was two-fold. The first was a community forum and the second was an online survey.

Another important consideration of this initiative was to honor the community survey that was done earlier in the year. To do that, the choices listed under the questions on this survey are related to those in the earlier survey. This allows the district to get another look at where community members are in regards to these issues. (Please see the attached survey instruments for details.)

Participants at the community forum and of the online survey responded to the following questions:

- 1) What do you feel proud of when you think about Marietta City Schools?
- 2) What do you think are the top issues facing students today? These may be community, family and/or socio-economic issues that are not necessarily the responsibility of the school district.
- 3) As a community, what do we want our public schools/school district to provide for our students? What would success look like for our schools?
- 4) What do you think are the top challenges faced by Marietta City Schools?

The intention of this report is to provide a collection of the best thinking of school and community members regarding the four questions presented. This is a qualitative survey. The data and anecdotal information from the community forum and the online survey are included in this report.

The Format

Community Forum

During the months of July and August, the district held two meetings for central office staff and school governance teams to explain the process and ask for assistance in recruiting participants to attend the community forum. At the community forum, held on August 25 at the Marietta City Middle School, participants heard a presentation on state and local educational issues and school district achievement data and then they worked in small discussion groups. Volunteer facilitators agreed to help keep each group focused, make sure every person had an opportunity to be heard, and ensure that what was said was properly recorded. Childcare was provided, as well as translators for Spanish speaking residents.

Online Survey

An online survey using the same questions offered additional input opportunities. If they desired to do so, participants could provide additional comments on all questions and on the survey as a whole. A Spanish version was provided.

The Response

Nearly 50 community members, teachers and students participated in the community forum. Including residents who filled out the Spanish version of the online survey, there were 330 full responses to the online survey. Respondents overwhelmingly identified themselves as parents. The next two groups with the largest numbers of participants were students and teachers. There were only four responses to the Spanish version of the survey.

Reasons to be Proud and Assets to Build Upon

When asked, "What do you feel proud of when you think of Marietta City Schools?" participants of the community meeting and the online survey are in general agreement on a few key points:

- 1) Academic and special programs – participants voiced pride in a number of Marietta City’s programs, including the academic and athletic programs. Participants often cited the magnet school and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.
- 2) Student Achievement – although participants voiced the need to improve certain aspects of this area, they also reported great pride in what Marietta City students have achieved.
- 3) Human resources – participants of the community meeting and the online survey cite pride in the staff and administration and students of Marietta City Schools. Participants at the community forum also expressed pride in the fiscal responsibility the district has shown.
- 4) Facilities – participants of both engagement activities cited great pride in the facilities within the school district. Participants praised the high school numerous times.

Online Survey Results – Survey participants chose their top three areas of pride. The areas selected as a first, second or third choice most often were:

- 1) Marietta City’s Academic Programs – 271 responses (Also most often cited as top source of pride.)
- 2) Achievement of MCS Students – 217 responses
- 3) MCS Staff – 193 responses

What Issues Are Students Facing

Several themes emerged from the small group work at the community forum. The following captures the work of the groups when asked what they felt were the top issues facing students today, regardless of whether the school district is responsible for addressing them or not:

- Technology presents opportunities as well as threats – participants said students possess great skill in this area, but had concerns that technology has eroded the social development of students in some ways. Participants cited the digital divide among the young and old as well.
- Economic issues dominated in a number of ways. Participants discussed increased competition, the need for higher levels of skill and knowledge, and the uncertainty that students must grapple with. A separate, but related issue is that our rapidly changing world magnifies feelings of uncertainty. This could include changing expectations, standards and curriculum, too.
- Students today face peer pressure like all generations have, but changing technology and its increased use as a means of personal communication may leave some feeling isolated and without proper social skills. Because of technology, students today don't need to be personally involved in activities to get the scoop on what's happening.

Participants of the online survey also indicated what they think are the top three issues facing students today. The survey included a list of choices with an opportunity to add to or delete from the list. Below are the issues in descending order from highest to lowest numbers of first, second and third choice mentions on the online survey:

- 1) Being ready for college or the workplace (196 responses)
- 2) Lack of parental involvement (183 responses)
- 3) Drugs and alcohol (139 responses)
- 4) Negative peer pressure (138 responses)
- 5) A changing economy; fewer high-paying jobs (133 responses)
- 6) Higher levels of education being required to find work (113 responses)
- 7) Low mathematics and science proficiency (110 responses)
- 8) Rapidly changing world; technology is outpacing skills (110 responses)

Community Expectations of the Schools/District

The question asked was, "As a community, what do we want our public schools/school district to provide for our students? What would success look like for our schools?" Participants at the community forum brainstormed ideas and several themes emerged:

- Arts programs – There is great interest in ensuring support for arts programs. The need for an auditorium at the high school came up several times.
- Student placement – There seemed to be concern about how special education and regular education students are grouped for instruction.
 - Open communication – While some participants said they would like more open communication with the district, many thanked the district for providing the opportunity to provide input into the strategic planning process.
- Programs to assist students in succeeding – Participants voiced the desire to continue offering meaningful academic programs for all students with an eye toward ensuring equity in all programs for all kinds of students. Participants mentioned extra curricular programs and activities numerous times as well.

Those responding to the online survey chose up to five of the following statements, in order of highest response to the lowest:

- 1) Highly qualified staff/teachers (244 responses)
- 2) A safe and orderly environment (233 responses)
- 3) Technology in the classrooms (189 responses)
- 4) Curriculum that prepares students for the workplace – as a minimum standard (167 responses)
- 5) More rigorous and challenging programs (154 responses)
- 6) Excellent extracurricular programs (152 responses)
- 7) School choice/alternative learning programs (103 responses)

Top Challenges Faced by School District

When asked what are the top issues facing the Marietta City School District, there was much variety in comments between the community meeting and the online survey.

Participants at the community forum consistently mentioned the following issues:

- Funding – comments included lowering taxes to attract business and, therefore, generating additional local revenue; and the possibility of not being able to fund popular programs
- Communications – this included engaging all segments of the community and communications between administrators and parents
- Student achievement – participants said that reaching the middle learners is important as well as the students who don't attend the magnet school
- Economy

Online survey participants were asked to choose their top three out of a list provided. (If their choice wasn't on the list, they were invited to add it in an open comments section.) The following is a list in descending order of those chosen as a first, second or third choice most often to those chosen the least often:

- 1) Increasing student achievement (220 responses)
- 2) School funding issues (206 responses)
- 3) Recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff (163 responses)
- 4) Expanding communication and community involvement (150 responses)
- 5) Providing challenging instructional programs (149 responses)
- 6) Providing a safe, orderly environment (134 responses)

Lend Your Voice to Improving Your Public Schools

Community Conversation
Marietta City Middle School
August 25, 2009

Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Welcome**
Marietta City Schools Superintendent
Dr. Emily Lembeck
- 6:10 p.m. An Overview of the Strategic Planning Process
and the Evening's Events**
Georgia School Boards Association
Tony Arasi, Director of Professional Development
Laura Reilly, Director of Communications
- 6:20 p.m. A Report on the Marietta City School System**
Marietta City Schools Superintendent
Dr. Emily Lembeck
- 6:45 p.m. Purpose for the Discussion**
Laura Reilly
- 1) What do you feel proud of when you think about Marietta City Schools?
 - 2) What do you think are the top issues facing students today?
 - 3) As a community, what do we want our public schools to provide for our students?
 - 4) What do you think are the top challenges faced by Marietta City Schools?
- 8:15 p.m. Report out from groups.**
Where do we go from here?
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn**

Marietta City Schools

Public Engagement on Strategic Planning

Combined Facilitators Notes

8/25/09

Overview:

In General, all participants expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the school district. There were no outright critical comments. In addition, several expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide input into the planning process. Participants were involved in the conversation, articulate, and well versed in the school system programs and operations.

The group also honored the previous work that had gone into preparation for the current strategic plan and for preparation for the Community Conversation meeting. In reviewing the lists of items provided to generate discussion for each of the four questions, not a single one was recommended for deletion.

Comments:

(Note: current statements in **black**; new statements in **red**; comments that generated the most discussion are in **bold red**. Comments are in no particular order.) **BOLD BLACK** – “Top Three” when given.

Question 1: What do you feel MOST PROUD of when you think about Marietta City Schools?

- Academic program
 - Program for gifted students a plus, but needs to be more robust
 - Marietta READS is an exemplary program
- Student achievement
- Athletics
- Stewardship
- Facilities
- Staff
 - Deep appreciation for school district’s investment in professional development for staff
- Music/Arts
- **Much praise for the school district’s support of local schools’ PTA programs**
- Schools of Choice program a major plus
- School system’s diversity is a positive attribute

- **Academic Program**
- **Dedication of faculty/teachers**
- **Small system = Results/Responses**
- Magnet Program
- Choice System – Elementary
- IB Program
- Clean schools
- Long History
- Adapt & improve all groups (easily adapt to change)
- Not Stagnant
- **Magnet & STEM Program – Special Programs “Programs of Choice”**
- **Exceptional Teachers**
- **Continued growth in academic achievement**
 - **Economic Disadvantaged**
 - **Evidence in results**

- IB World District
- Special Ed Programs
- How our students act
- Stable leadership in Arts Programs – Arts / Fine arts opportunities
- Facilities & Technology
- Clubs – Community based – more outreach to community
- Partnerships (i.e. GA Aquarium)
- Text-a-cop
- Blue the Drug Dog
- IB Program
- Drawn to district because of MCAA
- Quality of teachers
- “Happy” teachers and staff
- Access to free breakfasts (district that cares)
- Diversity
- Good facilities
- Use of technology
- Quality education helping children accelerate grades
- **Teachers meet needs of all students**
- Like “small districts” vs. large system
- Community/business partnerships, such as the GA Aquarium & MCAA
- Fine arts program
- Marietta Reads!
- Career & college prep programs
- **Communication between parents and TEACHERS!**
- **Academic Achievement (Constantly raising the bar)**
- **Fiscal Responsibility**
- **Staff Qualifications & relationships**
- History, tradition, generations
- School system staff, especially given the changes going on last year
- Commitment to bi-lingual education, welcoming, etc.
- Football coach mentored individual student
- Small class size
- Concern about future class size given economic challenges
- Early foreign language
- Communication between parents and teachers. They are concerned!
- Academic achievement
 - Scholarship money
 - Graduation rate
- Variety of course offerings and life choices
 - Internships, culinary, IB, etc.

Question 2: What are the TOP ISSUES FACING STUDENTS today?

- Changing economy
- College/workplace readiness
- Drugs/alcohol
- Higher levels of education required to find work
- Low math/science proficiency
 - Concerns re: the language barrier for immigrant students is having a negative impact upon student achievement in all areas
- Peer pressure
- Changing world/technology
- Lack of parental involvement
 - **Great amount of concerns re: involvement of parents of minority and/or low income parents particularly within the Latino community**
 - Apparent reluctance on the part of parents from other cultures to seek help for students from the schools
 - May be due to lack of parenting skills within the community
 - Proposal: employ parent liaisons to work within the immigrant community to increase parental involvement and parenting skills
 - Proposal: provide transportation to parents to school events, parent/teacher conferences, etc.
- Gap between students and teachers in the use of technology (21st century skills)
- Gap between the 'haves and have nots' regardless of culture or background
- **Establish role Models**
- **Physical Health (Need to Increase)**
- **Social Ability (drugs, alcohol, identity, self-confidence, self-esteem)**
- Pregnancy rate 8th grade and beyond, especially for Latino families
- Outreach Programs – cultural differences
- Crime – Unemployment
- Self-Esteem – Suicide
- Intervention Plan
- Obesity – (Need healthier food choices)
- Technology – growing
- **Technology Issues & their impact on Students (social networking issues)**
- **Competition for college & jobs**
- **Economic impact on their future**
- Gadgets (texting, etc.) – harder to learn/apply writing skills. Not penmanship but how to share thoughts.
- Economy
 - High school students' future
 - Kids not having basic needs met
- Global competition – different playing ground
- Born into American Dream...taking education for granted
- Changes in the community
 - Commuting
 - Less stability
 - Different environment
 - Fewer community connections
- Middle school divide (lots of elementary schools coming together. Focus on elementary competition – unnecessary.

- Getting parents to cooperate – parent issues filter down to kids
- Online life of kids that parents don't understand or are not a part of
- Mistakes are worldwide (Facebook, YouTube, email)
- New playground, sometimes lacks civility at times – technology
- World is more impersonal
- Finding who you are in school (peers, norms, etc.)
- **Negative Peer Pressure (particularly MS level)**
- **Economy impacting children**
- Children's exposure to "real world" too soon
- Exposure to drugs & alcohol
- Bullying
- Sexual activity/teenage pregnancy
- Middle school students not understanding consequences of decisions and relevance to adulthood
- Respect for authority lacking
- College & Workplace readiness
- Lack of family/parental involvement
- Language skills – written and oral
- Lack of parental involvement
- Information overload
 - Choices for post secondary
- **Changing world – Drastically and Quickly**
 - **Government**
 - **Increased responsibilities in the future**
 - **Economy – effect on future jobs**
 - **Uncertainty**
- **Peer pressure & Differences in communication**
 - **My Space, Twitter, Facebook**
 - **Loss of privacy**
 - **Isolation**
 - **Don't need to come to high school activities to find out what's going on**
- **Constantly changing standards, expectations, curriculum**

Question 3: What do we want our PUBLIC SCHOOLS/SCHOOL SYSTEM to provide for out students? (What does success for our schools look like?)

- Highly qualified staff
- Rigorous curriculum
 - **Concerns that inclusion programs for special needs students results in neither their nor regular students' academic needs are being met**
 - More funding to provide additional teaching assistants in classrooms, esp. those classrooms with special needs children and language issues
 - **Move away from classroom grouping by age and move to ability grouping; allow students to progress at their own speed; provide challenging learning opportunities for all students based upon their abilities to learn (the MCAA program was used as a positive example).**
 - Place more emphasis on science along with the current emphasis on math and reading
 - Provide increased instructional flexibility within the student day
- Technology
- Higher test scores
- Higher grad rates
- Curriculum that prepares....
- Excellent extracurricular
- Choice/alternative programs
 - Provide transportation for students who attend schools of choice outside their residence area
- Concern that schools are increasingly expected to solve all the problems of society
- **More continuing education opportunities for parents so they can help their children learn**
- Emphasize "Literacy, Literacy, Literacy!"
 - Promote the development of critical thinking skills
 - Students should be able to write coherently
 - Students need to know more about US History and how the government works
- **High Accountability – System Measurable deliverables**
- **Open communications – Central Office – Honest**
- **Fund Athletics – Arts, Non-Academics**
- Quality of education
- Measurable Goals – SAT/ACT
- Hire minority teachers
- Role Models
- Preparation – Citizen, Basic Ethics, Behavior, Honesty
- Re-evaluate IB System
- Establish Feeder Programs
- Consistency of Programs – times/schedule
- Produce lifelong, self-directed learners
- Overcome Perceptions – get the "real" story out about MCS. Toot our own horn.
- Continue great programs
- Encourage/market tuition-based students. Recruit top students and those who live here who may go to private school.
- **Focus on the arts. No auditorium. Provide facilities to allow success to thrive. High school needs an auditorium**
- Continued Success Academically
- Streamlined processes & paperwork that is more parent friendly and less bureaucratic
- Let people know what tools are available (iParent)
- Foreign language essential at elementary levels.

- Clearer pathways – continue magnet all the way through (ex. Engineering). Make High school planning easier to navigate. Magnet gets lost
- Continue items on the list
- Emphasize clubs & organizations – Fund these, not just athletics
- Booster organizations for technology/robotics like we have for athletics
- Prepare students not just for a job...
 - Encourage lifelong learning
 - Channel talent and ignite a passion that carries them throughout life
- Offer choices at middle school – extend beyond 5th grade
- Workforce Ready
- After-school opportunities (tutoring) for non-English speaking and their parents
- High expectations for all students
- Military education/Citizenship/Respect
- Ability to measure with matrix showing progress:
 - Critical Thinking skills
 - Problem-solving ability
 - Creativity/Empathy
- IB District-wide
- Safe, orderly school environment
- Equity, especially in middle school, between the two programs - Magnet and non-magnet
- Equal access to enriching opportunities
- Unification “Attitudes” of the schools – Respect for every individual regardless of program they’re enrolled in. No more “them and us”
- Equity in funding and programs
 - Magnet, IB, choice academics, special education
- Opportunities for interaction with students in other programs
- **Continued, meaningful academic achievement for every child from lowest to highest**
- **Extra curricular activities and opportunities at every level**
- **Equity across programs and curriculum where every student is valued and respected, regardless of program enrollment**

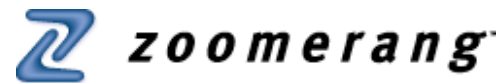
Question 4: What are the TOP CHALLENGES faced by Marietta City Schools?

- Challenging instructional programs
 - Catching kids as early as possible so as to 'make a difference' in their education
 - Working with students who transfer in from other school systems are often behind
 - **Working with special education instructional challenges**
 - **Need to individualize instruction for all students**
- Highly qualified staff
- Communication/community involvement
 - **Getting Latinos involved is a result of a cultural gap and is not being attended to**
 - "It's time to deal with our diversity"
- Funding
 - Decreasing taxes would bring in more money overall, more businesses, and more families, leading to more funds overall for the school district. (Example, northern communities where "demand destruction" has resulted when people leave the community and those remaining continue to demand the same level of services resulting in a higher tax bill)
- Student achievement
- Safe environment

- **Economy**
- **Middle Achievers (Average Learners)**
- **Reduce Admin duties / emails to Faculty – redundant**
- Safety – discipline
- Authority – Empower Teachers
- Communication between teachers and parents / Technology
- Need to increase special needs teachers (training)
- Spam control – technology
- Highly qualified staff – find ways to keep the best, do not rely on instruments that don't really measure performance. Why not use a 360° review? Time in the seat does not mean you are the best qualified.
- Staying transparent – Board & Central Office
- Less Spin
- Taking full advantage of charter system status
 - Engaging parents
 - Listening
- Parental Involvement
- Community Support
- Communication – need to do a better job
 - Teacher web pages need to be up
 - Master calendar – coordination of schedules
- Transparency
 - 2way communication (tonight was good)
 - Get feedback from parents
 - Board Outreach
 - Help parents know how to access system
- Perception/Reputation (k12 but especially Middle School)
 - Middle School
 - Cultural Understanding
 - Recruiting/Retaining Top Teachers
 - Parental Involvement
- Follow through – Show us results from this conversation.

- FEAR – Do a true internal climate assessment from an outside source – not electronic.
- Not really understanding/listening
 - Skewed questionnaires
 - No opportunity for open-ended questions
 - True community engagement
- List appears to be valid – not accomplished yet. (Won't ever be accomplished...some don't appear to ever be started.)
- Fear question/challenge – more related to employees...fear of reprisal
- School funding issues
 - State
 - Get the community involved more.
- Technology and Technology divide.
- **Attitudes of academic segregation between programs**
- **Funding – may have to lose popular programs**
- **System/administration communications in general to parents from administrators**
- **Non-magnet students prepared for higher level coursework**
- Dropouts
- Increasing immigration and related issues
- Lack of access to households who don't have technology
- Lack of clarity about choices for students
- Attract, recruit and retain highly qualified teachers

Community Survey - Marietta City - Spanish




Results Overview

Date: 9/15/2009 8:35 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

Las Escuelas de la Ciudad de Marietta están comenzando un proceso de planificación estratégica con el propósito de definir las decisiones y acciones que forman y guían la dirección futura del distrito escolar. El proceso de planificación incluirá pasos orientados y prioritarios en el avance del distrito. Uno de los componentes más importantes en hacer este esfuerzo un éxito, es el aporte de la comunidad antes de que se desarrolle el plan. Esta corta encuesta ayudará a proporcionar los pensamientos de la comunidad acerca de la educación pública en nuestro país. Esta información será proporcionada a un Equipo de Planificación Estratégica mientras que desarrollan un proyecto del progreso de las Escuelas de la Ciudad de Marietta. Todas las respuestas a la encuesta son consideradas anónimas. Gracias por darnos su opinión acerca de la educación pública en Marietta City Schools!

1. ¿Cuál de estas oraciones lo describe de mejor manera?

Administrador		0	0%
Adulto - sin niños menores de 18 años		0	0%
Propietario de un Negocio		0	0%
Líder Civil o del Gobierno		0	0%
Oficial Electo		0	0%
Padre/Madre – escuela privada/ escuela en el hogar		0	0%
Padre/Madre – escuela pública		4	100%
Ciudadano mayor de 60 años de edad		0	0%
Estudiante		0	0%
Maestro/a		0	0%
Otro, por favor especifique		0	0%

2. ¿De qué se siente más orgulloso cuando piensa en nuestro sistema escolar? (Por favor indique solo una 1ª opción, una 2ª opción y una 3ª opción. Las otras opciones déjelas en blanco o indique "N/A")






Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Primera Opción	Segunda Opción	Tercera Opción	N/A
Programa académico de las Escuelas de Marietta	1 25%	3 75%	0 0%	0 0%
Logros de los estudiantes de las Escuelas de Marietta	1 33%	2 67%	0 0%	0 0%
Nuestro programa atlético	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%
Las Escuelas de Marietta administran bien los fondos de las personas que pagan impuestos	0 0%	0 0%	3 75%	1 25%




Los edificios de las Escuelas de Marietta	1 25%	2 50%	0 0%	1 25%
El personal de las Escuelas de Marietta	0 0%	3 75%	1 25%	0 0%
Los programas de música y/o arte de las Escuelas de Marietta	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%

4. ¿Cuáles piensa Usted que son los tres problemas que enfrentan los estudiantes hoy en día? Pueden ser la comunidad, la familia y/o problemas socio-económicos que no son necesariamente la responsabilidad del distrito escolar. (Por favor indique solo una 1ª opción, una 2ª opción y una 3ª opción. Las otras opciones déjelas en blanco o indique "N/A")

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Primera Opción	Segunda Opción	Tercera Opción	N/A
Economía cambiante; menos oportunidades de trabajos bien remunerados	2 67%	0 0%	1 33%	0 0%
Estar preparados para estudios terciarios o para trabajar	1 33%	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%
Drogas y alcohol	1 33%	2 67%	0 0%	0 0%
Requerimiento de estudios más avanzados para encontrar trabajo	2 67%	0 0%	1 33%	0 0%
Poca competitividad en matemáticas y ciencias	1 33%	1 33%	0 0%	1 33%
Influencia negativa de los compañeros	1 25%	2 50%	0 0%	1 25%
Mundo rápidamente cambiante; la tecnología supera las habilidades	1 33%	1 33%	0 0%	1 33%
Poca participación de los padres/madres	1 25%	2 50%	0 0%	1 25%

6. Como comunidad, ¿Qué queremos que nuestras escuelas públicas/distrito escolar le proporcione a nuestros estudiantes? (Por favor seleccione hasta cinco puntos en la lista más abajo)

Personal/maestros altamente calificados		4	100%
Programas más rigurosos, desafiantes		3	75%
Tecnología en los salones de clase		3	75%
Mejores resultados en los exámenes		0	0%
Índices de graduación más altos		1	25%
Programas que preparan a los estudiantes para trabajar – como mínimo		1	25%
Programas extra-			

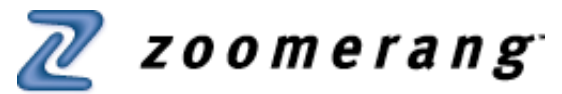
curriculares excelentes, como clubes, equipos atléticos y organizaciones de estudiantes		3	75%
Elección de escuelas / programas de aprendizaje alternativos	 1		25%
Ambiente seguro y ordenado	 4		100%
Otro, por favor especifique		0	0%

7. ¿Cuáles piensa Usted son los tres desafíos más grandes a los que se enfrentan las Escuelas de la Ciudad de Marietta? (Por favor indique solo una 1ª opción, una 2ª opción y una 3ª opción. Las otras opciones déjelas en blanco o indique "N/A")

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Primera Opción	Segunda Opción	Tercera Opción	N/A
Proporcionar programas de instrucción desafiantes	2 50%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%
Reclutar y mantener personal altamente calificado	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%	0 0%
Ampliar la comunicación y participación de la comunidad	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%	0 0%
Problemas de financiación escolar	1 50%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%
Incrementar los logros de los estudiantes	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%
Proporcionar un ambiente seguro y ordenado	0 0%	3 75%	0 0%	1 25%

Community Survey - Marietta City - Spanish

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:36 AM PST
Responses: Completes
Filter: No filter applied

9. Comentarios adicionales

#	Response
1	Marietta Middle School is the missing link. I love the ES, and I like the MHS, but the MMS is the key issue in whether we move out of the City limits, or not.

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Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:26 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

Marietta City Schools is beginning a strategic planning process for the purpose of defining the decisions and actions that shape and guide the future direction for the school district over the next several years. The planning process will include targeted and prioritized action steps to move the district forward. One of the most important components to making this a successful effort is community input – before the plan is developed. This short survey will assist in providing the community's thoughts on public education in our county. This information will be provided to a Strategic Planning Team as they work to develop a blueprint for progress for Marietta City Schools. All survey responses are anonymous. Thank you for lending your voice to public education in Marietta City Schools!

1. Which one of the following statements best describes you?

Administrator		13	4%
Adult – no children under 18		11	3%
Business Owner		1	0%
Civic or Government Leader		0	0%
Elected Official		0	0%
Parent – private/homeschool		7	2%
Parent – public school		197	61%
Senior Citizen		4	1%
Student		56	17%
Teacher		48	15%
Other, please specify		16	5%

2. What do you feel most proud of when you think about this school system? (Please choose only one 1st choice, one 2nd choice and one 3rd choice. For all others leave blank or check "N/A".)







Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	N/A
Marietta City's academic program	151 53%	78 27%	42 15%	15 5%
Achievement of Marietta City's students	72 30%	92 38%	53 22%	26 11%
Our athletic program	25 20%	28 22%	31 25%	42 33%
Marietta City as a good steward of taxpayer funds	20 15%	26 19%	36 26%	54 40%
Marietta City's facilities	35	55	56	37





Marietta City's facilities	19%	30%	31%	20%
Marietta City's school system staff	68 31%	75 34%	50 23%	28 13%
Marietta City's music and/or arts program	18 13%	36 26%	39 28%	45 33%

4. What do you think are the top three issues facing students today? These may be community, family and/or socio-economic issues that are not necessarily the responsibility of the school district. (Please choose only one 1st choice, one 2nd choice and one 3rd choice. For all others leave blank or check "N/A".)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	N/A
A changing economy; fewer high paying jobs	60 38%	44 28%	29 18%	26 16%
Being ready for college or the workplace	102 49%	57 27%	37 18%	14 7%
Drugs and alcohol	42 24%	48 28%	49 28%	33 19%
Higher levels of education being required to find work	32 23%	45 32%	36 25%	29 20%
Low mathematics and science proficiency	32 23%	53 38%	25 18%	31 22%
Negative peer pressure	35 20%	52 30%	51 30%	34 20%
Rapidly changing world; technology is outpacing skills	39 27%	36 25%	35 24%	33 23%
Lack of parental involvement	81 39%	48 23%	54 26%	23 11%

6. As a community, what do we want our public schools/school district to provide for our students? What would success look like for our schools? (Please choose up to five items from the list below.)

Highly qualified staff/teachers	 244		75%
More rigorous, challenging programs	 154		48%
Technology in the classrooms	 189		58%
Higher test scores	 123		38%
Higher graduation rates	 143		44%
Curriculum that prepares students for the workplace – as a minimum standard	 167		52%
Excellent extracurricular			

programs, such as clubs, athletic teams and student organizations	 152		47%
School choice/alternative learning programs		103	32%
A safe and orderly environment	 233		72%
Other, please specify	 37		11%

7. What do you think are the top three challenges faced by Marietta City Schools? (Please choose only one 1st choice, one 2nd choice and one 3rd choice. For all others leave blank or check "N/A".)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	N/A
Providing challenging instructional programs	46 26%	53 30%	50 29%	26 15%
Recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff	61 34%	57 31%	45 25%	18 10%
Expanding communication and community involvement	50 30%	46 28%	54 32%	17 10%
School funding issues	106 48%	57 26%	43 19%	16 7%
Increasing student achievement	84 36%	81 35%	55 24%	11 5%
Providing a safe orderly environment	41 26%	40 25%	53 34%	24 15%

Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:29 AM PST
Responses: Completes
Filter: No filter applied

1. Which one of the following statements best describes you?

#	Response
1	Stakeholder
2	pilot
3	at Marietta High School
4	kids went to private school through 8th, then pblc
5	Secretary
6	Permanent Resident
7	Parapro
8	Paraprofessional
9	School Counselor
10	paraprofessional
11	Parent, 1 child public school, 1 child homeschool
12	community volunteer
13	BUSINESS MGMT COST ANALYST
14	Former Substitute teacher, parent of 2 year old
15	mcs system employee
16	GRANDMOTHER TAKING CARE OF 2 SCHOOL AGE BOYS

Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:30 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

3. If you feel your choice was not represented for the question above, please list here.

#	Response
1	Alumni are strong and involved.
2	Teacher Dedication to Profession and children.
3	Open Communication of parents, teachers and staff
4	athletics
5	Marching Band
6	n/a
7	N/A
8	Great Board and Superintendent!
9	Magnet Program is truly my number one choice
10	How hard the teachers work - their dedication
11	The school system needs to be realistic academics
12	magnet program
13	The Drama Program-- we work really really hard-!!
14	wish i could choose more
15	Culinary Department
16	Marietta schools sense of community.
17	Achievement of elementary, magnet & HS IB only
18	Magnet Program
19	Diversity of students
20	Sense of Community
21	Community
22	Our high school and the quality of our TEACHERS
23	I am not proud of Marietta City Schools.
24	MCAA, M iddle years program, IB opportunities
25	The focus that is put on advanced academics
26	Being a system of Choice. More specifically, MCAA.
27	Tradition and community support
28	MHS is the best. MMS needs more improvement.
29	Proud of our leadership in the City Schools!
30	The teachers are excellent, the admin is not.
31	A multi cultural arena
32	MCAA and the continued magnet program
33	Marietta Center for Advanced Academics
34	marietta tradition and pride - 1st choice

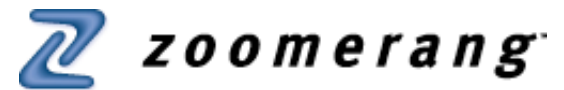
35	I am proud if the diversity of our school system,
36	MAGNET PROGRAM
37	the Marietta City community
38	IB Program
39	Long history of schools and legacy students
40	West Side's warm, small atmosphere
41	IB Diploma Program

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Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



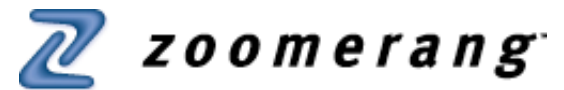
Date: 9/15/2009 8:31 AM PST
Responses: Completes
Filter: No filter applied

5. If you feel your choice was not represented for the question above, please list here.

#	Response
1	Note: I wanted Lack of parental involvement as #2
2	Lack of personal responsibility for their success
3	Students need educated beyond an associate degree
4	The financial ability to go to college
5	i love math
6	Dropout Rates
7	No personal time- so much homework!
8	schools that "track" students too soon
9	Divorce
10	Behavioral distractions within the classrooms
11	Racialism
12	Lower standards in education/extrinsic motivativat
13	Not everyone needs to go to college!!!!
14	need magnet program in high school
15	Some students just don't care about their grades.
16	Technology/social networks on social development
17	"Dumbing-down" the grading policies to pass more
18	Teachers who are not able to integrate technology
19	behavior of some students interfering with learnin
20	too much focus on internet
21	Too many demands on their time
22	GANG ISSUES
23	Maintaining Faith in God.
24	The effect of Facebook on social networks (24/7)
25	negative pressure from teachers/administrator staff
26	elementary kids being over-scheduled / overworked

Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:32 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

6. As a community, what do we want our public schools/school district to provide for our students? What would success look like for our schools? (Please choose up to five items from the list below.)

#	Response
1	Excellent arts programs - drama, music, visual
2	A band program that could compete with the county
3	Discipline at school
4	Schools with waiting lists
5	smaller classes, back to the basics
6	An auditorium in the High school!
7	later school starting time. 8:30
8	Better arts program
9	more funding for the fine arts
10	Time for themselves to relax
11	State-of-the-art career and tech labs & programs
12	Magnet Program continued through High School
13	Meet all students where they are and work from there!
14	Top heavy - get rid of C O administrators
15	More emphasis on the arts
16	Balanced funding for the fine arts and athletics
17	More rigorous sex education throughout high school
18	A high-trust environment for all stakeholders
19	vocational programs that get you ready for a trade
20	Counseling services other than academic at secondary
21	one-on-one career and college admissions guidance
22	more emphasis on study skills
23	No Excuses for not succeeding
24	Equal opportunity for every student no matter who
25	Teachers that care about the students
26	Please allow God/ the Bible back into the schools
27	Security guard at the school doors for sign in
28	Less spin from the top (Howard St)
29	Teachers in Marietta are all highly qualified!
30	help build self esteem/confidence
31	high expectations from teachers
32	all schools teaching teaching all students
33	I prefer the term a safe and motivated environment

34	Fully \$ supported extra-curricular activities.
35	efficiency - make time count & have shorter day
36	Skill sets to be prepared for college
37	Helping the "average" child exceed standards

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Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



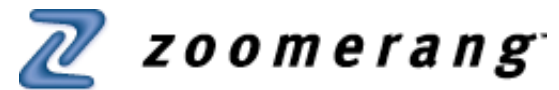
Date: 9/15/2009 8:32 AM PST
Responses: Completes
Filter: No filter applied

8. If you feel your choice was not represented for the question above, please list here.

#	Response
1	Demanding open and clear communication is HUGE
2	
3	#2 Parents opting for private or homeschool
4	choice school system is tearing apart community
5	Managing our funds in a reduced-fund environment
6	Teachers being overworked and underappreciated
7	System of choice? What choices?
8	funds
9	Number one - transient population/demographics
10	Poor leadership from the Superintendent and BOE
11	Providing accurate assessment of student knowledge
12	getting the private schoolers back in the schools
13	School Board is clueless to needs of the students
14	Parental involvement
15	Marietta being on par with Cobb County Schools
16	Lower class sizes in the upper grades.
17	closing the achievement gap of minority students
18	schoolsreceivingsamefunds/notbasedonboardlfavorite
19	consistency of programs from 6th grade to mms
20	Too many politics/camps; low trust from Howard st.
21	accepting all minorities
22	Increasing achievement of the middle achieving kid
23	Meeting the academic needs of every student

Community Survey for Marietta City

Results Overview



Date: 9/15/2009 8:33 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

9. Any additional comments?

#	Response
1	I think it is important to get people in the community to trust that MCS is a great place for children to learn and grow.
2	The magnet programs have been the saving grace for this system - they need to be nourished! The "other end of the spectrum" will continue to be a challenge. The problem is that the problems shift as fast as the solutions. We need to keep this in mind as we continue to combat these issues, always different, on an ongoing basis.
3	I find it self serving to not provide more response space particularly to number 7 above. The end of the 2010 school year is going to be a huge challenge as morale is at an all time low in schools due to Central Office actions and poor stewardship.
4	The biggest challenge you face is something you may not have control over, namely attempting to provide the basics that should come from the family. For example breakfast and a mother and a father that provide a safe homelife for their children. YOu cannot make people do the right thing and tax dollars should not be used to offset those who do not have the proper priorities. For example subsidized luncehes go largely to waste. Another important issue you face is attempting to be politically correct rather than doing what is the best for the common good. Finally, with all that this school system offers to its students especially those who are in need, there are no excuses for anyone not to graduate and be an important part of our community.
5	I would like to see the non magnet students at the middle school, go on field trips ans be given more equality. For the magnet students to have 4 field trips in a year and the other students have 0, is wrong.
6	I went to the forum yesterday at MMS, and I did not like the facilitation process. The facilitator that was in my group was changing the answers, not writing what the parents were telling her or just writing what she understood. I do not think the system will get a reliable information about what parents think from that forum, and people in other groups told me facilitators did the same thing. It was like they wanted to put a sugar coat on the answers. I even had to ask the facilitator to change one of the answers because she wrote something different than what I said.
7	We need an auditorium at the high school
8	The system should support the band programs by hiring an additional director for the 6th grade and the middle school; they should also hire an additional director for the chorus in both schools. The students should be grouped in band classes by ability - at the present time they are grouped like you would schedule students for P.E. and art. Until we take the band program seriously we will be behind the other schools in the community. The high school cannot compete with the other schools unless the students are trained properly in the middle schools - and that cannot be done at the present time due to the scheduling and the number of students vs the teacher. There are too many students in the program for just one person to teach - a part-time assistant for both schools (in both band and chorus) would benefit all involved.
9	MCS has served our family well. Let's continue to do so!
10	I was dumbfounded on 8/6 when I went to the H.S. to get my child's schedule. I was told by the front office and the head of the I.B. program that schedules were only given out between 9:00 & 11:00, I arrived at 11:30 and was told I would not be given my child's schedule, that she would have to wait until the first day of school. What a poor business model the school demonstrated to the parent of a student in the I.B. program. FYI this lack of customer service will not work in the business world.
11	I love our wonderful school system. My children attend West Side. My husband and I are very pleased with the academic and social environment. We are also fortunate to have a proactive school board and excellent superintendent.
12	I think the most important issue is small classes and focusing on the student instead of all the testing and paperwork and regulations.
13	What a fine job of avoiding any real input. The greatest problem facing MCS is the wasteful spending of funds on inane and often lacking programs that are nothing less than marketing ploys. MYP is simply a joke. The GPS does the same thing but is far less appealing. Yes, the GPS calls for the same conceptual teaching that MYP calls for with its over the top Areas of Interaction. Meanwhile we spend many thousands for emblems on our letterhead and mastheads on our websites when we have teachers who have never been trained on the program. Yes, several of the middle school magnet teachers have not, nor are they scheduled for any IB recommended MYP

	training. When will someone wake up and see this for the travesty it really is? Precious resources are being wasted so we can have the IB and MYP stickers on things and SAY we are a certified school. We haven't trained everyone. We haven't followed up on the training that was given, and the training that was given was half of that recommended by IB.
14	I feel as if the programs in the school do not get equal attention. Baseball has a new amazing complex, and yet the Band Department, The Chorus Department, and the Drama Department has no auditorium. That would be like asking the soccer team to play on a track, or the football team to just find anywhere they can fit. I am involved in both Drama and Band and I can say the we need an auditorium! The only place the band can fit for a concert is in the gym. A completley unsuitable envirement for this type of proformance. The Drama Department has a limted number of seating causing us to have to cut costs in pplaces like props and costumes. In order for any program to survive, you must have a venue. As of right now, we have none. I have nothing against any other program and completly enjoy all school events, but i do feel as if some people have gotten the short end of the stick.
15	I love the school it's just that I wish i was just a little bit more challenged in some of my classes and others are a little too challenging.
16	I love Marietta and I take pride in the Marietta tradition especially within the athletic department, but I have lots of things I would suggest to be changed. I'm a cheerleader by the way so I'm not just some random kid I care for the school. I'm also in chorus and the arts at Marietta are somewhat looked down upon, but I think it's an essential part of learning.
17	I think it's great that this survey has been opened up for us to take. Please take full consideration of each one. It's important to see what everyone wants too see happen.
18	I remember as a Freshman i was astounded by something. I was informed that if a student attacked me, i would not have the right to fight back, but rather receive whatever unjust punishment. I believe that the school policy for fighting should be revised in such a way that self-defense is acceptable.if the foe is in submission, then one will simply stop their ability to fight back. and the punishment for the one who initiated the engagement will be taken care of by an administrator on an individual basis based on number of confrontations, severity, and whether or not a weapon was used or available during the fight.
19	The arts do not receive enough funding. It is the basis of our culture, and if you deprive Marietta children of the arts, then you are depriving them of the fundamental basis of our culture as a whole.
20	Students always have so much homework, there's no time for themselves. If they had more time to relax their minds, they might do better and pay more attention in class. There should be a homework limit.
21	Please DO NOT switch to Year round school. Please do more to help retain minority students. Please do more to integrate IB and other students. The former tend to thing the latter are a different species.
22	I would like to see more AP courses offered at the high school. There should also be joint program with the local technical schools to provide training at the junior and senior levels for students not college bound. Importance should be placed on middle school girl coaching so that all athletes feel that they matter.
23	I like the smaller size of the Marietta City School System vs. a mega district such as Cobb County. I went to a very large high school in Missouri and did not enjoy it nor benefit from it.
24	Thank you for this survey. MCS is doing a great job!
25	Highly qualified & professional teachers are necessary for student achievement & safety. When a teacher isn't able to perform their duties or when a teacher conducts their class in such a way that it isn't safe for the students; I have high hopes that the district pays attention to that & closely supervises the situation.
26	We pulled our child from private to attend the wonderful magnet program Mcs offered, only to be dissagppointed that they are trying to diminish this program and push everyone towards Ib. My child would like to eventually pursue a bio med science degree. Our hight school does not offer the curriculum to lead her in this direction. This is dissappointing to know we may need to look to cobb county schools when we are perfectly satisfied with in MCS
27	The students and parents are paying a dear price to live in this communties.There are dues for everything now.How could you all help with this issue? Many parents are being forced into buying expensive technology,plus internet,i-pod and all of the extras. What do you do when a student don't have these things? What happens when a student that lives on the south ,east or the north side of town and missed their bus?
28	I feel like surveys like this are all falsh and no substance; the vast majority of responses are ignored in favor of the few tha support the district's agenda.
29	MYP may be a feather in your cap. It may look good on paper, but it is unfair to our student population. In Europe, the IB schools don't deal with the clientel we have. The students should be offered other alternatives in education where they can achieve. Not everyone can be MYP. Get real! Some of these students need to be prepared for the working world. We are not being fair to them or the taxpayers. They will be the next generation of welfare recipients. We need to train them to do jobs and in technology - not prepare them for college because

	they will not make it to college and if they do they will not remain there.
30	I REALLY APPRECIATE STARTING MAGNET PROGRAM I really want this program in high school also. This is me and my all friends opinion at mcaa. Otherwise we are planning to go to Cobb County Magnet Program or we are also allowed to go to those schools by paying tuition as mcaa is doing for them.
31	I think if we want to go far and exceed in all areas-- then we need the funds to be spread around! I love the football team (i work for them!), but come on! We give them tons of cash! This leads so areas cut short!! The ARTS PEOPLE! Some students aren't athletically talented (myself included), and go towards arts. We need to help them out. Money for the drama program who works SO HARD to get a great show, but with little funds, don't have the cash to buy an outstanding script or props nor have an auditorium to get more people in and earn more money rather than just getting by. The band program, i know tons of my friends who's instruments are being held together by duct tape and rubber bands. And they practice so much and for so long on hot summer days to be able to do a good half time show for the games. And if we want them to start sounding better, we need to help them reach it, and YES the includes some \$\$\$!! And as for the art classes, they hardly have enough supplies for all of the students they have, that the teachers have to pay out of pocket for a little bit more art supplies so that their class can learn a little bit more! We need to spread the love around, and get some cash flowing to these areas, and let our community know about our different areas, not just the athletic ones! MHS is a body of amazing students, but if parts of this body aren't helped soon.. well.. lets just say, the body isn't going to be doing so great. Please consider this-thank you for reading this too.
32	Please don't let the things that may seem small, like extracurricular activities and the fine arts, slip away. Academics are important, but the arts can really define a student's education as well.
33	Overall I believe MCS is a fine school system positioned very well for future challenges; however, less emphasis on extracurricular activities and more on academics should be considered.
34	Go Big Blue!
35	The Marietta City School system is great, but there could be more emphasis on arts and a little less on athletics at the high school level.
36	I LOVE MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS!!!
37	We let go highly qualified staff last year and we are now looking for more teachers. Why would someone choose to work for MCS when their contributions are not valued. What is valued is building/system seniority. There may come a day when we cannot hire the highly qualified new teachers who are tech savvy because they would not feel secure in this system.
38	I believe that advanced students are at somewhat of a disadvantage. If you choose not to go full IB then you get stuck in college preparatory classes, and many students that are used to the rigorous schedule of IB get bored and are held back in college preparatory classes. There needs to be more advanced placement (AP) classes available. Also, I think there should be balanced funding between the fine arts programs and the athletics program. Both are important.
39	We need to support this wonderful school system, we have the ability to be the most outstanding city school system in the country. Hard work, positive attitude, determination, and a belief in the Marietta City Schools, this is what has to be the main focus in order to achieve.
40	This is the first survey I have ever seen that allows for open ended comments. However, I believe that any negative comments will be 'lost' if anyone from CO gets to the data first.
41	As you can see by my answers, I have seen and heard about grade inflation in our system to pass students. We need to raise the expectations in the classroom. Marietta has some of the best educators around, but they are given directives to accept late work (not days, but weeks late, no homework or no homework graded, and students are allowed to retest if they fail a test. If the student retakes and makes an A they get the A. What kind of message are we sending to the student who prepares and makes an A the first time out? I don't debate the need for a student to retest if they fail in hopes that they will learn the information, but their grade should not be as high as the student who does well the first time.
42	better communication: websites, newsletters are good, but not enough people are aware of student achievements, graduation rates, budget issues etc. I think the administration and the school board need to do a better job of repeatedly touting the positive things while acknowledging the challenges AND articulating the plan for addressing those challenges
43	It was hard to fill in the survey, because all of the items above are important. I want my children to be challenged, but within a safe environment. (That wasn't the case for my daughter in Middle School.) I want the teachers to be highly qualified, meaning not just that they have the appropriate degrees, but that they are excellent teachers. We particularly need to recruit better math teachers for 6th grade and middle school.
44	The MCS system is led by an innovative and forward thinking superintendent, her pace may at times create a gap between what is actualized and what is integrated fully. Keep the vision but walk to it so that it can be fully grasped and understood by all as they move toward it together.

45	we love marietta city school so far (k-2 at West Side). it was a hard choice on where to send our children and we are happy that we chose west side.
46	I think the MCS teachers are so worried and pressured by test scores that it is hard for them to just teach. I think the teachers are excellent and if they could just do their job (teach) test scores would rise. I am worried the only skill my kids will perfect is how to bubble a circle in correctly.
47	I feel that the gifted students are not getting all that they need. The MILE program, while wonderful, only meets once a week, and I find my daughter losing momentum when she is not in MILE. There is the option of sending her to MCAA next year (when she begins third grade), but that focuses on math and science, and her strengths are language and the arts. What I would love to see is a MILE class that meets more often than once a week, preferably one for each grade that the children attend full-time.
48	School board and CO not Representative of Community.
49	Its a mistake and was a HUGE mistake to let go of our teachers... Cobb was smart in giving pay cuts. My childs classroom has 7 more students then last year, and the teacher can barely provide feedback for all students anymore. Your district made the worst decision possible.
50	This is a unique, small system in a vastly diverse community. Cherish the differences. Cherish the high achievers and continue to augment gifted, accelerated and IB curriculum. The cure for cancer could come from this group. Continue to bring the lower achievers up to par. Don't follow the trend of teaching to the middle. That tact appears to be leaving many children behind. Everyone can do better. Everyone will benefit from excellence. And please, please, please . . .lose the goofy ghetto slogans. Ima doo dat? (What . . .learn how to talk?) Failure is not an option? (You're darn skippy, it's not.) Be someone? (Great idea. That's brilliant.) Really . . .it's an embarrassment to the whole community, regardless of race, regardless of socio-economic standing. Lastly, you might consider throwing out the safety questions. Safety . . .that's a given. It's the orange to the other apples you seek to prioritize.
51	The school system should place more focus on student as well as teacher accountability. Set the standards high and accept no excuses.
52	The choice programs need to be followed up in the middle and high school including; Performing Arts (there is no auditorium at the high school) and these students have no real track to continue in high school except through clubs, the STEM/magnet program doesn't continue in High School either. The community still is unaware of the success and richness of MCS, we need to find a way to get the word out without misrepresenting ourselves through "SPIN." We need to embrace and promote and foster our cultural diversity as a educational community and make it a strength not a weakness.
53	i feel that there is not enough money and funding put into the arts programs in marietta city schools (i.e. drama). it is one of the most underfunded programs, and i feel it should get more attention.
54	I think they should start having a peer person for all new incoming students to make them feel welcome, know their way around, have someone to have lunch with etc.
55	I wish there were more opportunities for the typical student or those that are struggling and less emphasis on the "gifted." While every student needs opportunities that interest and challenge them, it seems disproportionate in our school system.
56	Marietta is far worse than Cobb County Schools, and should try to achieve a standard as high as them, which would be impossible.
57	Would like to see Community Service projects in our schools
58	I would like to see a fine arts facility at the high school. We have a performing arts magnet at the elementary level, without a facility at the high school I think the investment at the elementary level is wasted. These students will leave Marietta in favor of Pebblebrook. Also, Marietta would then be able to host events like the Large Group Performance Evaluations, or be able to host band, dance or choral concerts in a venue that will showcase our talented students to the community.
59	equal opportunity for every student no matter who their parents are and no matter where they come from. Apply the law and advise parents on what is available for their child even when it's inconvenient. Treat every student as a gift and challenge them to go the extra mile. Teachers be more open minded and objective and give students opportunities they haven't had before. Stay away from negativities and the minor irrelevant things. Work together as a team rather than against each other.
60	There has been a lot of public negative comments about the students in the Magnet Program. I have been shocked at the lack of Administrative public support of the program (6 - 8). The Administration needs to go into in the both Magnet and IB classroom and let these children know that they are wanted and supported. More encouragement to have qualified IB students enter the Magnet Program would help to ease the situation.
	too much focus on test scores and not students. You have kids giving up because teachers give up especially at

61	high school level. Their teachers not educators and theirs a difference. an educators goes the extra mile to help every kid succeeded. A teacher just teaches. Its not the test scores or a more rigorous curriculum that's need but care and compassion for these kids. They don't learn like we did 10 or 20 years ago just open a book read it and figure it out and that's you all have teaching up there. No passion to education kids and they talk to those kids up their like their crap. Not all, but many! I was very shocked and disappointed.
62	Athletic programs could benefit from student friendly, highly qualified coaches/motivators in their respective sports, not just someone who likes the games.
63	There are lots of great substitute teachers, but they need pay increase.
64	Better coaches. We have coaches in volleyball and tennis that have never coached a team before. Both are very nice...but have never coached.That's a problem. Marietta has some outstading athletes but need some coaching to go with the talent. Please contact me if you need more info. MK_Nelson@msn.com
65	As our students are part of the IB program at MHS, we are very pleased with the challenge of this curriculum. However, we do not feel it is marketed as it could be in the community. We would love to hear about it in the community as we do the magnet programs at several Cobb County Schools. In our opinion, IB has magnet beat in all areas!!!
66	My family and I are very happy at West Side Elementary - Love the school choice program!
67	The amount of emphasis and money put on athletics rather than academics, and the complete lack of support for the arts is very frustrating.
68	In this poor economic environment, MHS and it's administration continue to reject the idea of leasing out the athletic facilities during times that they are not in use by the club/team. I just don't understand why there is such a resistance to utilize the facilities for a revenue source.
69	Each child deserves to be appropriately challenged. Taking advantage of intuitive technology may be useful to adapt lessons for each child -- advancing to the next level when a skill has been mastered or presenting material in several times in several ways to aid learning when difficulty in an area is identified. Expecting children to "keep up" or continue with material they know is not conducive to raising eager learners.
70	I think school board should be composed of people of all zones not four members having ties with one particular school.
71	We are proud of the Marietta City School System.
72	I feel that MCS is an excellent system, not perfect, but very progressive. I teach here mainly because I want my children to attend this system. I think we are always looking for ways to improve.
73	once the tools are in place such as what Mr. Hibbs has put in place at the 6th grade...do not undo in the 7th and even more so this year at the 8th grade level...this not only pertains to the magnet team but to the whole infrastructure of the school. If teams work at the 6th grade why change from a winning concept?
74	I believe that the schools would benefit so much more from increased parental involvement and finding someway to help/involve the parents in the life of the school as well as their childrens education.
75	Continuation of a program like MCAA to middle school and high school.It would be great if MCAA got expanded to middleschool and high school--add on one grade every year.
76	It would be excellent if MCAA model is taken to Middle and high school. I am thinking like 6, 7, 8 th grade MCAA kind of building and similarly for High school in the same model as MCAa.
77	Continuation of a program like MCAA Magnet program to middle school and high school.It would be great if MCAA got expanded to middleschool and high school--add on one grade every year.
78	All schools should have security cameras present at the entrance & exit doors. There should be a security guard at the front entrance signing people in and out of the schools also proper state id should be presented when entering the school.. THIS is how you protect our children from outside intruders. I have walk in Dunlieth at least 3 x befor learning that i had to sign myself in and get a vistors pass. WAKE UP people we are not safe please take precaution my 5 year old son attends this school .. I pay 65% taxes even when i was not a parent which goes towards education please protect him while he is there or there will be a big problem if something happens to him during school hours.
79	We have incredible human resources in the schools that are underutilized because of pressure from Howard Street to walk the party line. Not everyone who quits turns in a resignation; some quit and stay. We need new leadership from the top.
80	Good improvement and changes over the past few years. Need to continue what is successful and improve challenged areas to move forward.
81	dumb the new math I II III IV. it is not productive and no one seems to understand it. not even the teachers. student are having to spend sooo much time on math that other subjects or suffering.

82	I truly applaud the IB program and its continued success. I would like to see greater use of technology integrated all areas of Marietta city schools. Additionally, an expanded fundamental focus on the impact as well as preparation to deal with globalization(i.e. greater integrated daily opportunities for foreign interaction for study, arts, culture, and business.)
83	Marietta High School must build a Fine Arts Auditorium!!
84	<p>I feel our public school should focus on the "average" kids, not focus on the over-achievers. The IB program is nice, but I feel the "tail wags the dog" at Marietta. As a public school system, we should try to help those who would other wise fall thru the cracks; such as the kids who don't have help from home, kids who don't have positive role models, ADHD kids, etc. To help those kids, helps our community.</p> <p>I have always hated the block scheduling at the high school-why the heck do we subject our kids to it?? The highest achieving Cobb schools have traditional scheduling, that is not by accident. My son was an ADHD student, as are many other students, and the block scheduling was awful for him. Most teachers shut down 1/2 way thru the class period and resort to low quality teaching methods. And what the heck happened to study hall?? We all grew up with it and received a pretty darn good education. I feel that 9th & 10th graders are way over booked with classes, and then they coast thru their 11th & 12th grade years. Unfortunately, the damage has been done to their GPAs in the first 2 years of high school. and they find it difficult to recover in the last 2 years. I keep answering these surveys hoping that the issues I mentioned here will be addressed, but it's always the same crazy general questions that are asked. Crazy questions with predictable answers. Ask your graduates what's wrong with MHS.....they'll tell you quite honestly.</p>
85	Been a parent in MCS for 6 years now. I have been very pleased with the academics. It seems our MCS staff, Board and Superintendent work well together.
86	As a parent, the only way a child can receive a college credit is if they are in an IB program or AP class which I feel is not right. A student does not learn on the same level nor does every student excel in every subject. Different classes should rank differently according to the subject area such as engineering classes!!! or the classes that prepare students to become teachers!!!
87	School Board is doing a great job!
88	Athletics and other activites should be assessed and funded or stopped. Now, we are putting ourselves out there as having programs that the system does not support financially and parents (some - 80/20 rule) are asked to foot the bill for uniforms, equipment and referees. That is rediculous. IB also needs to be assessed as to whether it is financially, morally and philisophically the right thing for our system. Also, as the originaly magnet class continues to progress through the system it is going to be a huge challenge to appease the parents with a separate eductional experience. MSGA and MMS have serious discipline problems. MHS, is not too far behind them. Get tough and you will reap the rewards. Middle learners suffer most from the unruly classes. Athletics is an important learning event in kids lives. MCS should be increasing our funding for this, not decreasing it. Private schools require athletics because they know the value it has for kids. Also, the band is really looking sad. You need to make it easier for kids to play. MSGA puts most kids out of the band due to choices they have to make. Look and you will see. Your school covering boards are a joke as they are filled with school cronies who are not going to give you a diverse opinion. Why have them at all? I don't see our schools as unsafe. But, I do see them as disorderly. I also HATE what has happened to the campuses with the one door in/out thought process. Why can't we stage teachers at class change times to monitor the outside doors and allow kids to use the grounds/sidewalks to change classes - MMS and MHS specifically...
89	The younger kids K-5 need more down time - I think our homework issues are being addressed this year - but last year it was ridiculous. Kids are at school 7 hours a day - the rest of the day should be family/fun time. I am hopeful that this year will be much better. We are West Siders and ADORE our school! Go Stingers!
90	Spend our tax dollars for the right return!
91	The fact and principle of raising school going pupils to becoming responsible as future leaders remains the same, inspite the rapid changes in technology. Let's research and activate them for the betterment of our state. Thanks for this opportunity.
92	<p>I would like to see MCS devote time and resources to the "average" child. How can you help the child who "meets" the standard everytime to "exceed" the next time? We offer many programs to help the remedial student and plenty of rigor for the highest performers. Let's offer decent classroom environments conducive to learning for the AVERAGE child.</p> <p>On a more specific note, MSGA should make student schedules available at Open House just like every other school in the system. For some reason they have not been able to make that happen for at least the past 7 years. The majority of the students going to MSGA come from within the systems' elementaries. They have an entire summer to work out schedules. There is no reason to make every single student wait until the first day of school because of those few that register late in the summer. Speaking as a parent who has had 2 children pass through MSGA and another on the way, it would make a world of difference to have those schedules before the first day of school.</p>

	<p>Lastly, extra curriculums are extremely important. I would like to see the system as a whole devote more resources to our athletic programs, band, drama, student government, clubs, etc....They enhance a student's ability to learn. We can start with better feeder programs coming up from the elementary and middle school levels to motivate kids. Take the time to hire the right coaches and facilitators (don't just get a warm body to fill a slot.) Coaches can be instrumental in a child's educational journey. We need good role models who care about the whole child. It WILL make a difference in classroom performance. Thank you for your time.</p>
93	<p>I do suggest more teacher/parent involvement. I encourage the staff to reach out to parents prior to progress reports and report cards, and a follow up prior to the conference weeks.</p>
94	<p>I would like to see the Magnet Program extended into highschool under the Project Lead the Way Program not diluted under STEM</p>