

Wichita Public Schools – Common Themes from Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings were held Tuesday, January 17; Wednesday, January 18 and Thursday, January 19, 2023. Close to 500 people joined the listening sessions and provided input, as well as more than 400 who submitted feedback online.

Groups met with include:

Teachers (past Distinguished Classroom Teacher honorees)
New Teachers
Teachers and Paras (2 groups)
Retirees (2 sessions)
District leadership team
College connections
Central office employees (2 sessions)
Wichita Asian Association
NAACP, Council of Black Elders, Black Chamber, Ministerial League
WPS principals and assistant principals
Negotiating organizations (UTW, SEIU)
American Indian Council of Wichita
Targeted district partners
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation, HALO Hispanic Chamber, Empower
District site council, ESSER advisory committees
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and Business Education Alliance
Parent sessions at Showcase

From those groups, the following most commonly referenced themes were received for each of the following questions:

1. What do you consider as the significant strengths of the school district?

- Diversity (mentioned by every single group)
- The number of class and school options
- Teacher/staff dedication
- Professional learning opportunities
- Strong local support

2. What do you feel are the positives of the community/communities that need to be shared with candidates as they consider becoming your next Superintendent?

- Diversity
- Little big town
- Vibrant culture (arts, entertainment, parks, festivals, zoo)
- Sports (hockey, baseball, etc.)

- Business involvement/entrepreneurs
- Many secondary education options

3. What are your two or three top leadership qualities and management styles you would like to see in the new Superintendent?

- Visible, accessible
- Forward thinker
- Classroom experience
- Listener to all points of view
- Transparent
- Communicator
- Foundation of integrity/relationships/partnerships

4. What are the two or three most critical issues the new Superintendent will face in this position?

- Student behavior
- Funding after ESSER funds run out
- Social emotional learning/mental health of all
- Recruiting and retaining talent; additionally staff needs to reflect diversity
- Boundary issues to alleviate overcrowding
- Funding with state

5. Is there any other information you would like to share concerning the community, school or Superintendent position that would impact the search process?

- No traffic, easy to get around
- Many secondary education options
- Low cost of living
- Cultural history
- Urban ed experience