

# LISTENING SESSION RESULTS



BRAINERD WESB/ECSE/ECFE  
COMMUNITY

MAY 9, 2017



# Listening Session with the Community

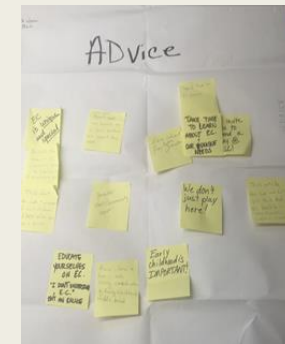
## Example Questions...

What great things are happening in the Brainerd Schools?

What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd Schools?

What can the business community do for the school district?

What advice would you give to the decision makers?



What would you like the Headlines to be of the newspaper 10 years from now about the Brainerd Schools?

What are our biggest facility needs?

How can we improve facilities and enhance education?

# *Outline of Needs*

*-Questions and Results-*



# What great things are happening in the Brainerd schools?

- Great teachers
- Focusing on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Blue ribbon elementary schools
- Hometown feel
- Dedicated staff and employees
- Community involvement
- Pride in school
- Great people to care for your children – teachers, assistants, support staff
- 4 A's focus
- They are expanding busing and bicycle program
- Opportunities for all students – from the arts, clubs & instruction
- Keeping up with technology



# What great things are happening in the Brainerd schools?

- Opportunities
- Great staff
- Finally starting to talk about building improvement



# What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools? (#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Classroom space (2)
- Funding (2)
- Age of buildings (2)
- Large geographic area of District (2)
- So much needs to be done – all at once
- High percentage of low income households
- Elementary schools are crowded
- Transportation for early childhood
- Can't expand early childhood due to space
- Parking at certain schools
- Keeping up with technology needs
- Auditorium spaces
- Lack of space – EVERYWHERE



# What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools?

- Performing arts area needed
- Can't expand service options for families due to lack of space
- No transportation for early childhood program
- Information technology could be expanded including class and staff
- Kids in poverty
- Disjointed high school layout
- Lack of accessibility
- Repairs deferred
- Not enough energy efficiency
- Need more teaching staff to help out class sizes
- Community support
- 36 students in one classroom (small classrooms!)





# What are our biggest challenges facing the Brainerd schools?

- South campus is looking worn out
- Upgrades to north campus needed
- Lack of parking for events



# What are the biggest facility needs at WESB?

(#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Improved security/secure entrances (6)
- Handicap accessibility (5)
- Improve bathrooms for early childhood (3)
- Safety of our children – outside and inside – play areas, air quality (3)
- Larger playground area (2)
- Parking (2)
- More space for early childhood to expand (2)
- Better pick up and drop off for students' safety
- Gym
- Better central gathering area
- Do not use basement
- Bathrooms to meet all needs
- Improve classroom sizes



# What are the biggest facility needs at WESB?

- Updated and improved facilities for many uses
- Provide opportunities and places for community outreach
- Improve sound system in auditorium
- Fix cracks and holes
- Improve electricity – outlets
- Refresh – many say the WESB is “gloomy”
- Connect the basement
- Places to support families/family outreach



# What are the biggest facility needs for the District?

(#) = Quantity of Similar Type Responses

- Space for early childhood to expand (2)
- Rebuild/update aging facilities - begin with the oldest building and work toward the newer (2)
- Move AE out of ECFE building and combine use of space – we do AE somewhere else like WESB?
- Safe routes to schools for walkers/bikers
- Reduce staff/administration use of paper
- Better playground and outdoor exploration for early childhood
- More classrooms
- More early childhood classrooms
- Composting
- One or two central locations for all early childhood programs – cohesiveness
- Early childhood center or centers for Brainerd Public Schools



# What are the biggest facility needs for the District?

- Improve energy efficiency
- More handicap accessibility
- More bike racks – i.e. @ baseball field
- Parking
- Building security
- Child friendly spaces/bathrooms with changing stations
- Environmentally friendly use of materials to keep spaces healthy for those using them
- Build more spaces for students and families
- Safety district-wide for students
- Smaller class sizes in the future
- Most buildings need improved parking and pick-up for parents



# What are the biggest facility needs for the District?

- Facelift for high school
- Try to stay centrally located
- Appropriate size classroom
- ECFE only building
- Need one centralized high school
- Need enough custodial help to keep up buildings



# What would you like the headlines to be of the newspaper 10 years from now about the Brainerd schools?

- More Blue Ribbon Schools In Brainerd
- ISD 181 Best District In The State!
- ISD 181 Reaches 80% Capture Rate For Early Childhood
- Schools Converted To Reuse Buildings That Add Energy Efficiency And Care For Our Environment
- Brainerd School District Is Enjoying Improvements Of The Last 10 Years
- Campbell Finally Resigns
- School Meeting Educational Needs Like No Other!
- Exemplary School District Continues To Be The Star In Brainerd
- School 9 Years After Built
- Brainerd Schools – Excellence In Education – Innovation And Success For All



# What would you like the headlines to be of the newspaper 10 years from now about the Brainerd schools?

- ISD 181 Caring For Families And Our Education In New Big Ways!
- Students Top In Achievement
- Community Growing Due To ISD 181 Improvements
- Brainerd Schools Welcomes New Students Into Refreshed Building Environments





# What advice would you give to the decision makers?

- Make plans for some extra growth – create classrooms that are larger and that allow for student movement/projects
- Be careful of historic buildings – continue reusing those that make sense – rethink spaces and add new where feasible
- Make new facilities centrally located
- Educate community on levy vs. bond requests
- Listen to staff
- What would you want for your child or grandchild?
- Try to reduce clutter in buildings
- Engage families starting at birth on
- Think about the needs and barriers of all families
- Listen to staff and families
- Use lots of staff input



# What advice would you give to the decision makers?

- Flexible space so it can adapt over time
- Ask the kids what they would like
- Where or how can we be more financially efficient within the District?
- Provide to meet needs of all students including early childhood
- Understand the value of special education at all levels and understand that early childhood is growing!!!
- Go into the buildings more than once – experience the programs and classes
- Build big enough so we don't have to worry about space

