

NOTES

Vision Plan for Public Education in Alamance County
Stakeholder Group Meeting
ABSS Professional Library
December 19, 2012
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All on the Wall -- Question 1 -- “Why educate the next generation?”

Critical Thinking: “Analytical, flexible and sustainable education leads to knowledge which results in power and prosperity.”

- Education leads to knowledge and knowledge is power to all development and growth of all creatures; Knowledge = Power
- We should educate the next generation in order to continue improvement of leadership and life skills through the development of creative thinking and inclusive being
- Overall improvement of life skills
- Increase adaptability to academic and social development
- Critical Thinking
- We have to educate the next generation because these are the people who are going to be determining our fates late in life. We want to arm them with the ability to think beyond the immediate consequences of their decisions and analyze the “Big Picture.” Creating a sustainable and effective educational system is the only way to have a sustainable and successful future – for this generation’s children and for the generation of adults who will be reliant on their decisions.

Individual Success: “Education is the foundation for individual success. Education provides the opportunity for each individual to reach their full potential.”

- Education is the foundation to the individual’s future – their life and possible success
- Opportunity to reach full potential; dreams
- Education helps us grow to realize our full selves and is what is needed to make our dreams a reality
- Individual Success
- Individual Financial Independence
- Help ground them in their future – college, community college, self employment to help them become active community members and the ability to be independent and financially stable parents always want the best for their children
- Want the best for our children
- We must teach the next generation personal growth and development helps one to realize that we can and we must create impact beyond ourselves and our personal lives
- Those who come before us made sacrifices and thought with the future in mind

- The world is constantly changing and advancing – As time goes on including education
- Education is the easiest way to change the world
- Education is the building blocks for our kids to be functioning adults

Quality of Life: “Individuals – personal growth/development” “Society – peace, prosperity, liberty, equality, mobility, opportunity”

- To continue to build a society that has a high quality of life, which includes the following elements: Peace, Tranquility, Prosperity, Liberty, Equality
- Key words: High Quality of Life

Leaders: “We should educate the next generation in order to prepare good citizens and tomorrow’s leaders.”

- Prepare good citizens
- Prepare Leaders
- Future Leaders

Equal Access: “Because they will be leading our local, national and state in the future; because we were given the opportunity and it is a right; because our economy, survival depends on it.”

- Equality of Access

Economic Community Success: “To promote a cohesive community for economic and personal success”

- Education of the individual helps develop a positive and productive community
- So that the citizens of Alamance County will continue to be educated and employable; having our citizens educated will help our county be competitive and will allow more industries to want to relocate and grow here.
- They will become the leaders in the community and we need strong leadership in Alamance County to move forward and be progressive if we want to be competitive.
- Alamance County students are truly at a disadvantage compared to neighboring counties. We are lacking in math, science and the arts. As we are now, even if we started today, it would take years for our system to progress to, for example, Chapel Hill School System Standards. Clearly Alamance County is in the dark ages. We have continued to elected/employee individuals who clearly feel our tax rate is sufficient to just keep us at standard. This standard is now less than acceptable. If we do not INVEST and sacrifice for education now, this vicious cycle will continue for our grandchildren. Our children will struggle in college and beyond. In the future bachelor’s degrees will be minimally acceptable. Trades are lost. What does our system do to encourage kids who do not go to college? It’s time to take serious responsibility for all students at every level.

- This is paramount to the health of the community; health of community is economic, safety, wholesomeness, individual health, ...; an educated community sets the tone of the community; provides opportunity to grow beyond.
- We should give up or America will fail; to not fall behind; to compete for jobs, internationally
- To enhance our society; to produce competent, global thinking, bilingual adults that will be able to compete and “catch up” with the rest of the world that is getting smaller and smaller
- Strong Individual, strong community
- Accountable to society; responsible

Future: “To prepare themselves to successfully face the challenges of the future”

- To pass on our culture and heritage to future generations, and prepare them to be productive members of our society
- Sustain educated workforce; take intellectual knowledge to higher levels; Learn from historical research to acquire factual knowledge
- Build and sustain for the future
- Educating our generation would brighten dreams for the world
- Opportunity for next generation
- To sustain our existence
- Preparing minds for the challenges of the future

Sustaining a Democratic Society: “A democratic society requires an informed citizenship that can fully participate in decision making and public discourse while promoting liberty, equality, prosperity and community”

- Success of Society
- Learn from History
- Sustainability of our community, state, nation, world: Informed Citizenship
- A democratic society requires an informed citizenship who can fully participate in decision making and public discourse
- Themes of sustaining a free, democratic republic
 - To create a sustainable republic (community)
 - To create citizens which have the framework to understand how a republic that promotes liberty, equality, prosperity and community

All on the Wall -- Question 2 -- “Why invest in public education?”

Workforce Investment: “To create a dynamic, creative and diverse workforce by developing critical thinking and leadership skills which can quickly adapt to our ever changing work environment and improves the quality of life in our community.”

Reaching Potential for the Future: “Investment in quality public education will prepare the next generation to successfully face the challenges of the future.”

- By investing money in our public education system, we can provide better teachers and equipment for our students. These improvements will help the students learn so they can go to college and get a good job, helping both their futures and our economy
- Investing in public education is an investment in our children and the future of our cities, counties, states and America! The most important investment is non-financial through the quality influences by our families, churches, and their surrounding neighborhood communities on each child’s development...The second type of investment is monetary in order to purchase school resources (classroom space, textbooks, equipment, technology, teaching supplies, supporting logistics) and most importantly, the best teaching talent money can buy in a highly competitive market....an average of 28% of registered voters have children enrolled in public schools...the majority of almost any electorate will most likely be opposed to any increase in taxes to educate “other people’s” children...In summary, if a community cannot control or trust every family to send “teachable children” to our public schools, the best investment by elected officials is to financially provide substantive teaching salary supplements and increased benefits to attract and retain the best talent possible to remain competitive with school systems of surrounding counties/cities....
- Education is the key to our success; we have to educate our children for the better of our future
- Future of children and community
- We should invest in public education because it affects the future of the United States. This also affects the well-being of America today.
- Our future depends on it
- The future of America is in our public schools
- To provide adequate resources to educate students for future success
- It is the most important investment we can make to ensure the success and prosperity of future generations
- The children are our future. Public schools are to be the place all children should feel safe and be able to learn the skills to be productive citizens.
- Without people and adequate resources including qualified and adequately paid teachers we can’t educate students properly and be competitive on a local, state, national and global level.
- Because it is our future – future leaders, future doctors, future lawyers, etc.
- You must invest in public education. There’s the practical, necessary education of our children; there’s the responsibility of shaping our own future.

Return on Investment: “To improve the quality of life for all people by providing skills for individual financial independence that improves economic growth and global competitiveness”

- This is an opportunity to “pay forward” the investments that others have made in our lives. With resources stretched to the breaking point, we need to unselfishly step forward to offer not only assistance, but direction. “To pay forward” what others have invested in our lives
- To stay competitive and prepare for the future
- Because private education would end up being more costly with no guarantee that it would be better
- We should invest in public education to not only provide good education (quality teachers, resources...) for students, but to provide jobs for people. This would be another way to help boost the economy.
- To be a viable nation, state, local economy; stay globally competitive
- Education is a foundation for an individual to succeed. Investing in public education now gives us a good return later (the return being the student giving back to the community)
- A good education is the apprenticeship for life. A child well educated will be more likely to succeed in life and be a blessing to others. A child who receives a failing education is more likely to end up struggling in life and end up in a sad way. We wisely invest in public education because that it the education choice of the vast majority of parents in our country and state. Local public schools, locally controlled provide the opportunity for a child to receive a careful, purposeful education and become a means of blessing to their family and community.
- To prepare the most young people to find success as adults and improve lives and our community
- Our investment in public education provides better returns than does the stock market. The productivity of any society (and all sorts of other societal indicators...) can be directly tied to the education level of its citizens. The primary way our children learn to interact and become friends with those of other cultures and backgrounds is through their contracts with them at school, and this is especially true of the public schools.
- Safe environment
- We should invest in public education in order to enjoy a tremendous return on that investment, ultimately resulting in a high quality of life for our society
- Everyone has a stake in education; all people, in all places at all times – it is critical that the public invest in empowering, engaging, and educating students because society depends on it.

Equal Opportunity: “To ensure that every child, regardless of circumstances, has the opportunity to realize their full potential.”

- To ensure that a diverse population has high quality educational opportunity
- Children are our future. They are the leaders of tomorrow. The families of today are not as stable as they used to be thus leaving the schools to “do it all.” Teachers work very hard but with the vast array of needs in a classroom they cannot possibly meet them all. They need help and support. We, as responsible adults, should do everything we can to help the teachers educate the children and help to give them hope for the future. Education is hope.
- To keep a found learning environment; to provide more accessible classes/courses; to better student learning
- To assure all children have the opportunity to learn in a positive and safe environment
- Investing in public education is important because not all children are afforded the opportunity to have a private education. Public education allows students to experience a variety of subjects, clubs, and life experiences. Teachers in public education value the importance of teaching each child regardless of gender, race, or economical situation.
- It provides better opportunity for our children and their futures: In retrospect, without an education it limits their scope of success in life. Public education is a wise investment for the mass of people versus the class of people.
- Every child should have a right to receive an education from a public institution, paid for by us, the public. To invest in that public institution insures that an education will be available to all legally authorized; that it will not cost students to receive it. Investing in that education is investing in the future of our country, our heritage. If we do not invest we are putting our children at a disadvantage. The public needs our educated children to insure we continue our advance forward.
- Good public education is essential for the individual’s future and for a healthy community
- It sets the foundation for the community now and the future; a healthy community has good public and private schools; Public is big word – all students should have same opportunities.
- It is important to invest in public education because 55.3 million students nationwide are enrolled in public schools. On the other hand, only around 6,000(?) students nationwide are enrolled in private schools; this, according to the U.S. Department of Education. If we are going to reach the majority of our young people and make the largest difference, the choice is clear.
- To make sure all children have a chance for a good education...public education gives all children an opportunity to thrive to achieve in all areas of education.
- Equality Opportunity regardless of circumstances
- To give everyone the opportunity to make it fair for everyone
- Reaches majority; make the biggest difference; well rounded group
- We complain about our leaders and the decisions they make. Our future leaders are our children. We should make sure that they have all the education and information they will need to be leaders that we are proud of and will lead our nation and communities.

- “Public” education means for all. Funds should represent all levels of taxpayers. But we need more practical and technical education so no one is left without a trade to feed themselves.

Good Citizens: “Invest to succeed”

- Good citizens improve community
- Social Skills
- Good Morales
- The kids in the school system will one day be citizens of this country
- To create a venue to impart positive societal values
- Without a strong educational system we will not be successful as a community
- To help mold responsible citizens and to ensure a strong and vibrant community for the future.
- It will help our community hopefully
- The public/community benefit from educated individuals through productive citizens. In order to obtain this benefit the public must invest capital in the education system.
- To build citizenry that supports the community with informed responsibility for its progress, prosperity, and exceptional quality of life.
- To provide adequate resources to ensure all children have the opportunity to learn critical skills and information to become productive and engaged members of our democratic society.
- Community leaders
- To build a citizenry with high morals and values that is knowledgeable and engaged in building a prosperous and high quality society.

Founding Principles: “We should invest in public education so that we can instill a common set of values that will bind the citizens of the republic together”

- Our students are the future – they are tomorrow’s leaders and citizens and we must prepare them as best we can!
- Public Education is the most efficient way to instill the citizenry into the principles on which the republic is founded and bind our nation together; instill principles on which republic is founded.
- To promote the development of responsible, educated, empowered citizens capable of contributing positively to society.

Issues Log

- Parental Involvement/Engagement
- Too Internet Dependent
- Financial Investment
- Drop-out Age
- Schools expected to raise children
- Gang Issue

What worked well/What could we improve

+ What worked well:

- + Challenge of coming together and summarizing all the answers and ideas to the questions
- + Good process for visual learners

△ What could we improve:

- △ Cohesiveness of large group somewhat scattered during the process/perhaps not so much herding of cats if developing statements ahead of time?
- △ Absenteeism causing some of the drift or lack of cohesiveness
- △ Attendance Issue needs to be dealt with; we should encourage folks to participate/honor their commitment to this process
- △ Be present!/No phones or sidebar conversations

Before the next meeting:

Review Website Links, Our work together so far

Next Meeting is: Wednesday, January 16, 2013; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tentative Agenda:

- Review Draft Themes from Questions 1 and 2
- “All on the Wall” with Question 3 – “What purposes should public schools serve?”