

**Summary of Main Points and Priorities by Focus Group for the Mechanicville City School District
Questions 1-8, plus Commonalities**

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Leadership Team</i>	<i>Board of Education</i>	<i>Community/ Business Leaders</i>	<i>Instructional Staff</i>	<i>Non Instructional</i>
<i>1) What do you value most or see as strengths about the Mechanicville City School District?</i>	Small size, friendly family environment, people helping each other, strong organizational structure, administration stability, geographic location, informal communication, strong technology program, community volunteerism, compact campus, faculty connect with students	Small school, small class sizes, athletics supported by community, long family history in district, great community partnerships, strong music program, student quality, close student relationships, positive student behavior, parent accessibility, faculty stability, graduates return as teachers, location, walking to school, housing growth, potential to work with other districts, access to local colleges	Caring of district & community, commitment, competent teaching staff, approachable board, school hub of community, district size, closeness with students & parents, run well	Experienced staff, caring for students & staff, involved parents, community support for staff, BOE informed & supportive, care for new staff, staff willing to try new programs, students first, strong math K-8 program, acceleration exists, grade 8 honors program	Students get a good education, strong staff, opportunity to give input, community rally to solve problems & support, size
<i>2. What do you see as areas in need of improvement for MCSD?</i>	Building & maintenance complex systems knowledge, long range facility planning, districtwide communication, K-12 curriculum coordination, grant writer, staff development, technology & facilities cohesive, transportation facility update, communications system & transportation, public relations, kitchen facilities	Build better relationships with city officials, strategic plan, improve technology, increase security & safety, program improvement, staff development, bus garage & facilities, create an education foundation, define job descriptions, develop multi-year facility plan, long range plan cycle	Athletic fields, technology courses limited, college credit courses, accessibility for pedestrians/ cyclists, fiscal accountability, improved communications, improved relationship with city government, too much administrative staffing	Relevant staff development – teacher driven, experienced curriculum coordinator, facilities - renovation, long range facilities plan, grounds - athletic facilities/ fields, space for growth – fields & buildings, pedestrian safety, attendance policy, drop out prevention, bullying program, increase electives, new scheduling, better use of staff talent, increase arts opportunities, school day remediation, value staff input, implementation of staff recommendations	Communication with parents, facilities (bathrooms), major roof project, more bus drivers, recognize staff accomplishments & contributions, respect & thanks, support staff when student misbehave & when parents act inappropriately

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<i>3. What are the major challenges facing the MCSD in the next 3-5 years?</i>	Student growth, socio economic differences, linking high tech with university, accommodating growth, widen tax base, balance needs & ability to pay, program attract high tech industry, introduction of new leaders	Planning for future growth, socio economic changes, new program scheduling, facilities scheduling, balance academic needs & cost, build trust in district, communicate with constituents, understanding board role, financial support for programs, communicating student needs in today's world, unfunded mandates, community newsletter, PR person	State aid not supporting small city school district, tax base shrinking, increased enrollment, improving education, bilingual, space & facilities	Implementing improvement costs, financial support – tax base, students needs, growth, taxpayers support for improvements, communication/ leadership	New development, growth of facilities, future programs, financial impact on students, traffic congestion, keeping students interested & attentive, life skills preparation
<i>4. What 1 thing should not change in MCSD?</i>	Personal education/ small town, small class size	Size of district	Size/ enrollment, quality of program, English as primary language	Size of community, concern for each child, teachers not micromanaged, open door administration policy, basic communication	Size, campus location
<i>5. What 1 thing should change in MCSD?</i>	Improve ways of broadening students' horizons, tax base, way to finance	Separate middle school building, academic emphasis, communicating student successes, receptivity to change, length & starting times, return to Moving Up Day, extend Character Counts program, extended day program options expansion	Open communication, reduce power of school board, allow leaders to lead, fiscal responsibility	More time for teachers to collaborate, communication between schools, districtwide department meetings, breakfast program hs/ ms, prioritize list with timetable, vision for things to be done	Facilities improvement – bathrooms, negative attitudes – morale, team work to improve productivity
<i>6. Recommendations to BOE & administration for MCSD future . . .</i>	Technology program plan, provide bio/ medicine, staff development – motivating staff, funds for staff development, shared superintendent conference day , alternative education program to decrease drop out rate			Training for board of education	Be better listeners, be truthful, pay attention to recommendations, understand board role, complete plans, be visible & available
<i>7. What changes does the MCSD need to make to better prepare its students for the future?</i>	Technology, more AP courses/ university in high school, more alternative education, teaching styles, professional development/ curriculum coordination	Technology, AP classes, college credit courses, more foreign languages, computer courses, math & science program expansion, curriculum coordinator, develop life skills for all graduates,	College courses, technology courses, nanotech more science & math, basic life skills, support all levels of needs	Technology, sequential curriculum, support system for students not meeting benchmarks, more college preparation courses, basic skills courses, raise standards –motivate students	Study skills program, college preparation

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		students take responsibility for self discipline, prepare students for work in diverse global society			
<i>8. What programs & activities in other districts would you like to bring to MCSD?</i>	School resource officer, Saturday Scholars, advisory program, alternative education program, breakfast program		College courses with credit – writing & math, mentoring – teachers responsible for 3-4 students	Phoenix – Saratoga Attendance – DA Anti-Bullying – Stillwater/BOCES	Bridges Program – Ballston Spa
<i>Question Commonalities</i>	<i>Communications Technology</i>	<i>Technology Academics</i>	<i>Curriculum/ program</i>	<i>Communication Curriculum</i>	<i>Facilities</i>