



Rightsizing Community Engagement Feedback from Highlands HS 8/17/23



Overall Themes



Below is a list of some of the major themes to emerge from the feedback. The following slides contain a summary for each and some examples.

- Prioritizing Students and Families
- Valuing Staff
- Fidelity to Exceptional Programs
- Ensuring Equity
- Facility/Transportation Planning for our Future
- Community Values
- Anchored in our Thriving Profiles
- Ensuring Equity
- Fidelity to the Rightsizing Process
- Transparent Communication

Prioritizing Students

Academic expectations for students should be high to prepare them to have their choice of career options and attend the best colleges.

Excerpts:

- What are the academic goals for students? how will schools achieve them
- Most important - serving families and students
- Success measure after rightsizing will we have more students attending best college?
- Cast Med has a small student population in a small building compared to other schools. but it is highly specialized and has the support of the he but foundation. College acceptance rate is very high. I believe they are ranked second in the district. So why change something that is so successful?
- Staff feedback - serve our families and students - leads to all other values

Valuing Staff

Ensuring staff have access to information and answers to all questions about Rightsizing and the promise to have equity in resources is key in valuing our staff.

Excerpts:

- Stand by staff class sizes / support
- Primary - place a focus on internal applicants. Utilized transferable skills placing in existing positions
- Faculty investment is big, facility capacity
- Teachers to cover programs
- Coming from a large high school administrator feels under-resourced. They look forward to rightsizing because of the extra resources.
- Grade level config - enrollment - class sizes?
- How will we balance class sizes as campus numbers grow?

Fidelity to Exceptional Programs

Programs to support our students and their varied needs are critical to our success. All students should have access to the programs available at some schools.

Excerpts:

- What about the other things are students need. More support for unaccompanied youth. More compassion for those students.
- All social-emotional and caring needs are met. Diverse needs must be met.
- College tours for SAISD Scholars 10th - 11th grade America's best colleges during school year and in the summer
- Special needs students being able to try more things at a school
- If a student has a disability, what services outside the campus can be offered if needed more attention?
- More focus on CTE programs auto, trades, Etc

Ensuring Equity

From resources, to programs, to experiences, equity and accessibility for ALL SAISD students is a core value.

Excerpts:

- Staff members - equity is important, families are important because without them we can't have equity, staff supported sometimes staff does not feel supported, teaching supplies are not always available, repurpose building important
- Top values serve our families and students, drive towards Equity, stand by our staff
- Values most important - equity
- Driving force with equity having been at a high school and then at elementary, academy structures do not have as many options, fine arts having to share something like music and art

Strategic Planning for Transportation

Sharing information about transportation plans is important. Folks want to know what changes they will experience with transportation if their school will change next year.

Excerpts:

- Reliable bus transportation
- Transportation costs timing of buses
- Bus routes walkability highways safe walkways air conditioned buses
- What is the transportation plan?

Facility Planning for our Future

It is important to have a plan for building utilization after rightsizing that benefits the entire community and does not result in abandoned buildings. Will there be any improvements made to existing buildings after Rightsizing?

Excerpts:

- Most important - not abandon buildings
- Repurposing is important
- History of building part of considerations
- Not abandoning schools - very concerning because they are witnessing abandoned school buildings being vandalized
- Ideas for repurposing - fine arts center - SEL support
- Fine arts complex students can be proud of - kids can get private lessons

Community Engagement/Involvement

Families are the heart of our community. Our schools should be welcoming and inviting for all who visit, regardless of their culture. We want our schools to continue to add value to our community.

Excerpts:

- Needs to address culture Beyond just Spanish-speaking. Bridge gaps between new cultures and communities such as Arabic and Pashto even with bilingual programs
- Added value: make embracing Community part of values just to be front and center
- Family is the most important - Orient all values in family and communities because of the legacies in the area
- Added value: make embracing Community part of values just to be front and center
- Top values serve our families and students, drive towards Equity, stand by our staff
- Values - serve our families
- Being conscientious of traditions, mascots, school colors

Anchored in our Thriving Profiles

The thriving profiles are a great start to creating thriving schools for our children, staff and community. We want to know more about thriving schools, teachers, and students.

Excerpts:

- Enjoy the positive outlook on all the thriving profile
- Thriving school - children who care, move our thoughts, hopes and dreams through the 22nd century
- Thriving schools and equity are the most important
- Most important - thriving schools, stand by your staff

Ensuring Equity

How is equity considered in the Rightsizing plan? Serving all our familia throughout this process in an equitable manner is a core value.

Excerpts:

- Staff members - equity is important, families are important because without them we can't have equity, staff supported sometimes staff does not feel supported, teaching supplies are not always available, repurpose building important
- Equity specifics on all what will you do with buildings?
- Facility cost per pupil, "equity"
- Top values serve our families and students, drive towards Equity, stand by our staff
- Thriving schools and equity are the most important
- Values most important - thriving schools, equity, serving families

Fidelity to the Rightsizing Process

There is an appreciation for the criteria being utilized in Rightsizing. Questions about additional criteria being considered were posed.

Excerpts:

- Please consider irreplaceable programs and college acceptance rates
- If a school is performing well can that be used as consideration?
- When you use numbers like this you end up writing off critical factors, relationships, and thus losing trust and that spirals
- Can the high performing school be Criteria for not closing a school?
- Facility capacity - emphasis on safety in facilities. I think of closeness to major roads vs. neighborhood schools. Transportation needs, access needs, regional factors
- How are you going to tell someone we are closing your school?

Transparent Communication

The website has great information and the community appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Rightsizing process via community engagement meetings.

Excerpts:

- Map of locations of events would be helpful
- I would like to see a completion percentage (effectiveness) of the quick links. Maybe as a parent, stakeholder, or students and investors.
- It would be a great idea if you uploaded the video of mountain ES vs. Ocena ES. This way parents understand why there aren't any funds needed for all the needs of our students
- Frequently asked questions what does outcome look like? John's big brother before right sizing John 13 years after saidd resizing
- Slide deck for deeper review for community understand
- New housing areas, apts, etc. "Projections per area"
- How do we ensure commitments materialize?

Other

Excerpts:

- Some students are not like this because they won't put in the work
- Family questions does not have a sticker for the passport and it should have because this is the community input and feedback section
- Why does the family questions are not part of the passport card?
- Elementary different from high schools.
- How does the district drive toward equity with the governor telling institutions they can't have equity?
- Bond schools - money allocation

[Click here to see all the comments from the Highlands Community Engagement Session](#)