



World Café Summary Report

Wappingers Central School District



Prepared by:

Transformation Systems, Ltd.

49-C Creekside View Drive, Ashville, NC 28804

Phone: (647) 348-0516 Email: pam@tslteam.com

Question 1:

What would you want the students of Wappingers Central to thank us for as they graduate?

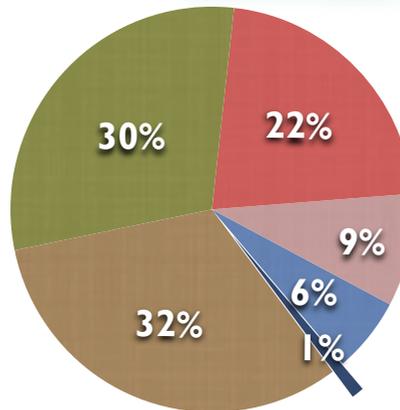
✦ Verbatim examples of responses

Preparation for life after high school (32%)

- ✦ For helping me get into/prepare me for the college of my choice, not the college I could get into
- ✦ Being prepared both academically and socially to move on in their life to study more or to work in the real world.
- ✦ Tools/skills to succeed (ability to learn continuously)
- ✦ Learn how to make choices on my own
- ✦ A readiness to succeed in the modern economy, one that has changed so much in the past 20 years.
- ✦ They were really prepared to be citizens of the world
- ✦ Students will thank us for excellent preparation for college and/or career. They will thank us for their ability to feel they can make a difference in the world and that their opinions, actions and collaborations are meaningful. They will thank us for inspiring their hopes, wishes and dreams.

Well-rounded program (30%)

- ✦ Well rounded education in all academic areas
- ✦ For a variety of extra curricular and academic experiences including internships, technology, music and art, sports, alternative education
- ✦ Challenged in coursework... "pushed outside of comfort zone"
- ✦ Outlets for involvement... clubs/sports, being connected
- ✦ They had opportunity to explore to their potential in their areas of interest.
- ✦ I would want the students to thank the district especially the teachers for a well-rounded education that provides enrichment, higher levels of learning (ie honors and advanced placement) and college/career readiness. I would want them to thank the district for providing extracurricular activities that foster the learning and social development of the students to assist them in going out into the real world.



Supportive learning environment (22%)

- ✦ Safe and secure learning environment
- ✦ Putting them first, considering all their needs - academic, social/ emotional
- ✦ Opportunity to learn in the student's own learning style
- ✦ Positive learning and physical environment
- ✦ Feel safe at school and appreciated – what they do matters.
- ✦ That they were encouraged to strive for their best.

Sense of community (6%)

- ✦ Students to feel a sense of pride in the District and community and want to come back and contribute to the community that they're a part of (WCSD)
- ✦ The sense of feeling the school/district is like home

Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Faculty and staff (9%)

- ✦ Dedication of the teachers
- ✦ Positive role models
- ✦ Teachers that connect to students on a more personal level

Question 2a:

What do you believe will be our greatest challenges, as a school community, in the next 3-5 years?

* Verbatim examples of responses

Economic conditions (29%)

- * Financial – tax cap, budget, allocating resources
- * To deal with declining enrollment and limited financial resources.
- * Balancing financial needs of district/communities ability to pay
- * Budget restraints
- * Monetary support for programs
- * How to fund today's educational program system
- * Challenge of balancing costs and class size while maintaining educational standards

Educational program (25%)

- * Meeting needs of every student
- * Maintaining the educational programs and extracurricular activities to make our students competitive and desirable to colleges.
- * High quality programs
- * Greatest Challenges - ensuring that all students are reaching their individual potential in large class sizes and schools.
- * Adequately preparing students with new curriculum to prepare for college
- * Challenge to prepare students for careers as well as college – some students are more interested in/suited to technical or “skilled labor” careers

Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Community (3%)

- * Community involvement – challenge
- * Meeting the needs of the community as it culturally diversifies.

Staffing (4%)

- * Challenges will include staffing for the growing population of special education
- * Keeping great teachers/staff – challenge

Technology (7%)

- * Challenge: integrating technology into education
- * Evolution of digital technology - how are we going to utilize it?
- * With advanced technology in society, we are challenged to be able to offer more courses and have updated technology available

Facilities (8%)

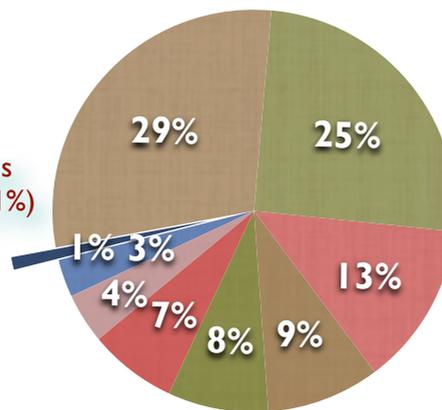
- * Maintaining physical structures of schools
- * Capital improvement
- * Challenges will be to provide a good physical environment in our school buildings, with well-maintained facilities, manageable class size, and safe buildings.

External mandates (state and federal) (13%)

- * Meeting state mandates
- * Our greatest challenges ahead are understanding and implementing the changes that have been put in place through the core curriculum and New York State.
- * Implementation of common core standards
- * Dealing with unfunded mandates and State/National concerns while still providing individualized education that engages LEARNING and understanding.

Social issues (9%)

- * Social and emotional needs of the students
- * Challenges: The ability of kids to choose friends and groups and not get caught up in the social clicks or gangs that lead to drugs and not school or not caring of doing well in what they do.
- * Social behavior



Question 2b:

What do you believe will be our greatest opportunities, as a school community, in the next 3-5 years?

* Verbatim examples of responses

Educational program (30%)

- ❖ Create more diverse course offerings.
- ❖ Opportunity: coming up w/ creative solutions, seek ways to not lose art, music, recess etc. as they contribute to overall learning and understanding across subjects.
- ❖ Align academics with career opportunity areas
- ❖ Opportunities: well rounded curriculum; diverse student population; diverse clubs/activities that allow all students to fit in somewhere.
- ❖ Opportunity: District provides opportunities for students to challenge themselves w/AP and Honors classes
- ❖ Greatest Opportunities will be to take this time of change and expand on the solid academics at Wappingers, enhancing them to incorporate more progressive academics into the curriculum with emphasis on teaching critical thinking skills in a supportive and more interactive environment and instilling a love of lifetime learning in students.

Students (3%)

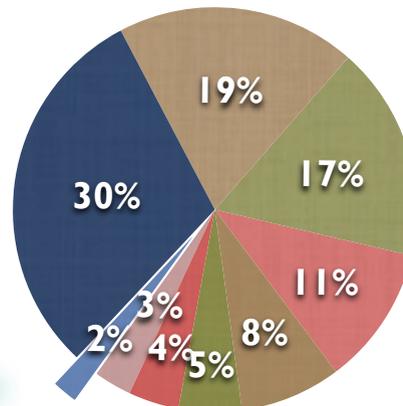
- ❖ Providing for a variety of student input
- ❖ Opportunities would be include students in making better choices for their future.

Coordination and communication (5%)

- ❖ Pooling resources between schools
- ❖ Better communication among parents, teachers and students will strengthen the school community.

Community (19%)

- ❖ Connecting school with community
- ❖ Opportunities: using community resources to their fullest potential
- ❖ The greatest opportunity for the district is to solicit the entire district community (teachers, staff, parents, taxpayers, local businesses, etc) for ideas during the budget planning exercise. There are many talented individuals who can come together to offer ideas on cost savings measures, revenue generating ideas, etc.
- ❖ Greatest opportunities: embracing the influx of new cultures
- ❖ Opportunities: standing together



Miscellaneous Responses (2%)

Staffing (4%)

- ❖ Keep staff
- ❖ Teacher development (professional)

Technology (17%)

- ❖ Using technology more in the classroom
- ❖ K-12 technology available with everyday learning
- ❖ Integrating more and newer technology into our teaching with a focus on prevention of abuse via technology
- ❖ Technology may allow us to diversify offering
- ❖ Technology - managing social media, and integrating it into classroom in a way that mirrors the real world and builds life skills

Support programs (11%)

- ❖ We need to utilize guidance more
- ❖ Opportunity to develop programs to help students become college/career ready
- ❖ Shadow program - career shadowing

Financial (8%)

- ❖ Possible grant opportunities i.e., economic development
- ❖ Utilizing all resources, ie grant writing, donations
- ❖ Our lack of funds will force our creativity

Question 3:

What do you really value about our schools that you would not want to see change as we plan our future?

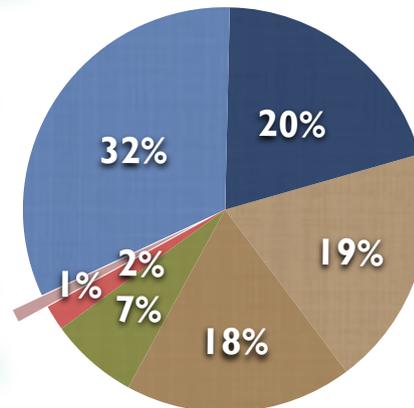
* Verbatim examples of responses

Academic program (32%)

- * The quality of education and the programs that are provided (arts, music, sports, theatre, etc.)
- * Different levels of classes and a wide variety of classes
- * Honors/AP classes
- * Electives (more opportunities to take electives that interest students)
- * Enrichment programs for elementary and middle schools
- * Field trips that incorporate educational opportunities
- * Programs meeting/challenging the abilities of each individual student

Extra-curricular programs (20%)

- * Broad range of clubs & extracurricular opportunities
- * Varsity sports, sports in general
- * After-school clubs (gives kids opportunities to express what they are good at without the pressure of a grade)
- * Activities, after school clubs, teams, specials and exploratory
- * Student run programs
- * Lots of opportunities for success



Sense of community (19%)

- * The collaborative effort that exists between schools and families.
- * The sense of community and friendships that the children develop with one another.
- * School spirit
- * The way the school gets involved in the community and helps out
- * Appreciation of the diversity in the community/ school

Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Unsure (2%)

Facilities and school services (7%)

- * Security of buildings
- * Technology wing
- * Services, Services, Services

Faculty and staff (18%)

- * The highly-qualified, dedicated, enthusiastic teachers. They go without so many teaching tools which could enrich the classroom experience, thus making their skills and expertise even more important.
- * Dedicated teachers and administrators who value students.
- * Individual and specific teaching, geared towards each students, rather than painting every student with the same brush and expecting each student to perform equally.
- * I value the work and dedication that the faculty and staff puts into molding our youth into productive citizens.
- * You have committed teachers. A wonderful staff.

Question 4:

What are the greatest untapped resources of our staff and community that will contribute to the success of our students?

* Verbatim examples of responses

Community partnerships (31%)

- * Community outreach on our part
- * Link with local businesses to support their business while they support our school district
- * Develop a relationship between schools and businesses
- * Mentoring internships and more community involvement would help them and many professional leaders and adults whose experience could benefit school community
- * Connect our students with the community through volunteer work and community service
- * Volunteers – retired teachers, parents, grandparents, seniors, many people would want to help in classrooms
- * Partnerships between all sectors in the community

Faculty and staff (16%)

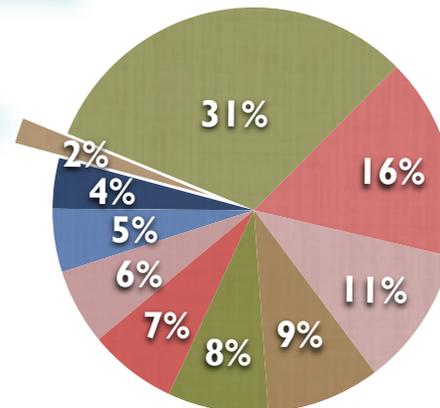
- * Creativity of the staff.
- * Teachers sharing experiences from previous work in the workforce - connection with outside world.
- * Support inside and outside of the classroom
- * Teachers emphasizing learning at all times

Enrichment programs (11%)

- * More classes to prepare students for real life
- * Diversify curricular and extra curricular activity based on the diversity in the community
- * Mentoring programs both within and outside of school that allow our students to explore career possibilities and real-life scenarios as they grow toward adulthood.

Students (9%)

- * Students opinion and perspective
- * Student mentors across age/grade levels
- * Utilizing talents of the students.



Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Facilities (4%)

- * Libraries
- * Use school space to help with budget

Financial support (5%)

- * Fundraisers
- * Grants from corporations

Parent involvement (6%)

- * Parental involvement as a community
- * Opportunities for parental involvement

Technology (7%)

- * Technology – generate moving trends – use social media – texting - interact with students on their level
- * Bringing technology into the classrooms to help differentiate instruction.

College and career guidance (8%)

- * More college fairs/college help - Students want more help and preparation
- * Guest speakers with worldly experiences/career insight
- * More outreach from guidance – proactivity