

CFFWS Meeting – December 1st – Todd Beamer High School

What is positive about your school environment?

Decatur – the wide variety and number of choices available for students throughout the district to find programs and areas of study right for them.

Lakota – the dads that are involved with the PTA and programs

Teaching to the specific needs of each child, team focus on students, empowering them to make better choices.

Valhalla – understanding and involvement of including ALL community members

Programs such as “What every parent wants to know” for 2nd language families. Meals offered, breakfast with tours of classroom activities. No agenda accompanies these meetings, folks ask questions and receive answers without being talked “to”.

Nautilus – the open concept of teaching style with set expectations

Community leadership programs combined with volunteer opportunities

MAST Center visits and field trips – learning outside of the school building.

Todd Beamer – the opportunities provided by the teachers and their availability to assist in making up school work.

Enterprise – Whole Person Learning, strong parent involvement, Global Citizen Activities (i.e. fundraising such as Pennies for Pasta and Change for Change).

TAF – environmental connection between the real world and students as world citizens.

Illahee – strong athletic and music programs.

What are the challenges of your school environment?

Decatur – teaching students to advocate for themselves from early grades, students are not prepared for many educational transitions.

Lakota – staff is leaning on the new building to make excuses for everything and parents feel left out of the loop and not welcomed.

Valhalla – transitions between grades, schools and elementary, middle and high schools is not adequately addressed by the district or staff at the schools.

Nautilus – K-8 school who has had 3 principals in as many years. Difficult to adjust to the changes and styles on such a regular basis.

Todd Beamer – little or no preparation for the amount of high school work the students get. Should be more prepared in the lower grades for these difficult transitions – it would improve success rates and reduce unnecessary stress.

Enterprise – constant change of program directives from the district – now it is standards based education! How long will that last. Establish a plan and stick to it. Also a very high turnover rate (30%) of students in the schools – how do parents, staff deal with this constant change.

Valhalla – the challenge of diversity goes beyond race and goes more to lifestyles and economic differences.