

Tipton Community Schools – Community Meeting 9-24-18

The audience consisted of about 45 individuals:

(Mostly Parents, Community Members, School Staff, School Board Members, Schools Administration)

Review of the Evening Events

Kevin Emsweller, Tipton Community School Corporation Superintendent

- Gave an overview of the intent of the meeting
- Introduced the two individuals facilitating the meetings
 - Dr. Leah Nellis, Dean and Professor for the School of Education
 - Indiana University-Kokomo
 - Nick Eccles, Interim Superintendent
 - Whitko Community Schools

Nick Eccles gave directions on the expectations for the evening. He then divided the audience into two groups. Each group discussed two major topics:

- What are positives about the Tipton Community School Corporation?
- What are some areas in which the Tipton Community School Corporation can improve?

Each group identified their responses to the above questions and each individual was given 3 post it notes to place next to their top 3 choices/priorities. The groups then prioritized their choices and gave an overview of each topic to the entire audience.

Responses from Group 1:

Positives about Tipton Schools:

- School Safety & SRO Officer
- Quality Athletic Programs
- High Ability Programs
- Good Quality Staff-Teachers
- Small Schools
- Small Class Sizes
- Variety of Offerings at Tipton High School
- Int. Principal's Open Door Policy
- Use of Technology for Education
- Tipton Elementary School-Parent/Admin. Communication
- Tipton MS has a Variety of Programs
- Personable Staff Members
- Community Outreach Program (T.E.S.O.)
- Interior of Buildings are Decent Quality
- Preschool Program

Areas in which Tipton Schools can Improve:

Assessments

- Performance Testing/Evaluations
- State Testing

Communication

- Community-Valuing Education
- Facebook only-why not email blast
- Special Education Transparency
- Surveys-One Sided

Curriculum & Instruction

- Block 4 (Issues for incoming families)
- Block 4 (Missing Opportunities)
- Consistent Curriculum and Evaluation of the Curriculum
- Critical Thinking
- Time Management/Classes/Homework

Finances

- Class Size
- Curb Appeal
- Sports: Evaluation of needs (Money, Support, Coaches, etc..)
- State Expectations (\$\$\$)
- Student Population

Programming

- Arts
- Competition with other Schools – Diversify
- CTE Programming & Internships
- Industrial Arts & AG Classes at TMS
- More HA Programs (TMS-THS) (More AP & Dual Credit Courses)
- Need a Second Language Course
- Promote College Bound Students
- Scheduling – Sharing with Tri-Central
- Sports: More programs at the Middle School Level

Safety

Staff

- Administration Holding Staff Accountable
- Ineffective Staff Evaluations
- Retaining Staff
- Supplies for Classes

- Taking Care of Current Staff
- Teacher Moral
- Teacher Salaries (Bottom in the Area)
- Transition for new teachers and students

Responses from Group 2:

Positives about Tipton Schools: (determined through group consensus)

- Great teachers
- Aware of and beginning to face the issues impacting the district
- Strong community support and volunteers
- Community programs (e.g., arts, theatre) that partners with the district
- Strong athletic programs (youth to high school)
- Recent attention to school safety and security including staff training and SRO

Areas in which Tipton Schools Can Improve:

***highest rated priorities and supportive details**

***Communication**

- Timeliness of communication
- Consistent messages across formats/modes of communication (email, Facebook, web)
- Appropriate/understandable for all families
- Equal communication about all events and information

***Staffing**

- Teacher recruitment
- Teacher retention
- Induction and support for new teachers
- Professional learning and training for current staff/teachers

***Programming, Services, and Instruction**

- Consistency of expectations (e.g., grading policy) across buildings and grade levels
- Support services
- Programs (e.g., EL)
- Curriculum
- Transitions from one building to another
- Individualized to support student learning and needs

***Marketing**

- Sharing the positives and uniqueness of the district
- Focused on student enrollment

*Advance Current Programs

-Focus on advancing and emphasizing current programs that are unique and specific to the district (e.g., Ag program)

Additional Items:

- Appearance of grounds and building exteriors
- Licensed librarian in each building
- Career preparation and internship opportunities
- Dual credit coursework
- Maximize parent involvement
- Clear district mission and goals
- Better use of existing resources/facilities (e.g., planetarium)

Common Priorities

After each group shared out their information, the topics were combined to one list, which is below. The individuals in the audience were given two post it notes and asked to place them next to the topics that they felt were the highest priorities for Tipton Community School Corporation to address. The number of votes for each priority is noted in parentheses below.

- *Communication (10)
- *Marketing (5)
- *Teacher Recruitment, Retention, Induction, Mentoring, Evaluation and Staff Training (11)
- *Advancing existing programs (2)
- *Programming (8)
- *Curriculum & Instruction (18)
- *Finances (3)
- *Safety (4)

The audience was thanked for their participation and reminded that we would continue with discussion on the topics at the next meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, October 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM** in the High School Cafeteria.