

Steel Valley School District- Summary of Town Hall Meeting on 10/29/19

FREQ.	TOPIC	IDEA/SUGGESTION
	Stakeholder inclusion	
4		Include teachers
		Include the three borough councils
2		Keep families involved
		Find more ways to involve parents
		Keep Administrators in the loop
		Include the Homestead community
	Bring people together now	
		Create "Exchange Program" to bring Park and Barrett students together
		Have courageous conversations on race
		Diversity is an issue, and it has never been handled correctly
2		Park parent should be give time at Barrett and vice versa
	Pre-school	
2		Add pre-school
	Change management	
		This is a drastic change that is going to cause really big problems
		The district should not be held hostage by people in Munhall who are scared of Homestead
		I support bringing Park & Barrett together, but don't rush. Save \$\$\$, and then build on campus.
2		While a change may be needed, please plan carefully and not in haste
		If this is going to happen, parents need ample time to plan
		School Board needs to listen to citizens
	Configuration options	
		Make the MS a K-4 building and the elementary schools 5-6 and 7-8
2		Add an extra teacher for each grade at Barrett; this would cost less than busing and improve scores
		If the schools are combined, I hope all teachers will be held to the same standards
		Do not close a school; help Barrett. Do not force Park students out and make them suffer.
		Students should be together from an early age to foster friendships, which will reduce discipline
		We need diverse classrooms. The world is diverse, so should our schools be.
		We need to have concern for everyone; combine schools and keep class sizes small
		I remember the stigma I had against Park for believing they were better than us. Merge the schools.
2		The district is well below capacity- close a school
		Redistrict: Munhall Gardens is closer to Barrett; Main & Lea is halfway between the two schools.
		Bring 5th grade back into elementary; K - 2 at one school, 3 - 5 at the other
3		Open the schools and let the parents decide where to send their children
2		Build an elementary school on the Woodlawn site.
		People don't want to send their children to school in Homestead; make Barrett the grade 6 - 8 building

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		It's about time, but it is going to be harder on adults than on students
2		Prefer school choice
		Have one school be for boys, the other for girls
		Diversity is a strength
	Plans	
3		Would like to see proposed plans
		Board needs to share their thoughts
		Use a structured approach to be transparent and to come to the optimal solution
3		What problems are trying to be solved?
2		We need a Q & A Town Hall
	Students attending multiple buildings	
		District should not worry about this- people will adjust
		Children will not thrive if they are constantly changing schools every couple years
		Families could end up with children in both elementary schools
	Students	
2		How does the merger affect children psychologically? How do they adjust?
		It's not fair to have students change elementary buildings
		How does this help children?
		Disparity damages children
		Afterschool childcare will be impacted
	Growth	
		The district has the potential to excel and be progressive through change
		Why did the district add another Kindergarten if enrollment is declining?
		We need growth, not just survival
	Impact on jobs	
2		Nobody should lose their jobs
	Meeting purpose	
2		I did not know what this meeting was about
		I left even more confused
		What started this movement?
	Busing	
		If you bus elementary students, then you should bus all students
2		Busing kids out of their neighborhood is not popular
3		What about transportation?
		Cost of busing
		Use shuttle buses
	Neighborhood schools	
		We are not the only district with neighborhood schools
2		I will not allow my child to go to Barrett, based purely on location. They will go to St. Therese.
		I bought a house in Munhall because of Park. I will look into moving if the schools are changed.
		We will lose families
		Closing Park would be a horrible idea for our area

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		If I wanted my child at Barrett I would have purchased a home in Homestead.
		Please consider an alternate location for a merger, not in Homestead
		Finding a way to sustain Park will be the best decision
		Barrett has been remodeled and is in good condition
		Park is in need of a major renovation and is in poor condition
		We chose Munhall because of Park. This idea will screw over a lot of loyal Munhall families.
		We moved from West Mifflin to be within walking distance of Park
		I do not want my children to go to Barrett because of test scores
		It is not safe in Homestead
Resource Allocation		
		Instead of putting money into a new building or busing, put more money into the current schools
		Give more resources to administrators, teachers and aides to do their jobs more effectively
Curriculum & Instruction		
		If some kids are thriving and others aren't, change the curriculum to benefit all students
		Revamp the special education department
2		Smaller class sizes benefit low-income, minority students
		Keep art, music, etc. These are important.
		Correct why Barrett is performing so low
4		Reduce classroom size
2		Offer behavioral/psychological support
		Challenge standardized testing as the primary means of evaluating schools and students
		More professional development
		Prepare teachers to teach minority and low-income students
		Test scores are based on economic differences and not teacher ability
		Why sacrifice the education of children at Park? Raise the scores at Barrett.
		Test scores will drop at Park
Discipline		
2		Get bullying and discipline under control
		Discipline issues need to be addressed
		Get the behavioral issues under control; you will see more parents be OK with mixing the kids
Financial		
5		Concerned about costs
		Secure funds to study what the best schools are doing to serve diverse populations
		Combining the schools into two buildings is a waste of money
		We don't have money for the ideal solution: one elementary center and busing
		Older adults cannot afford increased taxes
		Merger would be the least cost-efficient decision
		Taxes will be raised
Charter students		

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		Will fixing discipline and bullying issues bring back Propel students?
		Propel is drawing students
	Personnel	
2		More African American teachers
		Too many auxiliary staff, some positions are not needed