

Hudsonville Public Schools

SOAR V – Focus Group Findings

March 2023

Survey Samples

- Parents and Residents
 - 78 with children in the district
 - 3 without children in the district
- Business Leaders
 - 15 from area businesses/organizations
- Staff
 - 29 Elementary staff
 - 19 Secondary staff
 - 10 Ancillary staff
- Students
 - 21 Juniors and/or Seniors

Favorable Impressions of HPS

- Strong symbiotic relationships
 - *“our schools are a big part of our community and want to support our community” and “you reach out into the community and everyone is ready to volunteer and help.”*
 - *“The CI program is the heartbeat of the high school. The kids celebrate kids.”*
- Quality of staff members
 - *“I have yet to meet a teacher who isn’t excited about teaching our kids”*
 - *“As we grow, each teacher may not know each individual student, but each student is known by a teacher or staff member.”*
- Teachers are amazing, accessible, and responsive
 - *“I relocated to this community for the public schools. The teachers are awesome. They are the crown jewels of HPS.”*
- Social Emotional Learning is amazing
- Great facilities
- LINKS/Unified Basketball – great for all kids
- PBIS/ SOAR program and how it continues to be good for all kids

Favorable Impressions of HPS

- Extensive academic and co-curricular opportunities
- “Awesome” and “wonderful” special education programs
- Parents and residents appreciate Hudsonville’s athletic program, especially for its quality and variety
- “Phenomenal” Eagles Nest, ECC, and Community Services programs
- 1:1 initiative and increased use of instructional technology in the everyday classroom
- High expectations and high standards
- Safety remains a priority

Favorable Impressions of HPS

- High school students feel:
 - “it’s really cool how close the community is to the schools”
 - “even after they leave, students are proud to say they’re from Hudsonville”
 - Several academic choices
 - Strong fine arts programs
 - Administration is relatable
 - Construction (terminal) is awesome!
 - “I like the variety of things you can get involved with”
 - Part of a strong community
 - Students leaving Hudsonville High School experience a positive transition to college because of the comfort level with the size of their school environment

Perceived concerns or needed improvements

- Curriculum
 - Diversity conversation
 - *“The Hudsonville community has a lot of work to do in areas of DEIB and SEL. I fully support helping our children grow into global citizens.”*
 - Alternate pathways to graduation
 - More SEL work at secondary level
 - Increase language program opportunity
 - *“The demographics and culture are changing. We need to prepare our children to be adults in the current world.”*
 - English Language (EL) growth
 - Additional counselors/PBIS/MTSS support
 - Supports for students that don't qualify for special services
 - Increase after-school academic programs/tutoring
 - Advanced programming at middle school level

Perceived concerns or needed improvements

- Safety and security
 - Parking at the high school (student(s) request)
 - Limited number of bus drivers – long bus rides
- Co-Curricular
 - Increase intramural programs (secondary level)
 - More sports at the middle school level
- Facilities
 - Size of district – where is the district growing?
 - Air conditioning needs throughout the district
 - Administration building needs upgrade
 - Soccer field (outdoor facilities) need upgrade
- Communications
 - Consistent communication tools at all grade levels
 - Board of Education training and staying current
 - Improve public perception of district (regarding diversity)

Perceptions of trust in HPS management

- Hudsonville is a well-managed school district
- Strong financially – Stable
- Outstanding leadership in buildings and central office
- Complemented Superintendent and administration for their availability
- Administration does a fantastic job providing relevant information to the community

Timeline for Survey

- Staff Survey
 - Administer two weeks in April
 - Online
- Community Survey
 - Make available online in April
 - Make hard copies of survey available at all HPS buildings upon request
- Student Survey
 - Juniors and Seniors will take survey online during the month of April

Creation of SOAR V

- Creating SOAR V
 - Goal creation
 - Summer of 2023
 - Priorities
 - Teams meet to develop rough draft
 - October 2023
 - Final draft by December 2023