Mount Ayr and Bedford Community School Districts

Stakeholder Survey Report

The Bedford & Mount Ayr School Districts completed a stakeholder survey from Oct. 14-Nov. 10th which resulted in 341 total responses from students, teachers, support staff, parents, community members, administrators, and alumni. The results provided some great insights for the district in regard to strengths, areas of concern and what stakeholders are looking for in a new superintendent.

Survey Participation

Feedback by District

What are the strength areas or points of pride for
the Bedford School District?

- Academics/Student achievement
- Community support
- Quality facilities
- Committed teachers and leaders
- School pride/spirit
- Sports and school activities

Strong student success, dedicated staff, well-maintained facility, progressive thinking, financially stable

We have a great staff who have the students' best interest at heart and are awesome at working together for the benefit of the students. I believe this is what drives our academic success.

We take pride in our education and strive to be the best we can be. Staff members work together to provide the students with the best education and support they can receive.

Maintaining a consistent staff of quality teachers and support personnel in order to give our children a very much above average education. Willingness of the community to support the needs of the school. Pride in the quality of education our students receive.

What are challenges or areas for improvement for the Bedford School District?

- Addressing bullying
- Parent drop off and pick up at elementary
- Maintaining enrollment
- Communication to parents
- Student challenges (special education and mental health)

Growing number of special needs students and having the funds to adequately fund the programs. Need to develop programs geared toward non-college bound students.

Keeping up enrollment, Making sure we can continue to financially support the resources needed for a quality education

Parent drop off and pick up elementary

Bullying is a huge issue. It gets pushed under the rug among other things. There’s no real consequences for these teenagers. They might get one day of suspension or just told to stay away and that never happens. There’s no follow through.
What are the strength areas or points of pride for the Mount Ayr School District?

- Quality facilities
- Dedicated teachers and leaders
- Sports (participation, success and support)
- Supportive community
- Financial condition of the district
- Hardworking students and staff
- Special education program

The dedicated staff that work every day to see that our students get the best education possible. They truly care about our students success and welfare.

Staff working together with the administration toward the benefit of all students. Dedication to the school! Flexible Community involvement. Attendance at school activities.

Very good principals, teachers, and supporting staff. We have been blessed with people who have given generously to our schools. We have a strong foundation committee who support our school financially. Our school facilities are top notch. Parents support their children at activities.

We show school spirit, we act our best at the sports events/games. We have a strong relationship with surrounding schools and our community.

What are challenges or areas for improvement for the Mount Ayr School District?

- Balancing sports and academics
- Retaining and recruiting good teachers
- Consistent behavior expectations for students
- Addressing bullying
- Maintaining enrollment

There are so many staff members wearing multiple hats so I think the main one is just ensuring that staff members are not torn too many directions so that they can do the best job possible with the time they have.

Unqualified or unmotivated teachers. There is a big lack of quality teachers in the high school.

I feel that our school district has struggled to keep up with the changes in direction that are needed to keep our school a top performer and learning environment from an educational standpoint. More emphasis needs put on our educational process rather than our athletic department.

Dealing with the state budget cuts without lowering the quality of our student’s educational experience. These cuts seem to come each year.
Please check the 3 most important professional skills and qualifications you hope to have in a new superintendent.

1. Effectively manages district resources (43%)
2. Recruits, hires and develops a strong administrative team (41%)
3. Builds school and community relations (34%)
4. Strong instructional leader (32%)
5. Promotes a community of care and support (30%)
Please check the 3 most important personal traits or qualities you hope to have in a new superintendent.

1. Is approachable, accessible and welcoming (67%)
2. Follows through on tasks and responsibilities (38%)
3. Demonstrates ethics and integrity (33%)
4. Possess strong communication skills (31%)
Why do you believe these qualifications and traits are most important for the new superintendent?

*Relationships are the key ingredient for success.*

*The superintendent is the district leader and needs to support teachers and staff, while insisting that teachers strive to be the best. He/she should be involved in the communities and keep both schools solvent financially. He/she should also be aware of the good things both schools are already doing and not rock the boat too badly!*

*The new superintendent will need to let the community get to know and respect him. Whoever our new superintendent has to lead the teachers. He needs to like children and get to know all the students.*

*We need a superintendent that is approachable by staff and the community and the also is always looking out for the best of every student. He also need to be aware of what the most important needs are for each school and work well with both boards.*

*This person will set the culture for the school and model the behavior for administrators and teachers.*

*I feel it is really important that the superintendent be visible in the community at community events and school events, not showing a bias between either school. In addition, being visible during the school day, in teacher classrooms, in the halls, etc.*

*A superintendent is the Leader of the school district. Their primary job should be to communicate with their team to take care of the district. Goals should be made and through communication and teamwork those goals should be met. Make the community aware of these goals and we will be there to help with them!*

*In a changing world, we need a leader with a vision and the ability to communicate that vision.*

*I think we need someone who loves his/her job as much as they love the students. If the kids & staff feel like they can communicate with the superintendent effectively then they can be a better asset to the students & parents. This is a tough job, but we need good role models for our kids inside and outside of the school. When we see you in public, we want to know that you are doing the right thing outside of your job just as much as you are in your job. I’m trusting you with my children. I want to know that no matter where you are, your integrity is intact.*

*Reach out and listen to what the community needs and wants. Don’t be persuaded by peoples personal agenda and keep the best interest of the wider community and school district in mind.*
Advice for the new superintendent: