Listening to Our Community: Participant Feedback Summary

Bailey Gatzert ES | Feb. 26, 2026

What Is Going Well

Summary:

Participants described strong student–adult relationships, committed educators, and small school environments that foster belonging, pride, and community.

Key points raised by participants:

- Teachers are passionate, caring, and committed to students
- Individual teachers and principals make a meaningful difference
- Small schools create a tight-knit, walkable community
- Students feel joy, pride, and a sense of belonging at school
- Diversity and community partnerships are valued strengths
- Athletics, enrichment, and social-emotional supports benefit students

Example quotes (from posters):

- "Teachers are passionate, caring, committed to students."
- "Small school, tight community, walkable (small school works well for all members)."

What Is Not Going Well

Summary:

Families expressed concerns about trust, transparency, staffing instability, large class sizes, and systems that negatively affect student learning and confidence in the district.

Key points raised by families:

- Trust and transparency have been damaged, particularly due to school closure processes
- Communication from the district is inconsistent and unclear
- Class sizes are too large and impact learning and wellbeing
- Leadership instability (including principal vacancies and mid-year changes) disrupts schools
- Academic rigor and differentiation are inconsistent
- Curriculum adoption and literacy alignment raise concerns

Example quotes (from posters):

- "Trust + transparency is shot (closing process)."
- "Classes too big."

Ideas for Improvement

Summary:

Participants identified concrete opportunities to improve transparency, resource allocation, engagement, and systems that better support schools and families.

Key points raised by families:

- Increase transparency in budgeting and decision-making
- Allocate more funding directly to schools based on community needs
- Improve district websites and communication platforms
- Expand differentiation and acceleration for all students
- Strengthen authentic community engagement, especially for multilingual families
- Simplify systems so families feel welcomed, informed, and supported

Example quotes (from posters):

- "More money to individual schools to spend on evidence-based approaches that are needed by the community."
- "Make the website easier to navigate / understand."