

Major Themes for Open Ended Questions

Do you have ideas on how Fraser Public Schools can help Fraser be a sought-after place to live?

From these statements, several major themes emerge regarding how Fraser Public Schools can help make Fraser a sought-after place to live:

1. **Safety and Security:** Many respondents emphasize the need for stronger security measures in schools to ensure a safe environment for students, with suggestions including metal detectors, better control of violence and bullying, and improved discipline for misbehavior.
2. **Academic and Extracurricular Excellence:** A common theme is the desire to improve academic standards, test scores, and curriculum offerings (such as incorporating foreign languages and better supporting struggling students). There are also calls to boost the athletic program's success to attract families and improve the district's overall reputation.
3. **Community Engagement and Transparency:** Many participants feel Fraser could benefit from improved communication with the community, more transparency in decision-making (e.g., live-streaming board meetings), and holding more community events to foster the "small-town" feel that draws families.
4. **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Suggestions include enhancing school facilities, such as installing air conditioning in schools, improving building aesthetics (like landscaping), and providing recreational spaces. The desire for a revitalized city center with parks and businesses is also mentioned as a way to make Fraser more attractive.
5. **School of Choice:** Several respondents express concerns about the district's school-of-choice policy, with some advocating for its discontinuation to prioritize local students and reduce behavioral issues they attribute to out-of-district students.
6. **Teacher and Staff Support:** Another significant theme is the need to retain high-quality teachers by improving pay, reducing micromanagement, and giving educators more autonomy. There are also calls to hold administration accountable and to treat staff like professionals to improve morale and overall school performance.
7. **Affordability:** Some respondents highlight concerns over high taxes and water rates, believing these to be barriers to making Fraser a more desirable place to live.
8. **Inclusivity and Cultural Events:** A number of respondents want more inclusivity in cultural events and celebrations of diversity, ensuring all students feel acknowledged and safe within the school system.

These themes reflect a holistic approach to making Fraser a more attractive place to live by improving safety, academic performance, community involvement, and supporting both staff and families.

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What other partnerships or programs do you think Fraser Public Schools should explore?

Several key themes emerge from these responses about partnerships and programs that Fraser Public Schools should explore:

1. **Skilled Trades and Career Preparation:** Many respondents emphasize the importance of expanding programs that focus on skilled trades, such as automotive, HVAC, cosmetology, and other vocational careers. Suggestions include partnerships with local businesses, community colleges, and trade schools to offer apprenticeships, internships, and co-op programs to better prepare students for the workforce.
2. **Community Involvement and Service:** There is strong interest in forming partnerships with local community organizations such as parks and recreation, senior centers, and volunteer programs. Ideas include student participation in community service projects, mentorship opportunities with older students, and engaging with local senior citizens for mutual benefit. Several respondents suggest that all students should be required to complete service hours.
3. **Mental Health and Counseling:** Many respondents call for more partnerships focused on mental health support, with an emphasis on increasing the availability of counselors and support staff. Suggestions include partnerships with local mental health organizations and expanding social-emotional learning programs to address student well-being.
4. **After-School and Enrichment Programs:** Respondents express a desire for more after-school clubs and activities, particularly at the elementary and middle school levels. Ideas include expanding sports programs like soccer, baseball, and robotics, as well as arts enrichment such as music, dance, and creative programs.
5. **Partnerships with Local Businesses:** Expanding partnerships with local industries and businesses, especially in fields like automotive, health sciences, and technology, is a common theme. These partnerships could provide students with real-world experience, internships, and work-study programs, helping to build skills and connections for future careers.
6. **Educational Support and Alternative Learning:** Suggestions include offering more tutoring programs, after-school reading clubs, and opportunities for accelerated learning, particularly for high-achieving students. Respondents also mention the need for life skills education (e.g., financial literacy, taxes, and home economics) to prepare students for adulthood.
7. **Focus on Arts and Cultural Partnerships:** Several respondents highlight the importance of partnerships with arts organizations, including bringing professional artists and musicians into schools for workshops and concerts. There are also suggestions to partner with local zoos and museums to offer unique learning experiences for students.
8. **Improved Communication and Organization:** Many parents express frustration with disorganized communication around school events and extracurricular activities. There are calls for better coordination between schools and parents to ensure timely and clear communication regarding programs and opportunities.

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Overall, respondents suggest a mix of career-focused, community-driven, and enrichment programs to expand opportunities for students while also fostering stronger ties between the school district and the wider community.

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In the next five years, what do you see as top priorities for Fraser Public Schools?

The major priorities for Fraser Public Schools over the next five years, as identified by the statements, can be synthesized into the following key areas:

1. **Safety and Security:** Ensuring the safety of students and staff is the most frequently mentioned priority. This includes physical security measures like metal detectors, armed guards, and improved school building infrastructure (e.g., doors, entry points, and surveillance). Parents want safe learning environments, free from bullying, violence, and external threats.
2. **Staff Retention and Support:** There is a strong desire to retain high-quality teachers and staff, with suggestions to improve staff morale, offer better pay, and reduce micromanagement. Several respondents stress the importance of maintaining a positive working environment to ensure that talented educators remain in the district.
3. **Student Mental Health and Well-being:** Mental health services and emotional support for students are top concerns. Respondents emphasize the need for more counselors, mental health resources, and staff to address growing mental health challenges, including stress, bullying, and social pressures.
4. **Academic Rigor and Curriculum:** Many statements call for a focus on academic excellence. Parents desire more rigorous curriculum options, including both college-prep and trade-based pathways. There is concern about the current competency-based learning system, with suggestions to return to traditional grading and stronger core subjects like reading, writing, and math. Some also mention the importance of life skills education, such as financial literacy and practical skills.
5. **Inclusion and Diversity:** Several respondents highlight the need to foster inclusivity, particularly for LGBTQ+ students, and to create a supportive, respectful environment that accommodates all backgrounds and learning needs.
6. **Building Maintenance and Infrastructure:** There are numerous calls for building upgrades, including improving air conditioning, heating systems, and general building repairs. Many believe that aging infrastructure is negatively impacting the learning environment.
7. **Technology and its Role in Learning:** While technology is seen as important, there is also a concern that too much reliance on digital tools is replacing fundamental learning methods. Some advocate for a more balanced use of technology in classrooms, particularly for younger students, and better integration of traditional learning methods.
8. **Parent and Community Engagement:** Improving communication with parents and increasing parent involvement is a priority. Parents want clearer, more consistent communication from the district, and better collaboration between schools and families.
9. **Behavioral Management and Discipline:** Many respondents feel there should be stricter discipline policies and clearer consequences for bad behavior, including bullying. Teachers should have more control in the classroom to maintain an effective learning environment.
10. **Focus on Special Needs Education:** Support for students with special needs is seen as a priority. There are calls for better resources, dedicated classrooms, and individualized support to ensure all students can thrive.

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Overall, Fraser Public Schools' priorities over the next five years should center around creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for both students and staff, while balancing academic rigor, mental health support, and community engagement.

Synthesized data using ChatGPT.