



A Path to Success 2030

Minutes from the November 2, 2017 “Points of Pride” Meeting:

During the first part of the evening activities, participants were seated at tables in random and self-selected small groups. The challenge question was to identify points of pride and accomplishments that describe Mount Laurel Schools. Participants first noted their individual thoughts, shared their impressions and then presented the Group’s consensus report. Summarized below are the perceptions presented by 30 working small groups.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, November 30 and will begin precisely at 6:30 p.m. at the Hartford School. The meeting theme is **Setting Our Expectations for the Future**. Participants will discuss changes and initiatives needed in the Mount Laurel Schools going forward.

Following are the main ideas and supporting ideas from the 30 groups participating in the November 2 session. *(Please note that group numbers are not in sequence because some numbered sheets were on tables that were not occupied by a group.)*

Group 2

Consensus Report

1. Home and School Connections
2. Available Resources
3. 21st Century Learning

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Innovative teachers – Highly qualified and interested in professional development
2. Supportive parents
3. Administration supports new ideas
4. Community/businesses willing to help
5. Awesome PTO’s
6. Future Ready
7. Schools keep up on current trends
8. Collaboration
9. Growth Mindset, Habits of Mind
10. Available resources for staff and students
11. Community and school involvement
12. 21st Century Curriculum – valuable, relevant content
13. Technology available for every student
14. Always staying on top of current research – approach for effective teaching
15. Excellent communication between district and community
16. Parent/Teacher involvement
17. Communication
18. Fostering a nurturing environment
19. Teacher-Parent connections
20. Finding ways for children to learn
21. Expressing issues when it’s most difficult
22. Not just learning; developing the whole person
23. Leadership among students/teachers
24. PTO support

Group 20 Summary of Individual Reporting (Continued)

9. Guided Reading Model
10. Responsive Classroom 1:1 Chromebook Initiative
11. One Book, One School Wonderful PTO
12. BOE that supports education Great relationship between MLEA/Administration
13. Support of the Arts
14. PARCC scores across district
15. Administrative support of new ideas
16. Studying full-day kindergarten
17. Mount Laurel Decision/Diversity – We rise
18. Class sizes
19. NGSS/STEM
20. Rob Wachter - \$
21. Teamwork
22. Literacy – small group specialists
23. Students and teachers liking new Science Program
24. Technology – Staff and students being supported
25. PTO – helping with everything; ideas, sharing, supporting
26. Community
27. Specialists getting to work together to gather ideas/ share lessons, talk about what is working, new websites
28. STEM! I think it is great! Kids and teachers love the idea
29. Small class sizes
30. Professional learning communities
31. Administrator open door policies
32. New Science curriculum
33. New Math curriculum
34. Parental support for the most part
35. Ability to obtain needed supplies

25. Caring teachers
26. Knowledgeable teachers
27. Helpful parents
28. Keeps up on trends
29. 21st Century learning using tech
30. Administrative support and guidance
31. Team players

Group 4

Consensus Report

1. Technology supporting school system
2. 21st Century Skills
3. Whole child, social emotional development
4. Growth mindset vs. Fixed
5. Character & Citizenship
6. Okay to make mistakes
7. Gifted & Specialized Programs
8. Community engagement – PTO, Board, After-School Clubs, extracurricular activities
9. Hands-on Science Program
10. Social Media, multiple communication channels
11. Transportation system reliability

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Whole child – character and citizenship emphasized at Springville
2. Clubs
3. Writing with emphasis on content and ideas first, allowing spelling and grammar to follow
4. Chromebooks are great; amazed at how student navigates computer at home to accomplish goals on both schoolwork and creative projects
5. Some movement is allowed, as illustrated in book “Spark,” it is essential to neuron growth. Please read case in Chicago schools and the incredible leap forward in real learning.
6. I really like our new Science program.
7. I like my Math Club
8. I want a class pet!
9. I want electronics to play on!
10. I like lunch.
11. I like recess and think there should be more.
12. I think recess should be in all schools.
13. This exercise – community engagement
14. Use of multiple communication channels – web, Twitter, e-mail
15. GAP Program, accelerated programs from 5th-grade, after-school STEM Programs at Harrington, Clubs
16. Kindergarten teachers using appreciation and motivation
17. Generally, time-efficient, convenient bus pick-up and drop-off
18. Focus on anti-bullying message/teaching
19. Technology in Fleetwood Elementary School
20. Effort to focus on whole child – Habits of Mind, Social-Emotional Learning, Growth Mindset, Responsive Classroom
21. Really like the way our specialized programs serve students, like: English as a Second Language, Gifted and Talented, Preschool Programs, Programs and services for students with disabilities

36. Access to technology
37. Small school size (4 teachers per grade level vs. 10 teachers per grade level)
38. Variety of supervisors to provide insight, coaching, and professional development
39. Well-rounded, knowledgeable teaching staff to provide professional development
40. 1:1 Chromebooks
41. Offering preschool for regular ed students
42. Offering the breakfast program (although only at a few schools)
43. Inclusion/co-teaching at all schools
44. Small “ish” class sizes
45. Studying full-day kindergarten

Group 23

Consensus Report

1. Diversity
2. Variety of Clubs and Course Offerings
3. Caring about the whole child

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Extra-curricular activities
2. Emphasis on teaching students in class instead of relying on homework assignments
3. Attendance records and punctuality
4. Before and after-school programs at elementary
5. Parent-Teacher Conferences
6. Technology
7. Bus system
8. School clubs/activities
9. PowerSchool
10. Chromebooks
11. Classes and electives
12. Unified community (inclusive)
13. Inclusion – Co-Teaching
14. Teacher autonomy
15. Proud and growing community
16. Respect for innovation and effective ideas
17. Emphasis on the whole child
18. Focus on effort and student growth
19. Increasingly diverse community
20. Diversity – economic, race, religion, academic interests
21. Academic offerings – variety – Honors to Special Needs, Music, Arts
22. People care about each other
23. School spirit
24. Majority are prepared for high school

Group 25

Consensus Report

1. Parent and Community Support and Involvement
2. Inclusion of Special Needs and Diversity
3. Extra-curricular activities supported and open to all students
4. Technology advances – Computers for all students

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Including community in schools
2. Happy students
3. Continual advancements in technology
4. New young teachers

22. Our schools embrace creativity and innovation – teachers really enjoy pursuing teaching and learning strategies that bring out the best in all students
23. Advances in technology – 1:1 Initiative & Google Classroom
24. PTO's are so vibrant and enthusiastically involved in all of our schools!
25. PTO – Springville – Fund-raising for extra activities
26. Teacher Conferences

Group 5

Consensus Report

1. Caring community, approachable engaged administrators and teachers
2. Outstanding extra-curricular activities (Music and STEM) specifically SeaPerch and MATE Programs with Ms. Barrett
3. Overall child development including leadership skills public speaking, business and presentation skills, teamwork. It helps challenge kids to think outside the box and expands kids' comfort zone to excel in life.

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. STEM Program at Harrington- Maureen Barrett, Jessica Ashman and Christina Paterno. SeaPerch and MATE Underwater Robotics Program – incredible devotion, time commitment – teaches kids leadership, public speaking, value of hard work and commitment, business concepts as well as technical/engineering concepts
2. Mr. Chris Newman at Hartford – creative, dynamic teacher – “out of the box” thinking, engages students with real-life applications of concepts
3. Programs for “gifted” students, esp. at Springville
4. Rewards for smart kids; not just athletes.
5. A community that cares about kids
6. A community that cares about education and succeeding future generation
7. Family-oriented people
8. Diversity that mixed race and origin creates
9. Structured activities in schools
10. 5th through 8th-grade all in same school. They get a sense of belonging.
11. Zero tolerance for drugs and bullying
12. Great, approachable teachers and staff
13. Extracurricular activities
14. Feelings of pride in each school
15. High level of instruction and caring
16. Community use of buildings after hours
17. Preparedness for Lenape
18. Administrator, teacher, student, parent relationships
19. Communication
20. Accelerated mathematics program in upper elementary and middle schools
21. SeaPerch and MATE Program in middle school with Ms. Barrett – very good exposure to kids that provides opportunity to be on the world stage
22. Comforting and always positive attitude of the

5. Continued education for all staff
6. Open BOE meetings
7. Positive test scores
8. Special needs of all students are being considered
9. Special programs available to all students
10. Award-winning STEM Programs
11. Participation of school district personnel at community events
12. School/business communication and sharing
13. Public Ed Fund
14. Parent involvement
15. PTO
16. Parent-teacher relationship
17. Extracurricular activities
18. General community involvement
19. Individual student attention
20. STEM initiatives
21. Chromebooks for all students
22. Class choice – HMS electives
23. Number and variety of clubs/activities offered after school
24. Mount Laurel Public Education Fund support (financial)
25. PTO support – clubs, dances, etc.
26. Late buses offered for after-school activities
27. No charge to parents for after-school activities
28. Supportive board of education
29. Level of professionalism by teachers
30. Parent involvement
31. Early childhood programming
32. Open to new ideas and initiatives
33. Inclusion of special needs and diversity

Group 26

Consensus Report

1. Supportive learning/working environment
2. Home-School Partnerships (PTOs)
3. Technology Use
4. Students - Diverse Learning Population
5. Effective clubs and activities

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Teachers
2. Grade levels across the district coming together for workshops
3. After-school programs
4. School/Family involvement activities: Unity nights, fests, etc. (PTO)
5. Students
6. Effective and hard-working staff members
7. Feels like a “family”
8. Access to materials and needed resources for students
9. Diverse and unique
10. Community outreach programs and clubs are very involved
11. Wonderful PTO and excellent parent involvement in all fundraisers
12. Teachers really show initiative and always give their ALL for their students
13. Unified and strong like the tree in our Mount Laurel symbol

teachers towards kids

23. Teachers are very approachable for parents
24. Elementary and Upper Elementary Schools prepare kids well for middle school

Group 6

Consensus Report

1. Sea Perch and MATE Underwater Robotics Teams at Harrington - taught us teamwork, communication, leadership, collaboration, business skills, professionalism, application of knowledge, and to put 100-percent effort, 100-percent of the time.
2. Clubs at Hartford
3. Great Teachers: Ms. Relly, Ms. Barrett, Mr. Zilberfarb, Mr. Newman, Mrs. Paterno, Ms. Ashman, Mrs. Canfield and many more. Helpful, kind/caring, help you understand and apply knowledge to the outside world
4. Successful District – encouraging programs, anti-bullying, large variety of opportunities

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Sea Perch is an underwater robotics program in which schools build robots as a team and compete against other teams. It promotes hands-on learning, application of knowledge teamwork and business skills.
2. MATE is also an underwater robotics program. It is very similar to SeaPerch, but is more complicated and promotes more professionalism, learning and skills.
3. Both clubs are run by Ms. Maureen Barrett, the STEM Teacher at Harrington Middle School. Sea Perch's assistant coach is Ms. Jessica Ashman, and MATE's assistant coach is Ms. Christina Paterno.
4. National Elementary Honor Society at Hartford is a program where you do community service for Mount Laurel
5. Student Council has kids who help teachers figure out what kids might want
6. The Hartford Scoop lets kids write what they want
7. Hartford teachers help when you don't understand the work
8. Sea Perch and MATE Teams
9. Team Success
10. Great Teachers
11. Teamwork skills
12. Encouraging programs
13. Commitment
14. Advanced extra-curricular programs
15. I like my teacher, Mrs. Reilly.

Group 7

Consensus Report

1. Teacher collaboration – students first
2. After-school activities (clubs, sports)
3. Focus on Technology (STEM, 1:1 Initiative)
4. Opportunity to take advanced course work (electives, compacted math)
5. Commitment to community service

14. Technology – iPads, Chromebooks, Active Boards
15. Caring teachers
16. Clubs
17. Working garden
18. PTO
19. Diversity of student population
20. Teachers
21. Programs
22. After-school clubs
23. Technology – iPads, Chromebooks, teacher laptops
24. Transportation
25. Location
26. Curriculum
27. Lunch program – free/reduced lunch
28. PTO

Group 27

Consensus Report

1. Teachers – good and caring
2. Technology updates/resources
3. Curriculum
4. Activities/clubs/events
5. Services for gen. ed/spec. ed
6. Parent/Community Involvement
7. School Leadership (District)
8. Parent Communication

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Fleetwood community
2. Fleetwood PTO
3. In-Class resources
4. Communication with teachers
5. Community involvement
6. Teachers
7. Curriculum
8. Technology updates – iPads, laptops
9. STEM
10. Activities for kids and adults
11. Music Program (instrumental)
12. Superintendent
13. Buses, late buses
14. Clubs for kids after-school
15. Teacher – Sp. Ed., Gen. Ed., Advanced
16. Curriculum – Reading
17. All students have computers/laptops
18. Playgrounds – newer equipment
19. Very good teachers
20. High level of parent involvement
21. Services for students with all kinds of needs
22. Good use of electronic communication
23. Students generally have the resources they need
24. Blue Ribbon School District
25. Leadership (down to earth, knowledgeable, forward-thinking)
26. Welcome letters sent home to kindergarten students before they start
27. Fleetwood PTO (parent participation/involvement)
28. Incoming student reading assessment done in person
29. Variety of activities for students and opportunity for parent involvement

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Extra-curricular activities
2. Enhancing programs
3. Teacher to student connections/communications are strong, ex. Google Classroom
4. Collaboration amongst staff members putting students FIRST!
5. Treating students, parents and other colleagues with respect
6. Always striving for improvement
7. Considering flaws and trying to remedy them as soon as possible
8. After-school activities (i.e. Brick for Kids, cooking class)
9. Classroom size
10. IT – computer class
11. Advanced classes (i.e. compacted math)
12. Caring Staff
13. PTO – fundraising
14. Many choices
15. Caring staff
16. Strong STEM Programs
17. Commitment to community service
18. High school offerings that provide students with a jump start to high school
19. Extensive clubs, extra-curricular activities
20. Extensive interscholastic sports programs for boys and girls
21. Responsive Buildings and Grounds Department
22. Buildings and grounds well-maintained
23. Chromebook 1:1 Initiative
24. STEM, robotics
25. IT – Computer use
26. Administration
27. Parents, PTO Fundraising
28. Social activities for kids - Recess runners
29. Classroom size
30. Parent engagement
31. Special programs such as compacted math

Group 8

Consensus Report

1. Classrooms well supplied with new materials and technology
2. Teaching staff supports each other
3. Collaboration effort for every child's education and well-being
4. A majority of parents are involved, supportive and generous

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Common planning time
2. Support from all staff
3. Collaborative process
4. Most parents are very involved
5. Technology – laptops, projectors
6. Classroom supplies
7. Clean building
8. Length of school day and school year
9. Daily prep time
10. Generosity of parents

30. Opportunity for stakeholder voice and collaboration (Path to Success)
31. Registration process
32. Online lunch portal and Daycare Works online system
33. Fleetwood teachers' compassion for students
34. Professionalism amongst teachers and administrators
35. Print environment in schools
36. Media Specialist

Group 28

Consensus Report

1. Innovation
2. Respect for all students – inclusion
3. Focus on whole child
4. Professional Development

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Responsive Classroom – teaching communication skills
2. Inclusion and meeting the needs of learners at their levels
3. Technology integration
4. Embracing new ideas and fine-tuning old ones
5. Changing the way we approach professional development (ex. Working with Franklin Institute, looking into Ed Camp model)
6. Making space for students to pursue their passions – Genius Hour
7. Communicating with parents in new ways
8. Unity families and service-based projects
9. Growth Mindset
10. Library open space
11. Professional development – commitment to learning (CPT, Partnerships)
12. Importance of STEM Education
13. Diversity
14. Commitment to staying ahead of the curve in technology – innovation
15. Teachers who are eager to learn
16. District support of what is best for children
17. Desire to not be complacent – always improving, valuing expertise
18. Respect all students
19. Not just concerned with test scores – student-centered, Habits of Mind
20. 1:1 Chromebook initiative
21. New Science curriculum
22. Tech Support
23. Journeys Program – leveled readers, additional resources
24. Push-in services
25. After school clubs, activities
26. STEM
27. Unity Families
28. Common planning time
29. Growth Mindset
30. Ed Camp
31. Professional development – Franklin Institute
32. Supervisor support
33. PTO
34. One Book, One School

11. Classrooms are well supplied, new materials available
12. Quality teaching staff that goes above and beyond for the students in their classes and schools
13. Availability of technology (smart boards, laptops)
14. Time given to plan on grade level
15. Openness to new ideas and methods
16. How teaching staff support each other
17. Student safety is a priority and there is good communication when an emergency arises
18. I feel respected by administration
19. Administrators are willing to allow teachers to take educational risks and encourage them to do so
20. Most of our instructional materials are fresh and innovative
21. 1:1 Chromebooks
22. Professional development is growing and relative to changes being initiated
23. Parents are supportive
24. There is excitement from the students in regards to Maker Space and Genius Hour
25. "Failing" is okay
26. Love seeing the firemen coming to the elementary schools
27. Every teacher I know has something positive to say to several kids a day – whether or not they are the children's teacher
28. There are opportunities for kids to celebrate their accomplishments with families during art shows, theater productions, parent luncheons, etc.
29. Kids have the great advantage of hearing about personal experiences of their teachers, which brings awareness to kids about what being a good citizen is and how to learn outside the classroom – learning happens everywhere

Group 9

Consensus Report

1. Programs – STEM/Gifted, Special Needs, Clubs
2. Communication – Parents and Staff
3. Community Involvement – PTO
4. Dedicated Staff

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Prompt, detailed communication from all levels of district
2. Dedicated staff
3. Community Involvement
4. PTO
5. Curriculum seems appropriate and challenging so far
6. Science – hands-on learning
7. Math – Hands-on discovery
8. After-school clubs, groups, with transportation provided
9. Recess runners program – motivating
10. Fleetwood Pride Groups – across grade levels
11. Habits of Mind learning in second grade
12. Involved teachers outside of school hours – PTO functions, clubs, groups
13. Emphasis on arts, drama, music

Group 29

Consensus Report

1. Curriculum- Advanced placement, STEM, Responsive Classroom
2. Technology
3. Small Classroom sizes
4. Activities and supports for all students – Clubs, electives, PTO, Community

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Community pride
2. Advanced classes
3. Sports and Clubs
4. Small classes
5. Dedicated teachers
6. Excellent support staff
7. Great Facilities
8. Technology for all grades
9. Collaborative classroom (Responsive Classroom)
10. Pride in school T.I.M.E. Mentor Program
11. Art classes
12. Theater
13. Opportunities for all kids
14. Great PTOs
15. Dedicated Parents
16. After-care program
17. Class size
18. Technology
19. Support for students
20. Harrington electives
21. STEM Program
22. Clubs
23. Collaborative classrooms
24. Emotional support available
25. Special needs programming
26. Wonderful teachers and admin. Staff at Hillside, Hartford and Harrington
27. PTOs
28. Diverse student population
29. Responsive Classroom
30. Electives
31. After-school clubs and socials, particularly at Harrington
32. Anti-bullying policy and adherence
33. Technology – Chromebooks, staff websites, communication methods (Power School, Remind)
34. STEM Program
35. Science curriculum
36. Current grade configuration helps students transition and gradually increase responsibility – small supportive environment
37. Special education collaboration and supports
38. Small classroom sizes
39. Tutoring
40. Before/after school programs affordable and reasonably-priced
41. Great STEM Program
42. Great PTO
43. Good community support for all students
44. Dedicated staff

Group 34

14. Dedicated principal – wants what is best for students
15. Technology – active boards, Chromebooks
16. School environment -feels like family
17. Supportive parents
18. Communication
19. Community events
20. Guidance and support from co-workers
21. Kid-centered
22. Dedicated staff
23. Implementation of Responsive Classroom
24. Use of technology
25. Communication with parents
26. Relationships – community involvement, PTO
27. Fundamentals – back to basic curriculum approach coupled with constructive hands-on curriculum (grammar, spelling, vocabulary, textbooks, specific programs)
28. STEM/Gifted Programs
29. Programs for special needs students
30. Communication
31. Staff
32. PTO – community involvement
33. Building administrations
34. Small class sizes
35. STEM/STEAM Programs

Group 10

Consensus Report

1. Parental involvement/PTO
2. Diverse selection of extra-curricular activities
3. Engaged and committed faculty and staff
4. Ample resources for curricular programs

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Engaged school counselors
2. Administrators supportive of supplemental programs
3. District-wide implementation of technology (chromebooks)
4. Diverse selection of school clubs
5. Diversity
6. Positive work environment
7. Supportive administration
8. Professional development on curriculum
9. Staff members
10. PTO
11. Great teachers
12. Many extra-curricular activities
13. Beautiful well-maintained buildings and grounds
14. Children get a great education
15. Before and after daycare
16. Summer camp on premises
17. Mount Laurel is known for its great school district
18. A certified nurse in every building
19. Parent involvement
20. Dedicated educators
21. Program support
22. Strong administrative cadre
23. Adequate resources
24. Strong PTO
25. Support for struggling learners
26. Diversity

Consensus Report

1. Safe Facilities
2. PTO – Parental Engagement
3. Technology (1:1)
4. Lines of Communication – Parents/teachers and Parents/Principal

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Technology – 1:1 Chromebooks, Smart Boards
2. Lines of communication – Parents & teachers, Parents and principals
3. PTO – Events, fund-raising, after-school clubs
4. PARCC (curriculum) – Journeys, preparation
5. PTO support of activities
6. Variety of electives at middle school – engage kids to be aware of life skills and problem-solving
7. Facilities Management
8. 1:1 Initiative – Chromebooks
9. Students come first always
10. Committed staff
11. Facilities are maintained
12. PTO support for students
13. Parental engagement
14. School safety support from Mt. Laurel Police and Fire Departments
15. Expert, caring, approachable administrators
16. Engaged PTO
17. Faculty care about academic social development

Group 35

Consensus Report

1. Focus on students with ample programs and support to meet their diverse needs
2. Cohesiveness of the board, administration, teachers, support staff, families, students and community
3. Students own their learning and drive instruction
4. Sense of belonging within the schools, district and community

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Ownership of learning
2. Communication
3. Close-knit community – parental involvement and support
4. Ample opportunities for students, parents and staff to become involved in district-wide activities and initiatives (leadership roles)
5. Provide a warm and welcoming learning environment
6. Communication with parents/families
7. Parental support
8. Support from administration
9. Having what we need to make our teaching/students be successful as far as supplies and PD
10. Relationships amongst peers and with families
11. Students with diverse backgrounds
12. Lots of programs to meet students needs and support
13. Small class sizes most years
14. Having students drive their learning
15. Diversity of students

27. After-school clubs
28. Summer Camps
29. Support for the Arts
30. A sense of family

Group 13

Consensus Report

1. Dedicated teachers and Staff
2. Supportive and actively-involved parents
3. Extra-Curricular opportunities – Recess runners, physical fitness, Maker Space, News Program, Art Club, Yoga Club, Cooking Club
4. Technology (1-8)

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Mr. Joe – the aide at Fleetwood
2. Custodial staff at Fleetwood
3. All the teachers – especially specials
4. STEM Program
5. Parent involvement with teachers at special events – field day, fun run, physical fitness day
6. Offering daily breakfast
7. Recess runners during recess three times a week
8. Chromebooks for every student
9. Having regular programs that get parents in the school to interact with students – library volunteers, recess runners, book sale, parties
10. Prompt responses from bus department and Child Study Team to parental concerns
11. Diversity of community at Fleetwood
12. Specials teachers going above and beyond regular classes – Art with a Sprinkle, Physical Fitness Day, Concerts, Book sale
13. After-school events – cooking, yoga, homework club
14. Bucket Fillers
15. PTO support
16. Parent support
17. Money for teachers' supplies each year
18. Support for teachers – New Early Childhood Education Supervisor
19. Dedicated teachers
20. 1:1 Technology initiative
21. Maker Space Monday option
22. Number of Clubs offered for students
23. Number of school events for students to attend
24. Sports teams for Grades 7-8
25. Late buses for students
26. Teacher healthcare
27. Sick days
28. EKO
29. Pre-K opportunities – special education and inclusion
30. Social Media
31. Presence of police officers in schools
32. Social media
33. Schools within communities
34. Communication
35. Field Day
36. STUDENTS
37. Recess runners program
38. Healthcare for staff is top-notch
39. Maternity leave support

16. Technology
17. Focus on students' needs
18. The district is generally well-staffed
19. Innovation – in teaching and learning
20. Teaching staff is dedicated, knowledgeable and puts students first
21. The new science curriculum is engaging and students are learning!
22. Math curriculum is student-centered and includes students in deep thinking and learning
23. Supportive superintendent and assistant superintendents
24. Collegial staff

Group 36

Consensus Report

1. Students
2. Diversity
3. 21st Century Skills – Brain-based learning, Real-time learning, Technology, Problem-solving, Habits of Mind, Growth Mindset, Communication
4. Collaborative Community

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Collaborating Teachers
2. Supportive Parents
3. Character Education
4. Student effort and Outside the Box Thinking
5. Community – Family
6. Diversity
7. Technology Advancement
8. Brain-Based Learning
9. School and Home
10. Sense of Community and teamwork within our schools
11. Collaboration among teachers (within the building and throughout other schools)
12. Technology integration in the classrooms
13. Supports in place to ensure student success, progress and growth
14. Diversity of students and staff
15. Teachers who instill a love of learning!
16. Investment in Technology & Curriculum
17. Communication
18. Student motivation – to do well, to learn, to be at school
19. Community support
20. Celebrating student success
21. Character education
22. Diversity of students
23. Family “village” atmosphere
24. Responsive Language
25. Power of “yet”
26. Habits of Mind
27. 21st-Century skills and problem-solvers
28. Implementing various methods of instruction to reach all students
29. Collaborative school communities
30. Teachers working together with students, parents, each other (co-teaching)
31. Embracing diversity of students and their individual needs

40. 1:1 laptop initiative
41. Dedicated Staff
42. PTO Support
43. Growing STEM emphasis in elementary school
44. Professional development opportunities
45. Innovation Team Concepts
46. Clubs and extra-curricular options for students – news program, Maker Space Mondays
47. Classroom technology – active boards, projectors
48. Teacher communication
49. Gifted program
50. Communication from district level
51. Communication from teachers
52. Recess Runners
53. Rewards for completing monthly fitness activities and healthy breakfasts
54. New brain-based learning
55. Fleetwood teachers and staff
56. STEM lab/activities/instruction
57. Coordinated sports during recess
58. Mr. Joe!!! – aide who coordinates recess sports and does a phenomenal job engaging students and motivating positive behaviors
59. Local community field trips
60. Fleetwood Specials – Art, Music, Gym, Library
61. Movement built into the school day within the classroom
62. School lunch and breakfast offerings
63. ABA therapist, Speech Therapist, School Social Worker
64. Guidance Counselor lessons
65. Dedicated staff that go above and beyond, especially Mr. Atkinson
66. Family Atmosphere

Group 15

Consensus Report

1. Transportation done well
2. Buildings adequate for current staff population
3. Well-maintained/equipped facilities
4. PTO involvement
5. Administration is responsive/sensitive to expenses

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Transportation moving 4200 kids to and from school every day
2. Special Education Programs – Cost effective delivery of quality education
3. Cost savings by administration – through constant evaluation of operations to reduce costs and improve efficiency
4. Transition of students into high school – Lenape for Mount Laurel students consistently perform better than any of the other sending districts
5. Facilities in good shape but getting older – need to examine future needs and upgrades
6. Need to teach more language at early age and carry it through all grades – we are becoming a bi-lingual nation
7. Demographics – Class size
8. Administration is responsive to concerns
9. Guidance counselors are invested in kids and do

Group 37

Consensus Report

1. Caring and supportive teachers, principals and leadership
2. Engaging after-school activities
3. Strong Academics
4. Safety Infrastructure and Facilities

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Teachers make classes fun while also somehow weaving the curriculum into the activities
2. A friendly environment
3. Classes are very engaging
4. Counselors/nurses in buildings
5. Librarians
6. Supportive community
7. Strong, engaging academics
8. Caring teachers/Principals
9. Classroom resources
10. Active PTOs
11. Clean/Attractive school buildings
12. Engaging after-school activities
13. Music/Art Programs
14. Engagement of teachers with parents/students
15. Highly proficient and competent teachers
16. Excellent leadership – Principals, board of education, counselors
17. Safe environment
18. Excellent infrastructure/facilities
19. Student-centered education
20. Caring teachers & support staff
21. Strong academics

Group 39

Consensus Report

1. Class size in the elementary schools
2. Strong PTO/Parent Involvement
3. Knowledgeable, accessible and dedicated staff
4. Outstanding Leadership starting at the top

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Class size in the elementary schools
2. Teacher-written curriculum
3. Parent involvement
4. Strong PTO/Parents
5. Dedicated staff
6. Technology – 1:1 Chromebook initiative
7. Responsive Classroom
8. New curriculum to aid with standards
9. Teachers
10. Newly-added extension of kindergarten day
11. Responsive Classroom
12. Chromebooks for each student
13. Class size
14. Communications
15. Outstanding leadership starting at the top with George Rafferty
16. Excellent facilities
17. Knowledgeable and accessible, dedicated faculty
18. Supportive and caring parents
19. Responsive communications team
20. 1:1 technology
21. Always willing and supportive custodial team

- a lot to help if concerns
- 10. PTO is very involved
- 11. Enough buildings for the current student population
- 12. Facilities are well-equipped

Group 16

Consensus Report

- 1. STEM Programs – Sea Perch and MATE
- 2. Many Opportunities – clubs and sports
- 3. Education levels for students to be at the level they are comfortable learning
- 4. Very supportive staff
- 5. Opportunity to succeed

Summary of Individual Reporting

- 1. MATE & Sea Perch/ Robotics, STEM Programs
- 2. Fab teachers
- 3. Passionate teachers
- 4. Opportunities to succeed
- 5. Enthusiastic and supportive staff
- 6. Clubs and other options
- 7. Education levels to allow different students their learning level
- 8. Amazing libraries
- 9. Underwater robotics program
- 10. Unique courses offered
- 11. Freedom of expression
- 12. Passionate teachers
- 13. Many opportunities/activities helpful for the future
- 14. Hands-on learning/education
- 15. Education levels
- 16. STEM Courses – Sea Perch and MATE
- 17. Amazing teachers
- 18. Everyone is welcoming
- 19. One school gets you ready for the next
- 20. Great opportunities
- 21. Many sports and clubs

Group 17

Consensus Report

- 1. Extra-curricular activities
- 2. Fiscally sound
- 3. Academic achievements
- 4. Dedicated staff
- 5. Parent-Community Partnership

Summary of Individual Reporting

- 1. Support staff
- 2. Opportunities for teacher leaders
- 3. Extra-curricular opportunities
- 4. Parent involvement and support
- 5. Community involvement
- 6. 1-1 Initiative
- 7. Strong, well-educated teachers
- 8. Inclusive settings
- 9. Collaboration
- 10. Support services
- 11. Supportive BOE
- 12. Strong curriculum
- 13. Variety of programs
- 14. Above-average test scores
- 15. Safe schools

- 22. Caring and educated quality teachers
- 23. Facilities – state of the art and well-maintained
- 24. Availability of camps
- 25. Attention to IEP needs
- 26. Responsiveness of administration
- 27. Strong PTOs, Strong family participation
- 28. EKO Program
- 29. Excellent libraries
- 30. Technology offerings
- 31. Availability of opportunities for children to participate
- 32. CST
- 33. Class size
- 34. Communication
- 35. Test scores/high SAT scores

Group 44

Consensus Report

- 1. Availability of technology
- 2. Community that cares and values education
- 3. Diversity of extra-curricular activities
- 4. Caring and supportive staff

Summary of Individual Reporting

- 1. PTO
- 2. Special education
- 3. Teachers/Principals
- 4. Involvement of everyone
- 5. Kind staff
- 6. Mr. Jimmy (bus driver)
- 7. After-school clubs/ activities
- 8. Physical education
- 9. Chromebooks
- 10. Guidance counselors
- 11. Advanced classes
- 12. Administrators who listen to kids and parents – problem-solving support
- 13. Excellent guidance department at Larchmont and HMS
- 14. Community involvement for kids
- 15. Extra-curricular activities at HMS and HF
- 16. Teachers who care!
- 17. Safe, Happy schools
- 18. Lots of opportunity for differentiated instruction
- 19. School pride throughout district
- 20. Collaboration with LHS for transition
- 21. Relationship of PTO and the schools
- 22. Student-teacher relationships
- 23. Availability of technology
- 24. Resources to support students in need
- 25. Diverse learning and extra-curricular opportunities for students
- 26. A community that cares, values education
- 27. Dedication of Staff
- 28. Diversity of population
- 29. Transportation
- 30. Teachers
- 31. Chromebooks
- 32. Physical education/extra-curricular activities
- 33. Advance classes (Math & LA)
- 34. Hard-working staff and students
- 35. Mr. Jim Errico – bus driver – is amazing with the kids

16. Extra-curricular activities, Diversity
17. Some great teachers
18. Communications to parents
19. Reputation
20. Math curriculum
21. STEM/STEAM
22. Board support
23. Community support
24. Academic achievement for many
25. Supports for children who need it
26. Staff involved in professional development
27. Dedicated staff/administration
28. Fiscally sound
29. Diversity in curriculum
30. Opportunities for social interaction

Group 18

Consensus Report

1. Technology
2. Clean and spacious buildings
3. Dedicated teachers and staff
4. Partnership with the community

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Excellent teachers and administration
2. Clean and spacious facilities
3. Challenging curriculum
4. Updated technology, but needs to be enhanced
5. Very good attention to special needs and struggling students
6. Communication with police
7. Participation in emergency planning and exercises
8. Partners with the police
9. Willingness to ask for help and advice
10. Willing to change and looking to improve school safety
11. Helping with response to emergencies outside the schools
12. Technology
13. Graduation success rate
14. Give back to the community
15. Quality teachers
16. Small class sizes
17. Variety of types of classes – supporting all interests
18. Extended program to offer support
19. Dedicated teachers
20. Class sizes when there are 15-18 students
21. Parent involvement
22. Community support
23. Great place to love and work
24. Technology resources
25. Teacher collaboration

Group 19

Consensus Report

1. Technology
2. Community Involvement
3. Kid-Writing and Math
4. Responsive Classroom

Summary of Individual Reporting

36. Community involvement
37. 1:1 Initiative
38. Administration takes time to listen to parents
39. Teacher communication with parents
40. Harrington's electives
41. After-school clubs
42. Special Ed Programs
43. Caring staff PTO Events
44. Fiscally-responsible BA
45. Custodians

Group 45

Consensus Report

1. Student-driven programming
2. Continuum of services within the least-restrictive environment
3. Collaboration
4. Communication – parents, staff, community agencies, police, fire department

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Dyslexia meeting
2. Collaboration
3. Communication
4. Continuum of services
5. Co-workers
6. Parent support
7. Pre-K autistic program
8. Inclusion services
9. Level of support from Special Ed Director
10. ESY Services
11. VI/AI Program
12. MD Program
13. Special Education continuum of services/programming
14. Pre-school program
15. Collaboration among staff
16. Communication with parents
17. Autism program
18. Inclusion practices
19. Leadership by our Director of Special Services
20. Willingness to collaborate, to try new things
21. Individual programming – TOD, TVI, Autism, MD, Pre-K
22. Meeting students' needs as a team
23. Resources and materials
24. Clubs and activities
25. Community involvement
26. Opportunities for teacher leaders
27. "Teaming" to problem-solve
28. Sense of community
29. Collaboration with other municipal agencies
30. Community outreach
31. Communication with parents
32. Preschool programs
33. Continuum of special ed services
34. Autism programs/MD/Transition/VI/ AI programs
35. Staff collaboration
36. Collaboration with outside agencies, i.e. FSOs, CMOs, Perform Car, EI
37. Opportunities for inclusion – ability to service children in least restrictive environment
38. Dyslexia trainings

1. Innovative, hands-on learning
2. 21st Century learning
3. Online connections
4. Responsive Classroom
5. Character Education
6. "Mindfulness"
7. Buddy Programs
8. Unity Families
9. Clubs
10. 1:1 Initiative
11. Path to Success – Community Involvement
12. New curriculum – resources available
13. Inclusion
14. Technology/Spanish/Health starting early on
15. Inclusion
16. PTO involvement
17. Math Department
18. Technology
19. 21st Century schools, teachers and curriculum
20. Great administrators
21. Support for all students
22. Support for the Arts
23. High level of communication between staff and parents
24. Investigations Math Program
25. Connect Math in Grade 6
26. Advanced Math Program
27. STEM Program
28. Technology – Chromebooks, Interactive projectors
29. Variety of clubs and sports
30. Interactive Science
31. Focus on Critical thinking
32. Focus on students owning learning
33. Responsive Classroom
34. Focus on engagement
35. Progressive curriculum
36. Inclusion
37. PTO
38. Homework clubs
39. Kid-Writing
40. Inclusion
41. Online resources
42. School support during crisis
43. 1:1 technology – Chromebooks
44. Community consciousness
45. Keeping abreast of new ideas, research
46. Student-centered learning
47. Whole child approach – "Responsive Classroom", "Mindfulness"
48. Inclusive ideas/practices
49. Support (of teachers, personnel, students, families)
50. After-school activities/interests
51. Creating school families/community support groups
52. Curriculum with online tools/resources
53. Celebrating accomplishments
54. Working collaboratively to solve problems
55. School resources to provide daily support

39. De-Escalation training for appropriate populations
40. Level of support from Director of CST
41. Parent support
42. ESY
43. Preschool programs, Collaboration with staff
44. Open communication with parents
45. Continuum of special ed programming
46. Inclusion programs
47. Vast variety of training available for staff
48. Supportive administration
49. Parent support

Group 48

Consensus Report

1. Technology – 1:1 Initiative
2. Science and Arts Programs
3. Good Classroom Sizes

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Good model of students progressing to upper grades
2. Curriculum
3. Technology/Sciences
4. Various levels of learning
5. Curriculum
6. Resources
7. Community engagement
8. Music and Arts Programs still active and excellent
9. Schools look interesting from all sides and in halls
10. Grandparents involved in activities
11. Children out for recess all weather
12. Good-looking library and cooperative interested librarian
13. Class sizes
14. 1:1 computer
15. Robotics program
16. Well-maintained buildings
17. Community events hosted at schools

Group 49

Consensus Report

1. Clubs – Amount of choices allows kids to develop their interests
2. Parent involvement and participation
3. Before and after-school care essential for working parents
4. Dedicated staff that's available/accessible at all levels

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. Parents/families actively engaged
2. School system has a great reputation – reason people move to Mount Laurel
3. Both my kids went through Mount Laurel Schools – their K-8 experience prepared them well for success in high school and now both are succeeding in college
4. Many extracurricular opportunities – especially once students reach HF
5. Attract good teachers – our school system is viewed as a good place to work
6. Schools are age-appropriately divided
7. EKO essential for working parents

Group 20**Consensus Report**

1. Small class sizes
2. Forward-thinking district
3. Access to technology
4. Responsive Classroom
5. Availability of Pre-K programs / special education
6. Extraordinary teaching staff/support staff
7. Extraordinary parents
8. Lasting relationships with staff beyond Mount Laurel
9. STEM
10. Next Generation Science

Summary of Individual Reporting

1. We stay current and abreast of what's new and best for students
2. We have the resources to try and do the best for ALL students
3. Our reputation is a draw for many people to move here
4. Our programs are known, our scores are known – the education is “A Good One”!
5. Teachers want to teach here; parents want their kids to learn here
6. My own children – now in college and working – have bonds with many teachers they have had over the years – still stay in touch – their teachers had a great influence on them and their future paths
7. Class size
8. Forward thinking: Brain-based learning - Habits of Mind

8. Good amount of sports activities to gain student interest
9. Before and after-school care for working parents
10. When I've needed help or inquired about something, someone has always been available to help
11. I love the dedication that my family has experienced from some of my son's teachers
12. Appreciate the additional help from staff, specifically at Larchmont
13. Hartford School offers a variety of after-school programs
14. Schools are high-achieving
15. Renowned special education program
16. Have a Communications Director, which many schools do not have
17. Nurses in every building
18. Awesome website
19. School Security Officer
20. Continually maintained buildings and grounds
21. In-house (not contracted) custodians, buses and drivers
22. Transition partnership from Harrington to Lenape
23. STEM/STEAM Programs
24. Parent support and Involvement
25. PTOs
26. GAP Program
27. Clubs
28. Strong curriculum
29. Approachable administration
30. Students who love to learn
31. Support services for low and high