

Feedback from the Group – January 5, 2010 Brader Elementary School  
Strategic Planning Meeting on Learning Environment

**General comments from participants:**

- Hire qualified instructors at the High School level – especially those that can engage learners
- Make sure students follow the Code of Conduct
- Make sure people stop bullying other people
- We need a district-wide approach to address bullying
- Customer service—all employees need to treat visitors with respect
- Inclusion—we need to keep building this. We need to see inclusion students as everyone's students
- Middle School libraries-- there is a big drop in quality from elementary school to middle school. Would like to see that improved
- The district needs to look at why students are less engaged at high school. Need to ask students why
- Why are people leaving the district instead of going to school here?
- Why do we have such a high drop-out rate?
- Parental involvement is not there the way it used to be—we need to find out why
- We need a plan of action for talented and gifted students to ensure that they continue to stay here
- Class sizes are too big
- Students are not all there to learn—disruptive students make it hard for others who want to learn
- Students' drive to do well in school depends a lot on the student and the class—the level of engagement
- Students with challenging lives—we as a community need to understand they need to come to school and be able to escape that
- A drop in student engagement translates into lower reading and writing scores. We are losing students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and we need to address that
- Everyone needs to be a positive role model
- We need to have books to take home, and more tutoring. We need to eliminate study hall
- Teachers need to be positive role models
- No matter what, we need to have better schools for our children
- Commitment, enrichment, and support
- Teachers need to feel safe and secure
- What are the necessary resources? What is our timeframe and action plan?
- We need action items and concrete steps to take away from this meeting
- Identify best practices—why aren't there other Power Libraries like the one at Brader?
- We need to share resources and good ideas among teachers
- How do we recruit and keep the best teachers, help others, and release those who are under-performing?
- Safety and security—the anti-bullying program works well at Newark Charter School

- We have got to understand that we lose kids to charter schools because they have the option to invite and uninvite students—we do not
- Until we find a way to help students deal with home issues, we will continue to have the same problems
- We need expanded resources and opportunities for extracurricular activities and athletics
- We have to remember that respect is a 2-way street in our classrooms. We must be sensitive to students' issues and tolerant about why kids are not engaged. Teachers need training to correct the problem, and respect students without degrading them.