



**Kaukauna Area School District  
Community Survey Comment Analysis  
January 10, 2017**

The Comment Analysis Summary is intended to identify and represent the prevailing themes collected through the comments gathered in the community survey. A major theme is identified as a result of having multiple participants referencing similar issues or concerns. Supporting comments are included verbatim within each theme.

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## Although respondents felt communication is good in some areas, they offer suggestions for improvement.

District wide super work and communication, building wise I feel improvement is needed in communication. Many times communication is lacking and leads to very mixed messages.

I feel there is a lack of communication and support between administration and faculty in Kaukauna. This causes a negative atmosphere that in the end affects our students.

Communication needs improving.

I love all of the elementary teachers and experience. However, it seems like when they go to Middle School there is not as much communication. I love the parent portal. I wish it would show assignments or tests that are approaching. It looks like maybe for one class of my daughters I can see it.

I love NDLC for their communication with parents about what is happening in my child's classroom. That is completely not the case in Middle school, communication is non existent from teachers except for a 5 min conversation at a parent teacher conference 2 months after behaviors had started.

I think the communication given by the district to staff is one directional, I do agree they try to keep staff informed on current decisions, but I don't believe they are interested in the "in the trenches insight" that staff can provide.

I am pleased with the level of communications. I wish however that all the teachers utilized email to communicate important events. Sending paper with students is not effective.

middle school sports communication could be way better.

Sending an IC message (phone/email/text) letting families know when grades are posted for families to view and sending IC message (phone/email/text) when newsletters for individual schools are posted on the website...not expect families to constantly be checking is an easy way to improve communication.

Communication about posted grades needs to improve. Parents should be notified of grade reports via text, email, and phone call. In receiving feedback from students, it is apparent that very few check their report card online and were not even aware that it was available there.

There is no communication whatsoever about advanced courses and their effectiveness on high school credit and GPA. The district feels it is appropriate to discuss these matters in private without any involvement of those it directly affects. That alone will push gifted children's out of the district

There is zero paperwork sent home and all communication is attempted over the Internet. Poorly done though. I suppose it might be convenient for the teachers but it seems very inconvenient for the parents.

More communication with parents about career assessments their student takes

## **Respondents commented on the importance of continuing/adding programs and services to support students with learning challenges (Special Education, Differentiation, Explore Charters etc.).**

We recently moved to the KASD. Our daughter is in 1st grade at Tanner. She was struggling with reading coming into 1st grade and scored in the lowest percentage of her class. Due to that, she has been provided extra help and is working with the reading teacher as well as her teacher and we have seen her improve leaps and bounds since the start of the school year. We are very happy with the willingness to work with our child and help her to succeed. They have also provided us with tools for when we work with her at home that are in line with what is being used to teach her in school. Thank you!

Academically, I would love to see or know more about academic progression and what is being done to improve our students on an academic basis, particularly those students who need a little extra help in certain subjects.

I would love to see some charter options at the middle school and high school level which could better cater to students different learning styles. Teaching them in a manner that fits their personality types could help further build their confidence, increase their learning capacity and in turn be more successful adults. Not all students learn well with a sit down instruction format. Possibly children could be tested to see which learning style works best for them and then they could be grouped appropriately.

My child was diagnosed with high functioning aspergers by counselor and doctor. However was deemed as not needing additional assistance at school. I feel if we are spending so much less than other districts they could use some of those funds to assist with children, instead of just moving to the next grade level

The Special Education program, particularly at RVMS is lacking in technology and resources.

Developing charter opportunities for Middle and high school. Continue/ expand reaching both the children below grade level expectations but also push/develop and provide opportunities for students performing above grade level expectations.

Teachers need to be enabled to do their jobs. Kids that are ED need to be handled differently so that they are not allowed to disrupt the learning of other children and teachers can do their jobs.

The district should help provide some sort of after school tutoring for special needs children. Kids with ADHD and so on.

I also believe students with learning challenges should have a pull-out time for support with an LD teacher.

The special ed student to teacher ratio is so high, especially at RV it is hard to do a good job meeting all their needs and the needs of their peers.

There is not a continuum for students with special educational needs. Students would significantly benefit from more course options.

## **Respondents generally support a “4K-5” elementary grade configuration and some expressed concern having 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend the middle school.**

I wish 5th grade was still in the elementary schools. Very hard transition for my current 5th grader.

I still miss having grades 4k- 5th grade in one elementary building.

My only real concern is at River View when my son attended there. I feel very strongly that the 5th grade should not be in the same building as 8th graders. I believe there needs to be a decision made to move the 5th grade back to the elementary or to build an intermediate school with 5th and 6th grade to be housed.

5th grade brought back down to the elementary buildings.

I would like to see River View as a Middle School, which means a 6-8 building. Too many times decisions are made in the building that only benefits/helps the 5th grade, yet everyone has to change to make it work. Elementary strategies are great for the elementary, not for 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students.

Please move the 5th grade out of the middle school. It is too much of an age difference and socially they are not ready for it. The 5th graders run more elementary style and they are too young to have around the 8th graders. They do cross paths a lot and it needs to be addressed.

Remove 5th grade from the middle school.

Consider making all elementary school 4K-5th grade to reduce the size of RV.

I believe the 5th grade should be a part of the elementary configuration.

I would also recommend that 5th grade is a part of elementary schools. So the schools would be 4K-5th grade.

I really liked when we had 4K through 5th at Haen. It was a true elementary experience.

I would like to see 4k to 5th in the elementary schools. I believe the 5th grade is better suited at that level. It would also alleviate some of the over crowding at River View.

Again, I think the elementary needs to include 5th grade when you are thinking about reconfiguration.

The elementary schools should be 4k-5th grade.

I believe 5th grade should be at the elementary school.

Prefer 4K-5th grades, 6th-8th, 9th -12th in individual schools.

Make all building K-5, the middle school 6-8. It works well in other districts.

## Respondents expressed support to modify school start/end times.

It seems that our school day is longer than in other districts. This is not best for kids. I think shortening the day in some way is something that needs to be looked at. As well as, the fact that we have no spring break that most other districts have. Students at that time of year, really need to rest their brains to come back fresh to finish the year.

If the district modified the school start/end times they could also allow their earliest learners to slightly shorten their day.

Start and end times should not be the same for students that are 5 years old and for students that are 18.

4K students starting their school day at 7:45 is early. Some kids need to get on the bus before 7:00 in the morning.

I think high school should start later, research shows teenagers are extremely sleep deprived. The only issue is then it makes it harder for them to have jobs or play sports.

It would be great to look at staggered school start/end time and align them as much as possible to current research on teens and sleep.

Multiple start and end times sound attractive. But for families that use busing...if the older child gets picked up or dropped off first, the parent then has to arrange for someone to help the younger child on or off the bus.

Transportation of our littlest is important for safety reason. Changing the start and end times is a very viable option to help save the district money on busing. There is a great deal of research showing a later starting time for high school students is very beneficial and matches their learning style better.

Research says that older students need more sleep! Let them start later - I know that messes with athletics, etc. I know Kimberly does the opposite - but those younger kids are actually awake and ready to go ( usually).

We like the idea of staggered start and end times because traffic and parking at quinney and tanner are a nightmare. It causes families to feel rushed. Which only increases chances of accidents.

Staggering start times would reduce headaches in SO many ways for families too. Less traffic, being able to eat breakfast, more sleep for kids. LESS STRESS to get 2 kids to 2 different school

If staggering start times, I think the district should seriously consider later start times for high school. So many studies show teens do better in these situations.

We previously had staggered start time for each of the schools and I thought it was working very well. I'm not sure what happened to cause the change but I think it would be a great idea to change back.

## Respondents feel the District places too much emphasis on athletics rather than academics.

There also seems to be a major focus on sports versus academics. I'm an avid sports fan so I do love the energy around sports but would also love that energy surrounding academics as well.

athletics drive the decisions, not academic priorities

Need more attention to developing future job skills, and less on sports.

seem the studies are overlooked, but the sports are in the forefront. WHY??

There needs to be less focus on sports and more focus on high level academics.

we need a culture of winning and i don't mean just in sports

I hear a lot about how great our sports are. I would like more features on the fine arts and music programs. If KASD is about academics, it would be nice to hear more about that too.

I feel that there is an emphasis on sports over academic activities and arts co-curriculars. I would like to see more emphasis and support placed on these other activities.

Too much focus, especially spending, on athletics, not enough on academics.

I don't want to see the fine arts suffer as our sports are excelling. They are STUDENT athletes. Students first.

I believe that KASD puts too much emphasis and money into athletics instead of education that benefits all STUDENTS instead of a minority of the student body.

too much money spent on athletics

The amount of money, time and energy emphasized on the athletics is entirely too much.

As evidenced by the new athletic facility, sports are more important than anything else. That money could/should have been used for educational things and the building repairs- not the creation of a new complex.

There is one focus of this district. athletics! It is time to fund & staff your music programs appropriately.

Sports are great for some kids but I feel the district is overambitious with the amount of time and energy they put into just sports. So many students are involved in other activities that are MUCH more relevant to their futures yet they are not always given the 'limelight' for it (forensics, theater, music, art, etc.).

I do not think spending for athletics should be above and beyond the spending for academics

## **Respondents expressed support to update building systems and potentially renovate educational spaces.**

I am not opposed to a new middle school, but I would have to ask what is gained with that option over renovating the existing school. Spending an extra \$50M plus is a hard sell just for aesthetic reasons.

I would support adding air conditioning throughout RVMS. All 3 of my kids have been to the nurse at some point with headaches or not feeling well because of overheating, which is obviously not conducive to learning. (Especially on the 3rd floor) I am not in favor of more vacant/abandoned buildings in the community, but renovations need to be done.

If KASD is going to continue to use RV, it must be updated to better meet the instructional needs of kids and to recruit and to retain kids.

Something needs to be done at RV. The building is crumbling and needs some repair work done. If we want to put our best foot forward, why aren't the "public" spaces at RV (gym, auditorium, lobby...) kept up to look fabulous? A first impression can never be changed and currently, the auditorium has cobwebs that have been there for years, paint on the walls is peeling off, etc. These things make that room look like it is part of a system where maintenance is not important. What kind of impression does that give the public? People must wonder how the rest of the school is maintained when they look around in the auditorium. PLEASE clean the auditorium at RV to make it be the crown jewel it should be!!!

Just updating the system (\$25 million option) is irresponsible. Would you update a car by just putting a new frame under the body, or would you buy a new car? I would support system updates combined with renovating educational space.

The location of RVMS is great, but updates are needed to keep up with the times.

Update to more efficient systems as the old major systems fail. When the roof leaks, then update. When the boiler/heating system can no longer be repaired then replace.

It would be nice to have a new school, but the cost is prohibitive. I believe that at this time it makes more sense to update the existing facilities and explore how to renovate to meet current needs.

I believe in maintaining RVMS as a center of our community. I also don't see where closing a sound structure to build new where renovation could solve issues would be more effective.

If RVMS is truly a sound building and the updates will provide a functioning building for years to come then look at updating the building systems.

River View has such history in the city of Kaukauna. I would hate to close RVMS and have it be vacant. RVMS is in the heart of the city, and although there are many things that need updating, I feel it is worth it.