

Stakeholder comments from October 12, 2023 community conversation at Incline High School

Documentation of conversation and stakeholder input/questions/comments is summarized below from notes taken at the meeting as guided by Meeting Facilitator, Margaret Schulz. Additionally, the questions and comments provided to staff on comment cards is included.

WCSD Trustees and leadership present included: Trustee Jeff Church, Trustee Dr. Diane Nicolet, Superintendent Susan Enfield, Associate Chief Melynda Baker, Associated Chief Sara Cunningham, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer Michele Anderson.

Meeting notes:

What are the facility gaps in Incline Village schools as related to the facility study and potential fixes. Such as: Investments to bridge the gaps and how are gaps impeding student's education? Can Incline Village add or modify anything to fix those issues?

Is there something that says newer schools are better?

Magnet school in Incline Village in partnership with other entities in community that focus on environment and sciences as WCSD focuses on enrollment numbers.

Middle school needs to be stand-alone: not with elementary or high school due to biology, hormones and chaos of middle school.

If middle school is closed, segregation may be a bigger issue.

Outreach: all families, past participants (verify communication status) and check community calendar prior to scheduling meeting. Email not received by community.

A two-year timeline is too long and equity for middle school would diminish if combined with elementary or high school.

When the population does grow, where will middle school students go?

Is middle school closing: yes or no?

The Incline Village community is not represented here tonight.

Equity – how would the Incline Village options improve equity for Incline Village students?

Pre-K population – where are the stats coming from? Births are not always local.

Is WC-1 funding used/earmarked for Incline Village students versus cutbacks or closure?

Consolidating Incline Village schools is not identifying every child by face and name – equity.

Invest money to promote enrollment at Incline Village schools.

Need to promote our schools – feel backed by WCSD.

Promote – not demote.

IVGID and Incline Middle School share boundary, fields, gyms, etc.

Equity – programs offered to all not just money.

Offer individual programs, reconfigure classrooms, more gyms needed, trades education, joint use for ball space extra-curriculars, immersion program needed.

What is the per child revenue for Incline Village versus WCSD?

No representation – varied representation to this group. Needs to be 1 group/representative.

Committee – this was done 10 years ago regarding recruiting students and input was ignored.

Working group needs to include UNR, Pre-K (prenatal and 0 – 5 years), business community, environmental center, IVGID.

Level of distrust.

Money issue – should not be the primary concern, focus on the kids.

Money is driving the decisions when it is so much more than that.

In the FMP process – Incline Village has lost money, teachers and students.

No IB program to enhance public school in Incline Village.

Students first – need to really listen to the people in this community regarding the middle school change.

Low attendance due to no message and decision already made.

No action – only data. Process issue.

“What” is the working group working to solve?

Comment card notes:

We need you to listen to us the community here in Incline Village, to the students who are going to be the most affected with this change that they want to have in our schools, that you don't pretend to take us into account with these meetings that only talk about the same thing. There will be problems with drugs and alcohol with the younger kids since they will be more exposed, if they are in the same school as the teenagers.

To invest money on vape detectors (for the bathrooms) and weapon detection and cameras on the hallways; I worry that combining the school it will negatively affect sports; the Incline community is tired of hearing the same thing and that they don't give us an answer. It is obvious that for that reason, people didn't attend this meeting.

Our greatest asset here in Incline is our small classes and talented & dedicated teachers. If we consolidate or try to save money and lose our small class size, you will ruin what makes our schools so excellent. Our students receive a world class education and they feel like they are part of a family at their schools. The teachers really get to know them individually. The teachers do a phenomenal job providing a rigorous education because of the small class size. Also, why do you need to collect data and have a working group if everybody in these meetings wants to keep the middle school open? There's no consolidation wanted here in this community! Put the money into keeping all the campuses open!

If we need the middle school later when population increases there is no land. Perhaps making it a shared facility for now?

I want to amplify comments by other parents. The aim should be to reverse the enrollment decline. I have resurrected the MathCounts program at IMS. Surprise: a home school parent asked to have their daughter take part. Success breeds success and I'm not ready to give up on the enrollment decline without a fight – one kid at a time.

There is a reason that every community separates middle school students from elementary and high school students. Consolidation doesn't work.

Adam Searcy started the idea of closing the school because enrollment is \$. WCSD is losing populations at IMS to many reasons. The enrollment issue can be fixed if WCSD thinks of it as a business. Put money into the school to entice more enrollment. Closing IMS will lose enrollment and money. Improve the school will bring in more students and money.

If \$ is based on student enrollment, what can WCSD do to increase enrollment. If you cut our school or programs, we lose students, thus funding? How can you increase our funding? Promote.; How do you get to be in the working group? Who decides our representation.

The idea of PK-8 did NOT come from the community! The community is in agreement that the middle school should not close. A committee is not needed to study that. How much money would be saved by stopping the process now and just leaving things as they are? Please, if you really want to listen to us, hear that further study is not needed. We want all 3 schools to be open!

I would absolutely be very interested in volunteering for committee. Interested community homeowner 18 years both children thru IHS and IMS Booster Retired IVGID Parks & Recreation.

Will Washoe County Host Board meeting in Incline so community can participate and be heard and Board can learn about Incline; Segregation is a problem! The unrest is causing families and community not willing to invest in our school due to the middle school may or may not close; Provide answers, not we are collecting DATA.

We have said the same things at every meeting and still have not heard anything meaningful from the district. It is not the job of our community to justify & research how to keep our school! You are required to provide us with education equitable to what our taxes pay for. These meetings are frustrating.

If the tax revenue hasn't decreased, there is no justification for a decrease in services.