

Program Offerings Comments:

The kitchen learning areas need updated. They have been the same for decades. The community is also using this space. It can also be seen as a safety concern.

The middle school children of today will be responsible for how well Newton, Kansas thrives in the future. We are doing good things, but we cannot continue to do everything we have been doing if we want the children to be successful.

Raises for the paraprofessionals

Consider changing the organization of the school year to year round learning in order to better meet the needs of all students. It is time to reexamine the current structure and make it more focused on expanding and supporting student learning.

I would love to see continued options for CTE and electives broadly throughout our district, and believe that a strong focus on core instruction benefits our electives/CTE programs well. Both are important.

Focus on reading, math and science.

What is CTE??

We have a wonderful CTE program. I wish students would understand more that they can change or adjust their path after they get started, ie, move to more medical based from ag, etc. It's so hard for anyone to know what direction they want to go.

More foundational education in basics, and provide extra assistance to those that need them before pursuing advanced areas.

Budget

We need to get in front of more businesses to encourage them to help foster growth of the program.

I think it would be most important and effective to prove that our students are getting a good basic education before looking at expanding options. Newton has more options than most surrounding districts, but worse test scores.

If you wanna boost community pride and see NHS success, get rid of the population that is weighing the community down. There is a certain demographic that does not care about school traditions nor culture of the community.

What is CTE?

I am wondering what these questions really have to do with facilities? I am less interested in new programs and more interested in actually providing solid facilities for our already existing programs.

There needs to be alternative school beginning in 5/6 to enhance learning for all students.

Programs during School that support STEM education.

What is CTE? That needs to be defined in the survey for people to rate it.

Our facilities in business and FACS CTE are not sufficient to meet needs.

We have to boost community pride. Best way to do this is through athletics and activities. We have ignored these areas and our facilities are greatly lacking compared to other RIVAL schools.

THE BULLYING IN THIS DISTRICT NEEDS TO BE HANDLED! My 11 year old went from loving school to hating going to school because she is being bullied and picked on. No staff has batted an eye and she when she had finally had enough, she got in trouble.

What is cte

Teach children REAL WORLD SKILLS. Cooking, balancing a ledger, taxes, home ownership.

Keep working to help our students be successful; be open to suggestions.

CMS. Ditch the block. Go back to seven classes everyday. Focus on students succeeding at math, reading, writing, science, history. Middle school is not a time to pick a career.

Provide classes on real world experiences like how to file taxes, how to fill out a W-2, etc

Too much CTE emphasis already. We should emphasize our current core curriculum instead of allowing students an easier path through CTE programs.

Start with phonics reading in pre and k agesIntroduce math learning that willl successfully prepare students taking computers out of early classrooms so children interact with each other instead of online teaching. Get back to basics!

Proper communication of district offerings

Perhaps new boundary lines to even out attendance numbers at the elementary schools, especially since there are additional houses being built in south Newton.

Offer more college/tech certifications

We need better school and better pay especially for the classified staff . They are just as important as teachers in making great schools

Bring the test scores up on the core classes. Without that, nothing else matters.

Would really like to see test scores improve my child can barely read and what is happening at Chisholm academically?

While NHS boasts of pathway opportunities the schedule makes it impossible for students to be in band and Ag or other programs. The specialized courses are only offered once a year.

Real world learning is mandatory, but requires base strengths and awareness to get community buy-in

SPED programs are most often forgotten about. My guess is they haven't been funded well in nearly a decade. Tailored learning. Finding successes in educators and pairing them with student interests to foster more well rounded and fulfilling experiences

We need a new alternative School, with more online classes

In order for all students to have strong foundational skills, teachers need to be able to teach with others that are teaching the same thing. Leave the preschool classes in the same building so they can collaborate easily.

Separate language arts and literature within ELA classrooms (middle school). More specifically, establish a separate language arts class (writing - esp. grammar) and literature class (reading). This will improve student success in ALL classes.

The district can't afford the programs and staff they already have. We don't need more.

CTE gets a LOT of attention and funding. Let's focus on educating well-rounded young people rather than "tracking" them for a specific career.

Drivers ed

Why is this survey pushing CTE so hard? The district has a well developed CTE program already. It is time to focus on core academics and a more well round education.

For middle school elective classes consider balancing check books & home budgeting, simple cooking & sewing, important skills for living on your own and starting a family.

All children have the potential to succeed. Special treatment to certain children is just awful.

My other in objective #2 has to do with upgrading athletic facilities. While sports in school aren't everything, having nice, updated facilities will go a long way with building community involvement and bringing people to our district.

Objective 2: Promote ALL programs, not just CTE. The rest of us don't have our own principal to go around promoting our programs. All the money and attention goes to CTE.

Elementary school student evaluation to break down student aptitude and abilities for educational core and CTE levels in middle school curriculum.

Wider variety of electives for sped students. They thrive in the hands on classes, but are not always able to keep up at the pace or level of gen ed peers. More electives that they have the potential to succeed in.

Expand opportunities for the special ed population. They are always left behind.

Stop focusing so much on CTE

Stop worrying about the extra's in technology and focus on the basics at the younger ages. There needs to be books at the school levels 5-8 and much less computer time. Kids already know technology, but it's useless if the child's knowledge is limited.

Racism- it does exist and it is very prominent in our schools today.

The trends and utilization study have little to do with the action items brought up in this survey. For the community to provide accurate input additional information would be helpful on the district's needs and action items.

Expand opportunities that create a college/higher education-going culture from K-12,

Fine arts, critical thinking skills, and socio-emotional learning are vital to a healthy school experience

Have businesses like plumbers and carpenters partner with student teams. For example, have a team of students, guided by an instructor, remodel and/or upgrade building areas like bathrooms and changing the doors of classrooms.

We need to do better on our Tier 1 instruction and beef that up before tackling too many other items. If the foundation were stronger, I would support more expansion opportunities.

Continue to focus on career and technical education.

Higher pay for teachers leads to happier teachers and more commitment

The 'other' is focus on stronger math and english skills

A lot talented and successful people come from Newton and we should do a better job of celebrating the good.

How does any of this address the shrinking student base and reduced resources? This all reads like consultant nonsense

We have to focus on bringing up scores and core skills. We have a million programs and that's great but we don't need more.

Student Experience Comments:

Raises please

More emphasis participation & support for non- athletic student offerings.

We need a large fine arts center. There is not enough seating in our current auditorium for most concerts and parents have to stand.

Our community doesn't have pride in what we have and always compares us to a Maize. We don't have the tax base to compete with Maize and I don't want to live in that type of community so finding some balance of presenting what we have - centennial is wow

Avoid spending on non-essentials; too much emphasis on extracurricular that doesn't benefit ALL students, only a select few.

Budget

Take care of what we all ready have. Lack of pride from the district it self is the problem not the student body

Upgraded performing arts center with higher seating capacity

Whether we want to accept it, athletics sells our high school and amenities will help showcase that.

Keep the main thing the main thing: provide good education.

Don't collaborate with the community if you want to see construction projects fulfilled. The community does not want their tax dollars to go up by any means and will never vote for new athletic facilities or the like.

with less students than 10 years ago you should have less buildings

K-4 section at Opportunity Academy for behavioral needs

Our athletic facilities stink. We are so far behind everyone else in the area and losing students due to this. We have to make some major changes. If we don't, my kids will not be staying in the district.

Pay staff more in order to decrease turnover and keep quality teachers. Consider smaller class sizes for all classes including special education classes. Have a limit.

Consider a district wide fundraiser for all inclusive playgrounds at all school in newton

Our pool is embarrassing compared to every other pool every other school uses

Extracurricular activities are not limited to and should not be focused on athletics. None of the enhancement strategies mention music, art, theater, or other non athletic programs.

Turf practice field at high school

Again, be open to suggestions.

Include special education students and teachers in community activities and opportunities. The majority of the time they are left out because of special education. Shorting staffing.

More facility's for teams to practice so it's not a fight to get practice space

Block at CMS is a bad choice. Middle school kids don't do well with long time blocks and not seeing teachers everyday. Connections and relationships are easier to form with daily contact

Our practice and general athletic facilities in Newton are subpar to those in the area or in the league.

The city has spent alot of money to update parks and rec center. Collaborate instead of spending money

focus on student academic outcomes

Need to retain the Boyd Street soccer complex and not utilize space for other purposes.

Seating at the track is terrible, we should be utilizing the bethel track for middle school events as well.

Cooper has potential options to address the overcrowding of the adults. It is not overcrowded with student capacity. Pushing preschool into the elementary schools and closing Cooper should not be one of the options on the table.

The facilities need to be upgraded to enhance the student athletes. The school needs to be a community partner with the city and stop taking without giving back.

More parking at Centennial. I know this isn't solely a school issue, but with the expansion of fields and all games being played out there, it is a major problem.

I do not think you should shut down any if the elementary schools. If anythi g move fifth grade back to elementary. All teChers snd parsnts i have talked to ssy tge 5/6 santa fe model hurt the kids education. Repurpose SF and go 6-8 at Chisholm.

Address teacher satisfaction. Remove barriers to allow them to focus on the curriculum and students.

Evening out class sizes in the same grade level between all schools.

Sports are great. But don't sink all you money into sports.

Our facilities are so poorly planned, ugly and uninviting.

Athletic facilities: NHS wrestling mezzanine floor

Cooper is important, space appears available at other schools to expand the program or move an age level

Increase Paraeducator support where it isn't possible to decrease sizes. Please STOP focusing on amenities and athletics when there are clearly structural, instructional, and inclusive needs to be met. Maslow hierarchy guys

Cooper data is incorrect (191). Cooper's capacity constraints are number of students physically in the building at one time 133/147 if fully enrolled AND the staff needed to support the students from all of the 6 EC programs currently in Newton.

Ways to bring more attention to what all Cooper entails so people understand the need to keep all those programs together. Not many understand what happens at Cooper very well.

It's time for the administration and BOE to reduce the number of athletic programs offered to students, especially at Newton High School. Cut programs to boost salaries to retain and attract teachers..

More tennis courts at NHS, DO NOT disrupt the Boyd soccer fields

Consider a larger Fine Arts venue that could be shared with the community.

Cooper isn't overcrowded. Show the real numbers.

Our district needs a second auditorium or mulit-use space -- maybe at Chisholm. Students in our award-winning Fine Arts programs deserve it.

Student overcrowding at Cooper is not the issue...we have support staff who are needed at the building in order to provide the services that we have. I would like to see one more classroom and space added for staff offices.

Our facility are embarrassing compared to districts around us. I also often wonder why we struggle to maintain what we have and why small improvements are such a a challenge for this district.

We wouldn't lose so many children to other districts if our district didn't treat children like crap.

"Coat closet" at every primary school so that kids have to go outside for recess - and better communication with families about the importance of fresh air and sunlight, even in the winter. Many many states and other countries go out in much colder weathe

Improve existing CTE facilities

A district-wide approach for raising community pride & celebrating successes would be good, especially in light of negative narrative on social media and seeming lack of interest/support from some parents and community members. Community support matters!

Fix the pool and make it usable to host meets; there is not room for athletes and spectators.

As a Cooper staff, I feel we are in need of storage space and meeting spaces. Wondering if a storm shelter/multi-use space could be added to the current facilities. Does the reporting for student numbers reflect only students attending at the building?

All facilities used by students, staff and families NEED to be lead-free and in full (safe) working order!
continue supporting sped sports teams! That kind of support is amazing!

Consider the needs for nonathletic extra curricular activities like the robotics program, USA Skills, FFA-- programs that offer job experiences and skills as an extra curricular activity

Hiring teachers that actually care and aren't there to collect money until they can retire

The trends and utilization study have little to do with the action items brought up in this survey. For the community to provide accurate input additional information would be helpful on the district's needs and action items.

More turf.....the area behind Lindley Hall is used all hours of the day and well into the night.

Don't close any schools

Upgrade equipment, uniforms and explore opportunities for expansion of band, orchestra, choir and other fine arts programs at the middle & high school.

For the "other" for objective three on this page, I would like to see school/classroom facilities improved long before athletic facilities

Is it possible to partner with existing city facilities, or share upgrades with the city or the YMCA?

Cooper has serious needs, however, just moving the current programming into elementary schools is not nearly as easy as it seems. Please collaborate with staff on possibilities for this long before making decisions. It needs to be well thought out.

Balance spending as to avoid allocation for sports over academics

Support for teachers to effectively address behavioral issues that disrupt learning is most important.

I think we really need to make sure our facilities look in good shape and up to date if possible.

Facility Needs comments:

Raise

Build on 6 classrooms to east of science like intended 1997. You have same issues from 30 years ago. Should have listened to people who knew.

Chisholm and NHS need major upgrades or new buildings - sixth thru 8 to be housed at highschool and a new highschool build would be ideal :)

Adding storm shelters that are dual purpose for classrooms or science areas, used for more than just gym space.

Avoid large expenditures

Budget

Again this does not help student out comes -- This is proven time and time again it is what is being taught and how.

NHS needs to remove all temporary walls from the school. This is a safety hazard when in case there is an active shooter situation.

quit wasting money on new buildings, use the excessive money you get from the tax payers now wisely to maintain what you have.

Culinary Arts and Science classrooms need improvements ASAP. Being a student in that classroom two years ago, there was not enough room for us to work. Four-Five people in each kitchen. If you've ever tried this at home... you know it does NOT work.

None

Need alternative for 5/6 building.

our categorical special needs program causes a ton of disruption to our business/journalism classes. Spend a day in Massaglia's classroom. It is almost not a functional classroom.

I think most of our classrooms are fine. Science labs need to be redone but in a world where everything is done on Chromebooks, upgrading a cinderblock room is not a need. Paint and maintenance in most classrooms is all that is needed.

The high school is woefully in need of updates. People choose not to live in Newton because of the condition of the high school

Remain flexible.

Larger building for OA to assist in the long waiting list it has.

The committee needs to look at what is really important instead of finding things to spend money on. Families are over taxed now and renewing bonds will not bring board and community together. It is isolating your cause!

I do not think overcrowding at Cooper is due to students. I would like to see options for exporting some of the offices held at Cooper to other existing buildings.

While expanding Early Childhood programming options would be amazing. Having an early childhood education center should always remain part of the equation. Pushing preschool into the elementary schools is not expansive.

The schools need a major update at atleast the middle school and high school.

No need to build new storm shelters. Reinforce what we already have. Fix the original NHS classrooms so they have real walls, not just two departments.

The structure of the building should not be implemented with the culinary. It is important, but the building has not had significant work done in years. That will get lost in the request.

At Cooper, building a storm shelter/multipurpose area; moving some staff to other buildings not students only if needed; allow paid slots for community peers;

Focus on fixing the infrastructure issues first (roof, plumbing, code compliance, etc.). DO NOT spend ANY money building storm shelters.

Stop saying Cooper is overcrowded.

CMS needs a performing arts space. Maybe a theater/auditorium could double as a storm shelter.

Buildings need to be maintained. There are still leaks every time it rains, for example. There is also no warm water in the restrooms in the pods at Chisholm Middle School.

Make sure that when we are spending taxpayer on money for facility upgrades, the change actually enhance learning, increase safety, etc. Don't build something just because other school districts do it.

The high school has to be one of the most unsecure buildings in the state at this point. So many unaddressed security issues.

Add more restrooms at Cooper Preschool

The student population at ECC needs to be re-examined. There is an overcounting on the numbers given

There is too much money spent on athletics and unnecessary stuff.

Expand and improve CTE facilities at the Brooks Trades Center

If we invest in maintenance and improvements now, we don't have to later foot the bill for a whole new facility (facilities). It not only is investing in our near future but preventing major expense down the road. Fostering community pride is crucial!

This is the first I've heard of overcrowding at Cooper; has this been a silent issue? Please address the issues of classroom space in the old science rooms at the HS. We have also given away too many learning spaces for offices, outside counselors, etc

Need for a more useful and safe storm shelter space at Cooper

As a community and district we need to expand the critical benefit of alternative learning environments such as OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY!!

Doors should be more secure. We have students letting other students in without checking to office, we don't ask for IDs upon entrance, etc...

String Bass Storage and a Practice Room for Individual practice/tutoring for band/choir/orchestra kids

Start caring for our kids like it's their own!

The trends and utilization study have little to do with the action items brought up in this survey. For the community to provide accurate input additional information would be helpful on the district's needs and action items.

I liked the update on the storm shelters provided by the architects and what needs to be done to improve them.

In the last bond issue the community spoke loudly about us having an early childhood center. Keeping the early childhood classes at Cooper is critical. Moving the classrooms out to the elementary buildings would be a grave mistake and a huge challenge.

Any new or improved facilities need to be done with multi use considerations.

There are many needs across the district for the buildings to be safer. Please address space issues at Cooper in a positive manner, this building is highly effective together and needs support to help their students just as much as the rest of thdistrict.

Fix leaks at Slate Creek (when it rains), remove MOLD (and fix the problems) in garden room, teacher workroom, etc.

Furniture in classrooms and libraries is also outdated at CMS. Tables are wobbly and beyond repair.

I would rather see teachers supported properly than facilities upgraded.

Fix the high school science classrooms for the love of God. You could get people to support this bond if you'd focus on addressing facility needs and not get hung up on random storm shelters, program expansion, etc
