

## **Parent Feedback from Curriculum Group**

Question #1: The first question asked participants to focus on the present.

Every organization has its strengths and weaknesses, or assets and challenges. Please take a minute to think about what you consider the greatest strength(s) of the current curriculum, instruction, and assessment in North Kingstown.

### **What would you never want to see changed?**

- Class size – Keep it low
- Standards, expectations
- Individualized instruction
- Curriculum cycle – it provides trust
- The arts program: school productions, exhibitions
- Strong science program at all levels
- Levels of instruction – sorting students based on what they can do
- Heterogeneous grouping at the middle school
- Keeping current with technology
- Bus monitors
- Parent involvement
- A curriculum director position

Question #2: This asked participants to reflect on the challenges or weaknesses in the current curriculum, instruction, and assessment program of North Kingstown.

### **What do you think hampers or hinders the content, the delivery, or the development of curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the district?**

- The teacher contract and tenure
- Professional Development that is not mandatory
- Guidance advice that is not appropriate to student ability
- Low expectations for students
- Lack of extra student supports when necessary
- Not enough adult support in elementary classrooms, particularly kindergarten
- Lack of academic rigor, particularly at the middle school (students need to learn to be independent and responsible for learning)
- Lack of clearly defined benchmarks for learning, particularly at the middle school
- Lack of articulation among grade levels
- If we don't continue to promote high level math and science
- Cutting Advanced Placement classes
- Not enough differentiation of instruction
- Not enough "applied learning" skills required of students
- Facility at WMS in particular but also in the elementary schools a lack of space for science, technology and the arts

- Not enough use of community resources to support and expand learning (use the community as a classroom)
- Not providing a forum for parents to express opinions

Question #3: Looking toward the future:

**What do you think the public's role should be in determining or guiding new directions for curriculum, instruction, and assessment in North Kingstown?**

- Attend focus groups and educational summits
- Provide constructive input

Question #4:

**What process or strategies do you think would help parents and the community better understand curriculum, instruction, and assessment in North Kingstown schools?**

- Don't keep secrets
- Explain why changes are being made
- More explanation at every level – what is being taught? Regular notes home
- Maintain website in a more timely manner
- Teachers could send home more personalized information focusing on curriculum
- Share syllabi with parents
- Provide child care at information sessions
- Make curriculum more understandable (reduce jargon)
- Invite parents into classrooms to observe and take part
- Provide grade level curriculum plans
- Have guest speakers at PTOs and provide for wide distribution on minutes

**Other:**

Participants were asked if they had “other” topics to address which were not covered in the previous questions:

- Infuse global and environmental awareness in the curriculum
- Introduce civics at the middle school
- More physical education and more diversity, teach lifestyle development
- Requirement for student involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Require community service of students beginning at middle school