



O'NEILL BUSINESS LEADERS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY 2015

O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I. What are the strengths of the community and school district?

District Climate/Culture:

- Education
 - Continuing education – Northeast Community College and Bellevue University (7x)
 - Ability to progress through classes offered – diverse course offering (3x)
 - Expand our job shadowing (2x)
 - Two school systems (2x)
 - Secure school district (2x)
 - Resources
 - Strong leadership, good communication and progressive
 - Open to change and input
 - Collaborate with other schools
- Community
 - People who live here and size of town (3x)
 - Hospital growth (3x)
 - Involvement (2x)
 - Diversity – some challenges (2x)
 - Regional hub – shopping and healthcare (2x)
 - Airport
 - Community leadership and progressive nature of school/community
 - Strong families (2x)
 - Strong Chamber and Holt Co. Extension
 - Young people returning to O'Neill
 - Community Center
 - Volunteers energy level high
 - Job opportunities – growing professional population (2x)
 - Strong economic development

- Staff
 - Teachers (2x)
 - Veteran educational staff with vitality of new staff interspersed
- Industry (3x)
 - Agriculture – tomato, potato (3x)
 - Logistics with Highway 20
- Communication (2x)
 - Media support – Holt County Independent and KBRX (2x)

II. What are some of the ways the community is working with the school to provide resources and support for student needs in the community?

- Developing Eagles program (5x)
- Rotary Club – job shadowing (7x)
- Job shadowing and mentoring (7x)
 - Enhanced Health
 - Entrepreneur Class
- O’Neill Public Schools Foundation (4x)
- Volunteers
- FFA – supported by business, i.e. welding, farmers, greenhouse (4x)
- Teammates’ Program (6x)
- KBRX Radio Support and newspaper Holt County Independent (4x)
- Scholarships for employed hospital employees
- Healthcare in six different areas of expertise
- Regional Hub – Airport/UPS
- Lions Club; PEO and Extension program (4x)
 - Scouts, spelling bee
- Health department works with school and community (2x)
- School brings in professionals to classes to teach life skills
- FCCLA
- Focus Groups working through University
- Guidance counselors reach out to hospitals for “work study” positions for 1 or 2 class periods that provides part-time job experience (2x)
 - Career Academy
- Northeast Community College (3x)

III. What are the major challenges facing the community and how will they affect the school district?

District Climate/Culture:

- Education
 - Time limitations for students to contribute toward family, school and community (3x)
 - Lack of public transportation – i.e. preschool(4x)
 - Need new school facility for athletics (3x)
 - ESL and other language services (2x)
 - Limited interpreter and needs besides Spanish
 - Challenges keeping two schools running – private and public
 - Early Childhood programs for young families (2x)
 - Mental Health Support program, i.e. VA (2x)

- Community
 - Lack of housing (9x)
 - Aging population (4x)
 - Higher paying jobs needed to support families (3x)
 - Becoming stagnant; equipping new leadership (2x)
 - Lack of workforce (10x)
 - Need skill sets for big projects – how to partner with education to get trained; affects classroom size and student/teacher ratio
 - McDonald’s and Subway always looking for help
 - Property tax revenue shortage (5x)
 - Migration of young workers leaving community (5x)
 - Lack of parental involvement (2x)
 - Aging facility infrastructure; Legislative and Green requirements (3x)
 - Logistics – location to recruit quality candidates (3x)
 - Diversity – Resources to support (5x)
 - Ag Base – how do we get this started and deal with ups and downs (3x)
 - Need capital to get Ag Transition program started
 - Multigenerational support system

IV. Discuss and identify an action plan to address the identified needs.

- Partnership between school, NECC and business owners to build and/or remodel homes in the community to increase housing opportunities (9x)
 - Low income/middle income apartments and housing

- Community Foundation Fund
- Use classroom time to help build housing
- Communication with schools
 - Get an email list active of those who showed up to community engagement and how to follow up (2x)
 - Highlight positive aspects of our community to students during school hours
- Create time management – students have limited time to be just kids
- Career Fairs (6x)
 - Bring businesses to classes to talk about job shadowing
 - Partnership with Career Education, Healthcare, Banking with secondary schools
- Scholarships from businesses – i.e. paid internship
- Start with students at young age
- Economic Development – partnership T&I (2x)
- Funding; bankers; interpreters – making a financial feasibility plan
- Recognition of students (2x)
- Need leadership to drive the process to get people engaged and focused on action
- Rotary Group interaction – Halloween Party

KEY: Numbers in () equal the number of responses received per comment.