

Superintendent Meet and Greet Community Feedback

Date: July 23, 2026

Marlboro County High School

1. Supporting and Empowering Teachers

Community members emphasized that supporting teachers is essential to improving student outcomes.

Parent Support

- Maintain consistent communication between parents and teachers.
- Parents should reinforce respect for teachers and not give students the authority to disrespect classroom staff.
- Allow teachers the professional autonomy to make instructional decisions in their classrooms.

Community Support

- Create community initiatives that support teachers, such as:
 - Back-to-school appreciation events
 - Classroom supply drives
 - Partnerships to help keep classrooms stocked throughout the year

District Support

- Provide innovative resources and creative instructional opportunities.
- Invest in leadership development and professional growth for teachers.
- Encourage creative teaching practices and innovation.
- Increase teacher salaries to reflect the important role teachers play in students' lives.

2. Leadership and District Vision

Participants expressed the importance of strong, consistent leadership throughout the district.

Suggestions Included

- Maintain consistency in district leadership to provide stability for schools, staff, and students.
- Encourage parents and the community to unite behind the district's vision rather than create division.

- Look at successful school districts and adopt best practices that could benefit Marlboro County.
- Work collaboratively with city and county leadership to strengthen educational initiatives.
- Hold quarterly community meetings to discuss district needs, progress, and priorities.
- Advocate firmly for the district's needs at the local and state levels.
- Make decisions with the long-term success of Marlboro County students and community in mind.

3. Academic Excellence

Community members overwhelmingly agreed that academics should remain the district's highest priority.

Academic Priorities

- Place academics above athletics when making district decisions.
- Continue pushing students toward academic excellence.
- Strengthen English Language Arts instruction in the early grades, particularly reading comprehension.
- Continue developing rigorous STEM opportunities at the high school level.
- Expand the STEM pathway by offering courses such as:
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Advanced Science courses
 - Calculus (currently being added)

4. Student Engagement

Participants discussed ways to make school more exciting and engaging for students.

Recommendations

- Create more student-led events and showcases.
- Expand clubs and extracurricular opportunities.
- Hold regular Club Days across schools.
- Develop activities that make students excited about coming to school each day.
- Continue encouraging students to become lifelong learners.

5. Student Mental Health and Well-Being

Supporting the whole child was identified as a major priority.

Recommendations

- Increase focus on student mental health.
- Work to understand the root causes of student behavior rather than simply addressing discipline.
- Help students know there are caring adults available to support them.
- Provide professional development for teachers to recognize signs of mental health concerns.
- Teach students how to identify warning signs when classmates may be struggling.
- Strengthen relationships among teachers, students, and parents to create a supportive school culture.

6. Teacher Development

Participants expressed the need to invest in the district's future educators.

Suggestions

- Provide additional training and development opportunities for teacher assistants.
- Create pathways that encourage teacher assistants to become certified teachers.
- Continue investing in professional development that strengthens classroom management and relationship-building.
- Encourage teachers to discipline students respectfully while building positive relationships.

7. Fine Arts

Community members expressed a desire to strengthen the district's commitment to the arts.

Recommendations

- Increase district emphasis on visual and performing arts.
- Host districtwide art shows, band concerts, and chorus performances.
- Educate students and families about career opportunities in the arts.
- Promote scholarships available for students pursuing fine arts.
- Highlight successful individuals from Marlboro County who have built careers in the arts and creative fields.

8. Student Support Services

Participants emphasized the importance of consistency in student services.

Recommendation

- Whenever possible, maintain the same high school guidance counselor for students throughout all four years to build stronger relationships and provide continuous support.