

1. What is your vision for the Mount Desert Island Regional School System?

Table 1

- More/larger peer group in middle school
- Limited pathways or direction in smaller setting
- Central middle school locations
- Smaller provides teacher/student ratios with lower count
- We don't know what the impact of pooling resources would "really" look like
- Considering commute times

Table 2

- Stronger together - can draw on strengths.
- What are the pros and cons financially of joining the AOS 91 instead of tuitioning in at the high school?
- Strong early learning extends ??? feeling of this being "their school" and for safety and security.
- At a professional level - feeling of collaboration.
- Local ownership - town is the school.
- Like the freedom of our tuition to high school.
- Having a prepared workforce in the face of a world in a period of extremely rapid change - jobs that don't even exist yet will exist in 4 years and we would adapt to that
- And also bringing back links to the technical trades.
- Vision specific for Trenton Elementary School: see the school as more of a community center.

Table 3

- Same opportunities and curriculum across district
- Cross transfer among school
- Consolidated middle school - social, academic and athletic, teachers
- Consolidated middle school - downside - grow up too fast.
- More opportunities
- More community involvement - parents with PTC
- Individual attention - small classes K-5
- Better prepare students to enter and succeed at high school
- Better differentiation in all grades - better resources

Table 4

- Opportunities to learn at a young age
- Tools to succeed
- Support for educational challenges
- Social aspects of learning
- Opportunities to succeed
- Activities to enrich academics
- 2nd language is important
- Increase STEM education and preserve it
- Pre-K would be important

2. What are the greatest strengths of our school system?

Table 1

- Middle schoolers are mentors in smaller setting
- Broad educator footprint as resources and sharing ideas
- Central office advantage
- Inner scholastic pooling
- Commitment to athletics and equally arts
- Strong sense of community/inclusion
- Strong participation by student body/smaller
- Teacher awareness - students and events
- Teacher participation
- Our (Trenton Elementary School) after school program

Table 2

- Communication within the AOS 91 - wider district has good open lines of communication. Collegial. Good orchestration from central office.
- Family oriented and our school feels included as a valid part of a greater group.
- And this culture has shifted over the years.
- We have a sense of ownership and individuality of each school. People are proud of their school.
- Meet needs of all learners - helps that we have internships and partnerships within the community. Collaboration with Friends of Acadia and the National Park.
- K-8 safe compared to being part of a high school campus. Better as adjunct to elementary than high school. We like that we know every kid's name and people feel seen and known.

Table 3

- MDI High School - choices and pathways. Transition to high school, shadowing.
- Arts and music program
- Interaction with high school
- Improving community/town interaction
- 4th grade Swan's Island day, 5th grade dance
- Student - teacher relations - good
- Students - comfort level
- Stable staff
- Thanksgiving and pancake breakfast

Table 4

- STEM resources
- Individual school identity
- Opportunity to explore
- Safety
- Teachers get support educationally
- Well run schools
- Good teachers

3. What are the most significant challenges for our school system?

Table 1

- Limited opportunity, resources
- Town identities
- “Trenton kids” vs. “other”
- Would community participation slow by consolidation?
- Older 7 & 8 going through changes with little kids around

Table 2

- Communication is poor with the community at large.
- Our town website also has a serious lack of information and needs updates.
- Large diversity in student body AOS wide = large variety of needs that need to be met.
- World changing so fast, especially in technology. How do we keep abreast and flexible? Disconnect between business world and the education system.
- Serving a very wide range of diverse students from future science geniuses to carpenters to wind turbine technicians.
- Small classrooms are a strength and weakness.

Table 3

- Better prepare students for transition to high school and homework
- More town interactions
- Budget - school, high school tuition, dividing up costs among towns
- Athletics - uniforms, numbers, team size, deposit on uniform
- Staffing within school, across district, special education, flexibility
- Student opportunities
- Continuity
- Pre-K
- K-2 hikes - more use of Acadia

Table 4

- Location and logistics
- Limited resources
- \$
- [Prepare our kids for the real world.](#)
- Population
- Virtual classrooms?
- No pre-K
- Rural community
- Standards based assessment - mediocre?

4. How can we build on those strengths and best address those challenges?

Table 1

- Would not feel loss of community if we create a combined school
- How do we preserve and maintain buildings and facilities through utilization?
- Keeping Trenton School safe and nurturing

- Consider expansion of existing programs
- Create a cultural center

Table 2

- Ask the students themselves when they are in middle school “where do you plan to go in life and how may we serve you?”
- We need to be more tied into up and coming industry in the greater world, nationally and locally.
- Think about the work-world ahead. Help children envision careers based on their interests and how to get there. Give more career counseling and training on how to seek out knowledge. Navigate how to get to a career - a high tech career of the future.
- Enhance community interaction with the school. Form stronger partnerships of all types, from recycling to internships at the Biol Lab, to more Friends of Acadia.
- Change marquis more often and also town website. More outreach - lots more outreach to the general community.

Table 3

- Use school as community center. Use community resources to enhance education.
- Possible to consolidate
- Students as community volunteers
- Increase community interactions

Table 4

- Provide opportunities - Jackson Lab, MDI Bio Lab,

Additional thoughts/comments:

Table 1

- No additional thoughts/comments

Table 2

- Small classrooms are a strength and weakness. More opportunities/options at the expense of a secure feeling and foundation. Family atmosphere.
- Opportunities and giving more to each kid is desirable.
- Retaining a feeling of a home identity is a vital foundational value as well.

Table 3

- Survey parents/community in sub groups: class size, opportunities for kids, budget context

Table 4

- No additional thoughts/comments