October 6, 2025

To: STMA School Board Members
From: Dr. Ann-Marie Foucault, Superintendent
Re: Superintendent Student Forum – Trimester 1, FY2026

Background

At STMA, we are deeply committed to putting students first and honoring their voices. Our students provide valuable insights that help inform decisions and shape the culture and direction of our schools.

The Superintendent Student Forum was created to amplify student voices and provide district leaders and the School Board with a direct lens into the experiences of our learners. Through these forums, we gain a clearer understanding of what students are seeing, hearing, and feeling across our schools.

Process

During trimester one, small groups of students from each of our eight schools, grades K-12, participated in the forum. A consistent format was followed at each building. Click here to see the agenda and a sample of the questions students were asked.

Student Responses

What Makes Us Feel Safe

- Preparedness through practice – Drills such as lockdowns, fire drills, and severe weather drills help them feel ready.
- Staff support – They know staff across all job classifications will step in to help, and they appreciate when staff are visible during passing time and that they address bullying.
- Visible safety measures – Posted "I Love U Guys" emergency charts in classrooms, separate car and bus drop-off zones, and security cameras provide reassurance.
- School Resource Officers (SROs) – Students value the presence of SROs and the relationships they build with them.
- Health care access – Having school nurses and health services available helps students feel cared for and protected.

What Students Are Enjoying This Year

- Elementary School
    - Love their teachers, staff, and friends

  - Fourth graders appreciate having more privileges (helpers, seconds at lunch)
  - Love art, math, and reading
  - Enjoy recess, gym, and lunch
  - Appreciate when teachers take them outside for a break
  - Kindergartners especially enjoy art, lunch, recess, choice time, and playing with friends

- Middle School
  - Appreciate having options for lunch
  - Love their teachers and staff and describe them as very nice

- High School
  - Enjoy seeing friends and connecting with teachers/staff
  - Love cheering on their peers during football games

How We Could Improve the Student Experience

- Elementary School
  - Want more free samples at lunch and Johnny Pops
  - Request additional bathroom stalls to reduce wait times
  - Desire more playground equipment
  - Kindergartners' creative ideas:
    - Sleepovers with Mr. McDonald (as long as he brings treats)
    - Turn the cafeteria into a McDonald's
    - Have a classroom party room with a disco ball
    - Change the playground into a waterpark

- Middle School
  - Recess is too short; would like more time
  - Need more recess equipment (many balls are deflated)
  - Lunch lines are too slow
  - Would like art added at in grades 7 and 8
  - Request additional opportunities in grades 7–8 (world language, theater, etc.)
  - Believe sports should be available to 5th and 6th graders

- High School
  - Want the pass system refined and better explained
  - More teachers do check-ins with students

Do You Feel Valued and Respected at School?

- Overwhelmingly, students reported that they feel valued and respected at school.
- Students shared that if they did not feel valued or respected, they each have a trusted adult they can turn to for support and guidance.

Student Quotes

- Kindergarten: “We love art.”
- Big Woods Elementary: “Everyone is so kind at this school.”
- Fieldstone Elementary: “I really like it here at this school.”
- St. Michael Elementary: “We really like to welcome new kids to our school.”
- Middle School East: “Students and teachers and staff are very helpful and welcoming.”
- Middle School West: “We really like how there is an SRO officer in our school as it makes us feel safe.”
- High School: “We really like when teachers wear shirts with motivational messages such as *You Matter* because we notice and it makes us feel good.”