

Below is the meeting summary for the first Education Focus Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to select approximately three strategic topics for further study. In the following three meetings, groups will determine more specific goals and objectives for each topic. All of the Focus Group information will be incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan document which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors later this year.

Meeting Date: 2/29/16

Recorder: Karen Thomas

Meeting Location: Northside High School

Number of Participants: 27

Number of Small Groups: 3

Host: Dr. Killough, Roanoke County Public Schools Superintendent

Lead Staff: Ken Nicely, Rebecca Owens

Staff Facilitators: Laurie Gearheart, Ashley King, Audrey Palmer

* * * * *

MEETING 1 – TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

Topics developed by small groups in no particular order.

1. Opportunity Ready
2. Skills gap for jobs
3. Soft skills / responsible citizen
4. Economic development – fill jobs
5. Community partnerships
6. Expansion of Burton programs
7. Certifications
8. One size does not fit all
9. Name Governor School for CTE / Arts
10. Class size
11. Competitive pay for teachers
12. Stronger retention (students / personnel)
13. Teacher recruitment
14. Climate (positivity)
15. Board Of Supervisor support
16. Information campaign
17. Childhood poverty
18. Meals
19. STEAM-H (Cares)
20. Regional partnerships
21. Partner with RVEC
22. Improve gifted program

23. Promote community involvement
24. Increase the Arts program
25. Enrichment opportunities
26. Technology – begin elementary keyboarding, IT fund, programming classes
27. Teach 2nd language at elementary
28. Push for CTE (take all classes there) Workforce
29. Promoting Achievements – scholarships
30. Push students to apply for scholarships
31. County website – scholarship lists
32. Offer summer enrichment opportunities
33. Funding
34. Investment opportunities
35. Business partnerships for hands-on training of students
36. Vocational & Technical Training (BCAT), skilled labor and trades; publicize what's available
37. Class size – early development
38. Less testing
39. Partnering with parents (especially at secondary level), community involvement
40. Highlighting benefits of VWCC – dual enrollment, branding and publicizing
41. Center for Arts / Technology
42. Public relations
43. Responsible citizenry / growth
44. Cost of higher education
45. Trade positons
46. Greater emphasis on CTE
47. College debt vs. job availability
48. Goodwill classes
49. Student communications (parents / guidance)

Most Popular Topics by Group Consensus for Meeting 1

Top 3 most popular Topics selected by group consensus at the end of the evening.

1. Promote different paths to success
2. Establishing a sense of community through involvement and partnerships
3. Enhance support and increase investment in Roanoke County Schools

Additional Comments: