KEYSTONE LOCAL SCHOOLS
FOCUS GROUP COMPILATION (ALL GROUPS)

1. What you like/value about the Keystone Public Schools?

- Friendliness of all the staff members
- The security and safety of the students
- Children do not get lost in the shuffle, children are called by their first names
- Teachers work well together
- Staff members genuinely like each other
- Keystone is a caring community
- Teachers and administrators thrive on students success
- Community support of the schools, money issues are a concern
- School events are heavily supported
- Schools are the center of the Community
- The community is trusting of the decisions of school officials
- Students, Teachers , Community are all accepting of change
- Rural Community, not inter-city
- Safe, secure atmosphere
- All schools close now
- Mentor program
- Good, close relationship with First Baptist Church
- Small district
- Special needs attentiveness
- Small classroom sizes
- They offer one on one help when needed
- School activities. The academics, participation from parents. School sports
- Away from town
- Outside of town
- Rural atmosphere. Students have a better chance of knowing each other.
- Longevity of staff which proves dedication to the district. Even though there are still some that should retire because they appear burnt out through their teaching.
- The school is located in a rural area.
- Small, close
- Smaller enrollment more opportunities in less popular sports like wrestling and soccer at both HS & MS level.
- Good early experiences teacher applied for grants to get materials.
- Good use of resources used small room bathroom or closet and turned into a guidance office. Other districts do not use resources as wisely.
- Trying to be better. Has a small-town flavor. Willing to go out of the way to help children in need.
- Good reputation. Financially stable, good money managers. Taking care of what needs to be done.
- Like the fact that Keystone District is a nice and small rural school system.

- Not reading any bad things in the paper about the district.
- Cooperative communication with the teachers, good feedback.
- Don't hear complaints from others in the community.
- Cleanliness of the schools.
- Schools located close together.
- Small town, small school atmosphere with community involvement.
- Classes are smaller for hopefully more one on one help and doesn't have a lot of inner city problems.
- Small school.
- Community is close-knit and supportive.
- Good school system – helps when selling a house
- School ranks highly on state tests.
- Responsive. When a parent (her daughter) complained about a situation it was addressed to their satisfaction.
- Hard to value or not value when you don't know anything about the schools.
- I like the way everyone supports one another.
- It's small size
- That it's small
- Better teacher/student ratio
- Location: It's central to go to Cleveland, Toledo, etc.
- Most of the teachers are really good
- Community support
- Grades on-line
- I'm not crazy about the district itself, but I like the small community. You can keep better tabs on the kids.
- I like that it's small. You know all the kids.
- The new school: We're finally keeping up with the times
- The kids all get along
- I like that it's small; You know all the kids
- I value many of the teachers at Keystone. I feel that nearly all of them have been great with my child.
- I think there are a lot of quality teachers.
- I like the smallness of the district. "You're not just a number."
- I like the teachers. I think the teachers are there to teach. The teachers that my children have had have all been good.
- I like the intimacy and smallness of it. The size offers opportunities to some students that a larger school couldn't. I think, too, because it's a small school, when something is accomplished, everyone shares in it.
- community spirit, most of the teachers, and the pride everyone has in the school;
- the teachers/staff of the schools and the effort that they make to ensure my kids get a good education.
- In the elementary and now the middle school; I have always felt that the teachers have my children's best interest at heart and are willing to work with me to address any special needs or circumstances;

- bus drivers;
- Great rapport with the teachers in the elementary grades; more parent involvement
- Superb high school
- Like all of the elementaries together
- Parents should be happy that we have an efficient school system and one that is preparing students for the future
- Small town atmosphere
- Graduates come back to work here
- Very little staff turnover
- Overall, a comfortable to work and to be in the community
- A safe district
- Seems to be a mix of course offerings including Post Secondary Options
- Rural Atmosphere
- Direction the district is heading with new facilities
- Smaller atmosphere
- More accessible to the public
- Staff
- The new building
- Clientele is pretty good
- Small size
- Maintenance/Cleaning/Cafeteria
- Concern for students from teachers
- The facility
- Positive interaction of staff including administration
- Relatively low numbers of discipline problems
- Sense of community
- Attitude of students
- Rose ceremony
- Safe community
- Good staff, caring, work well together, laughs
- As progressive as able
- Reflects and responds to the community
- New facility
- Respect and attitude
- Student centered – student driven is our number 1 priority
- Few discipline problems
- Technology at the High school
- Excellent staff
- Excellent use of per pupil spending
- Small community
- School pride years ago….now?
- Good Staff Members
- Staff works well together

- Staff communications
- Staff cares about children
- Sense of community, open and friendly
- Loyalty to staff, children and community
- Very good students
- Very fine staff
- Staff willingness to try new things
- Good, supportive leadership
- People caring for each other
- Respectful students
- Rural community setting
- The educational staff is outstanding
- The staff is good independent workers
- Excellent working relationships with all unions
- High respect for staff
- Strong student body K-12
- Students work to meet our expectations
- Administrative team works well together
- Excellent overall district leadership
- District size is good, no one gets lost
- People are willing to take up challenges and be held responsible
- A family feeling, small
- Staff knows the Children
- Good internal communications
- Can solve problems quickly
- Staff works well together
- New High School Facility Kitchen and Library
- Excellent staff, Friendly
- Staff gets along well
- Staff helps each other
- Staff is concerned about students
- Students are respectful and nice
- Kept media specialists
- Staff does well with what we have
- Teachers have a positive attitude
- The staff is very caring
- People are friendly
- People are personable
- There is a strong sense of Community
- Everyone knows everyone
- The community is not as busy as a big city
- The principals back us up
- Everyone is personal and comfortable
- Students accept each other

- A safe learning environment
- Schools come together to help
- Teachers know each of the students
- Administrators help teachers and students
- Teachers make classes interesting
- Teachers respect students and work with them
- Teachers realize that no one is perfect
- Teachers help always, give extra help
- See a lot of teachers and staff in the community
- Science teachers try to develop new classes
- The talent show brought students closer together
- The new High School facility
- The education format at High School level
- All of the small class sizes
- The advanced technology
- The Keystone loyalty to our schools
- Living in a rural district, not city
- Educating my kids where I went

2. What do you expect of the Keystone Public Schools?

- A broad selection of course offerings for students
- Our students will be competitive with students from other school districts
- Finish the district's master plan for elementary and middle school facilities
- Quality athletic facilities as well as support facilities i.e. bus garage
- Cultural enrichment for all grade levels
- The schools are an integral part of the community
- A reliable funding source to provide needed programs and resources
- Modern up-to-date technology
- Give kids a good education with high quality
- Equal opportunity to all student body
- Good sports program, music, art
- Safety within the walls
- Certain standards of dress and behavior
- Help partnership with parents on discipline
- More communication between school and parents
- Up to date education
- Latest books and technology
- Fairness to students, regardless of last name
- More concern and care from administration
- Continue raising awareness of academics, a more secure system in entering the schools.
- Hire excellent teacher
- I'd like to see all the children get as good of an education as they are capable.
- Our students get the best possible education. All students treated fairly.

- A great education for my child, security
- Great; competitive with other districts.
- To give our children a good education
- Prepare kids for adult life.
- Positive student teacher relationships.
- Students taught as individuals supported whether they are gifted or in need of support
- Students respected not embarrassed or singled out by teachers.
- Parents listened to when they have complaints or issues with their child's instruction
- Expect to hear and know what's going on inside the school district.
- To train our young people to respect and pursue education, to enforce positive attitude, to keep an atmosphere that encourages safety.
- To use the funds they have in the most economical way possible.
- Provide a good education to all the students. Safe atmosphere. Address illegal behavior (drugs, alcohol) keep it away from children in school.
- To give a well-rounded education with many opportunities available to them.
- Expect devoted teachers and staff.
- Better maintained older buildings—better athletic facilities---more forward & expand---look & plan for the future, not just react to present.
- Quality education.
- Good quality education, but wish they would offer more programs.
- Good teachers.
- Offer lots of extracurricular activities.
- Good education and provide services the student's need.
- A good education, competitive with others in the state.
- Adequate buildings and facilities for students.
- Spend money wisely.
- Communication with the community in general, not just parents.
- I expect for the district to provide the very best education it can with the resources it has to work with.
- Foremost, a good education
- Responsible with their finances
- Teachers & school to communicate with parents
- Teachers to be good role models for students
- Staff to be responsible in front of students
- Staff to be responsible with students
- To provide a quality education
- Make sure the kids get a proper education.
- Teachers spending time with kids
- I expect that the district provide my child with an excellent education, prepare him for college, and provide him with extra-curricular activities.
- I expect a quality education.
- A good education

- I expect them to strive for perfection and be the best they can be.
- a good education and a safe environment;
- more foreign languages;
- Good communication,
- To keep the students safe,
- To treat each student fairly,
- Friendliness and willingness to help from the faculty and staff;
- I expect the schools to help prepare my children to enter the "real world" upon graduation, as well as to build awareness and provide guidance to the various opportunities they have available to them.
- Prepare kids for life whether that is to go into the work world right away or into college
- It is up to the students to want to take advantage of the opportunities but students have to be stimulated to take advantage of the opportunities.
- One of the participants who is a retired realtor: People wanted Keystone schools when looking for a home.
- Would like a survey of what graduates have done: professions, etc.
- School should have courses in life skills that should be mandatory for all students: checkbook, budget, etc.
- School could have anger management courses for students and/or seminars for parents
- Dedicated teachers
- Busing for high school students
- A way to get rid of teachers who aren't doing their jobs
- Keep up with current technology for staff and students
- The district will communicate to the community on school matters
- Use funds wisely and carefully
- Continue to pursue the State funding situation
- Will maintain a balance between athletics and academics
- Will maintain a safe environment
- Provide good education for Ohio's tests
- Provide a good curriculum for college and non-college students
- Provide more night activities for adults
- Proper transportation for students
- Prepare students to be competitive/college prep education
- New school for the lower grades
- Community expects excelled sports programs
- Parents want us to produce well-rounded students
- Provide good basis for citizenship
- Turn out quality Keystone alumni
- Teach not only academics, but also consequences of choices/actions
- Strive to constantly improve in quality of instruction, facility and grounds
- Maintain community involvement and financial support in school property maintenance.

- Offer a variety of courses to keep our students here
- Provide safe learning environment
- Compete with others and match services – keep playing field equal with other school districts
- Administrative support
- Continue Ohio Graduation Test improvement (AYP)
- Create a quality product
- Students that can do something
- Students continuing post secondary
- Use money wisely
- Students to be safe
- Community support/partnership
- Fairness
- Quality staff
- Academic success linked to ACT/SAT - college success
- Prepare students as responsible individuals
- Safe disciplined learning environment
- Cutting-edge curriculum
- Fair and equitable administration of policies
- Provide a good education
- Keep up with technology
- Keep up with helping students become a productive member of society
- Safe and secure environment
- Administration to stand up with the staff
- Use money wisely
- Everyone is honest and forthright
- Student body to be tolerant and accepting of others
- District and community to listen to the staff
- Community to value education
- Students to pass the OGT
- Students to be respectful
- Safety in all buildings
- Schools to keep up with community growth
- More students to attend post-high school education
- More offerings to meet needs of real world
- Parents will take an active part in their child's education
- District should provide a quality education
- Students will graduate and attend powerful colleges
- A well-rounded educational experience
- To have good technical support and current technologies
- No pay-to-play
- To educate students to be competitive with other school districts
- Community will have a high level of involvement in the schools
- Good education for all children

- Treat all students with respect
- Treat all employees with respect
- Hire experienced people
- All leadership people would understand how each position operates
- Wisely spend funds
- A good education for children
- As a community, we need to sacrifice for our children
- A full transportation program
- No pay to participate
- Dynamic, visionary leadership
- Hot nutritious, home-cooked meals
- To listen to people
- To enjoy your job
- Reasonable field trip discipline
- Punishment for bus infractions including removal from the bus
- Practice what you preach
- Staff and community should support community businesses
- Prepare us for the next level of life
- Teachers teach what they need too
- Clean, safe learning environment
- Expect to come back and feel welcome
- Good education taking place
- To be taught good people skills and to work together (group work)
- Push us outside our comfort zone
- Expect to be able to fit into the real world but don't want to be unsafe
- Make us competitive as surrounding school districts
- Giving the proper preparation for college bound students, all students
- Having the proper guidance and concern for students who are college bound
- Put as much or more emphasis on getting kids into college than state guidelines
- When going to a levy, inform the people more thoroughly about why we need the money and where it is going
- Improve the atmosphere at M.S. and E.S.
- Mandate staff use of technology offered, take advantage of it (smart boards).

3. What concerns do you have about the Keystone Public schools?

- Not enough financial resources to provide the needed programs and materials
- Large Class Sizes
- No classroom aides or elementary guidance program
- Need more advanced classes and opportunities for the more able students to enrich and challenge them
- Pay to participate is too costly
- Losing marginal players, who would benefit from participating because of pay to play
- Not enough enriching field trips

- Transportation has been cut drastically at all levels, a safety issue
- Funding/taxes too high
- Concerns of behavior and language
- Students don't feel safe
- Sex education classes as they are taught now encourages the activity of sex
- Poor people skills with Administration
- Concern for seriousness of sports programs that takes away family time and religion on weekends, etc.
- Concern for lack of sportsman-like behavior in students and parents
- Too many movies that seem non-educational
- Sidewalks put in as soon as possible to high school. The students walked in the dark on snow-covered road back to the school. Very dangerous.
- Hold teachers accountable. For instance, math teachers do not seem to be teaching up to standards. High School graduates from Keystone cannot do college level math entrance exams. Why do we have a folder full of complaints and they are still not teaching.
- Get quality and experienced teachers who aren't just biding their time until retirement
- Get rid of "tenure"
- Get better lunches: Salad bars, grilled chicken
- More help from teachers for students (e.g. during study hall or after school)
- The lack of parenting
- Teachers need to help and communicate with parents. Teachers don't care. (Middle School, High School)
- Safety in the school. Is it secure at all times? Making sure people are checked out that deal with kids.
- Racism
- Want it to be the best school in the state.
- Money not being spend wisely
- Will the high school be big enough to hold the increasing population?
- The middle school experience. The overall dynamics could be better. High school is fine, KES is fine, MS is lacking something educationally. Will the high school be big enough to house the amount of KES of now in the future?
- More hands on learning
- Not covering everyday problems
- Sometimes there are teachers who have repeated problems with students but they continue to teach
- No opportunities for drama. Children need opportunities for many creative outlets. The Choir and band programs are great, especially at the Middle and High School level, but we need more.
- Students need support and enrichment at the early elementary levels.
- Students are not prepared for transitions between levels. i.e., elementary supports and guides, middle school "get 'er done" or ……
- Students with talent in Math have limited options through the gifted program

- Guidance doesn't support transitions (elem to Middle) Middle to HS, HS to college as well as some other High Schools do.
- 9th & 10th graders have difficulty with transportation to the High School.
- That substitute teachers don't get benefits.
- Some kid's families complain about politics in sports, but it's not true in what we see.
- Kids accepting each other. Cliques – kids NOT accepting other kids; division between the "haves" and the "have-nots."
- Building conditions, buildings sitting vacant.
- The fact that we now have two elementary school buildings sitting empty and then at a later date we will be told that we need more room and have outgrown our buildings.
- Money management.
- Upgrade of elementary school and concerned that we should go after more grants to better district.
- Cliquey—not always fair.
- Safety.
- Pay to play outrageous---pay pay pay out of parents' pockets.
- Physical education is not good.
- Public awareness of policies regarding violence and weapons. (What procedures are in place?)
- Financial sovereignty
- Condition of the closed facilities.
- Cost for maintaining closed facilities.
- Utilization of resources, what is to be done with the disassembled playground equipment from closed facilities? Can't it be used at the LaGrange elementary?
- Control of access to the facilities. Anyone can wander in from the streets.
- Student safety – terrorist acts.
- LaGrange Elementary is not suitable for use. After all, we had to have the new high school so the middle school would not have to use that same building.
- Access to the middle school and rear of elementary schools by emergency equipment if something blocks the one street that currently provides access.
- Is the curriculum up to date? Students at other schools (Lakewood) are being taught higher level material at an earlier age.
- Why has the street to the high school from 303 never been opened?
- Are long range plans to move the elementary to the current middle school and build a new middle school near the high school?
- Lack of communication with the general public.
- School Board members, their qualifications, and positions unknown to public. Should have a "meet the candidate night" prior to elections.
- All the school news is positive showing the students doing so well. So why does the school always say they need money?
- I'm concerned that the community will never pass a levy and the district will then never have the resources it really needs.
- Don't offer enough elective courses at the high school

- We need to make the extracurricular activities a higher priority than it is. Programs such as choir, band, athletics, need to be more important than they are.
- I'm concerned at some of the coaching leadership.
- I'm very concerned that without busing at the high school, there's going to be an accident.
- I'm very concerned with the fact that so many counselors and paraprofessionals have been cut. I think there are many students with mental problems & issues ("time bombs") who need support.
- I think there are a lot of inequities among various activities: band/choir v. athletics. Why does the money for pay to participate go? Is it distributed evenly?
- Are my taxes going to go up?
- Pay to play
- The elementary and middle school buildings are not secure or safe.
- The office shouldn't be down the hall. (Elem/MS)
- Some teachers are just here for the job, not for the kids.
- The principals don't attend enough after-school functions.
- I'm very concerned that Keystone cannot pass their levies.
- I'm afraid a lack of knowledge will prevent us from eventually getting a new elementary and middle school.
- I think the middle school and elementary school lack security.
- I'm afraid that my child who is a little behind will get lost in the shuffle.
- My biggest concern is that the opinions of a few negative people seem to over-shadow the opinion of the majority positive.
- the bullies,
- all the kids with IEPS that get away with more because
- of their status;
- I would love to see more recess;
- I'm concerned that I haven't heard a lot of positive feedback regarding the middle school;
- Funding per student;
- There needs to be a better rapport between the middle and high school teachers and the parents
- Fifth and sixth grade teachers should be more lenient with students: students are not ready for the stringent rules at the fifth grade level
- The discipline should be fair and consistent
- There needs to be a structure for discipline and all should abide by the process
- Students need to be taught to be more responsible
- One appreciated the fact that the school calls home if a student is not present and has not called the school to report an absence
- Dress code needs to be enforced
- Would like to see the students in uniforms: you act the way you are dressed
- Would like to have a study done to see if uniforms have positively affected discipline, etc. in other schools
- Student and staff safety

- Pay to participate
- More program and staff cuts
- Declining enrollment but more homes
- Could lose more state funding
- Lack of student transportation
- A certain group of citizens has too much influence over the schools
- Not an extensive curriculum
- Special Ed. Needs extra help
- Overall physical facility, elementary
- Financial support
- Parents should take a more active role in educating their own children (including respect for authority)
- Should have center for the performing arts
- Not enough electives – should have more
- Hiring limitations – inexperienced teachers only
- Lack of field trips and professional leave
- Pay-to-play for National Honor Society, Cheerleading etc.
- Limited possibility of progress due to financial limitations
- Community – how do they value their children's education at Keystone
- Ohio Graduation Test/State Report Card/Sport Page – only way community knows what we are doing – too limited
- Lack of Public Relations
- Pay-to-play fees are too high
- Competitive teacher salaries – steps/base salary
- Producing "proficient" students but not beyond
- Treasurer/system – no boosters – no find raising
- Pay to Participate
- ACT score correlation
- Not able to fill supplemental positions
- Emphasis parents place on athletics/work extracurricular over academics
- Lack of community support for funding
- Ignorance of school funding
- Insufficient personnel
- Inadequate outdoor athletic facilities
- Lack of parent support and involvement
- Lack of course offerings, cannot be competitive
- Lack of community financial support
- School funding in general
- Lack of communications to the community from the Middle School
- Lack of building to building communications
- Lack of communications among school and community groups ex: surprise fund raisers
- Consistent enforcement of school rules
- Decrease in sports participation perhaps due to pay-to-play

- Lack of overall expectations by the community for a high quality education
- Not enough opportunities for students in curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Present food choices in the cafeteria
- Reductions in bussing, a safety issue
- Fire hazard in drop off area
- Lack of student preparation because we expect them to compete
- Lack of elementary counselor
- Large class sizes
- Physical environment concerns ex: broken steps
- Lack of adequate restrooms
- Poor cafeteria facilities
- Lack of all day Kindergarten
- Job security
- Teachers need tools and equipment to do the job right
- Lack of funding
- Lack of educational and support staff
- Building is in poor physical condition, and unsafe
- Extreme apathy of the community towards the schools
- The curriculum needs to be expanded with more diverse offerings
- Greater communications needed between schools and community
- Any community concerns should be brought to the proper school for resolution
- There are many more homes but fewer students
- The same small group of community members do everything
- The management team has the same names on it as the usual group of residents that do everything
- Financial concerns
- Jobs that could be outsourced
- Cutting positions and giving people more work
- How the district is prepared to handle unfunded mandates
- All students needs are not being met
- No good communications with the building
- Building security
- Modular classrooms compromise security
- With added work on staff, morale is suffering
- Middle schools students lack of respect
- New technology needed]
- If levy fails, we will lose quality staff
- We are asked to do more with less, especially time
- Discipline returned to the schools, no consequences
- Discipline is a family and school function
- We will cut back even further
- Many citizens do not have an appreciation for good education
- We do not want satellite food services
- Job security- reduced hours

- Everything revolves around money
- Upgrade the bus fleet
- Teachers need to take more time with struggling students and parents
- All schools on a campus setting
- More course offerings including electives
- More information about courses off school grounds, particularly offering college credit
- Cars running the bus Reds
- Students should call the garage if they are not riding on a particular day
- Math program is weak until calculus
- Good math students struggle
- Not a lot of variety of classes
- No AP classes, hurts us when trying to compete to get into colleges
- Classes not enough college prep
- Increase student motivation in some classes
- OGT preparation is very repetitive
- OGT material in class runs through entire year yet test is given in March
- No drama department
- More studio art type classes needed
- Elementary-Middle School mixing of students
- All fundraisers are tapped out
- New building spreads out students too much
- Lunch lines are too long
- The mismanagement of money, relieve the taxpayer of cost
- Avoid the use of cell phones in most of the school, use a blocker
- Do more instructing in class, less movies
- Run the school like a business, keep in the black
- Make the funds we have work
- Need to drive harder to be on top
- Make education number one, not sports
- Be known for education, not sports

4. What recommendations do you have for the Keystone Public Schools?

- Provide the best education given the financial constraints
- Try to increase the community's expectations of the schools and students
- Try to help educate the community about the rapidly changing world
- Increase the effort to enlighten students about options available to them while in school and after graduation
- More variety of subjects
- Get the union out, people need to do their jobs right. We are paying them to do this.
- Advertise upcoming events more on the internet or Rural Urban
- Teachers need to be more approachable at Middle School level
- Drama Club, etc. even if pay to participate

- Swim Team
- Parent calendars
- Small school. More one on one. Parents get involved, teachers care
- Give senior citizens free pass for all school events
- Uniforms
- A tighter belt on the money. Some trips that are nothing but a day out of the classroom should not go. Some of our sports teams that go hundreds of miles (round trip) should not spend the money. Surely there are teams closer. Maybe it it's time to look at cutting are, band and choir. In this day and age students need to know how to read, write, math (without calculators) and computer skills. Yes, there are a few that may use one of the afore-mentioned courses, but that is minimal. Special needs students should be in our school and not bused to all the different schools as they are now. The special needs Supervisor should be doing follow-ups with all these students on a regular basis. What are other special needs teachers doing that ours apparently are not? There needs to be something done about all the people that miss work. When most work nine months unless there is a real medical reason they should be working. This costs the district thousands of dollars a year. If they were working in the private sector they would not have all the sick and personal days that the contracts give them.
- KES teachers to be on the same page in their teaching techniques. It seems as though there is a separation between "West Carlisle" teachers and "Penfield" even though they are now one.
- Uniforms
- Continue to work on drug control
- Community members should be active in supporting students especially at the early levels by listening to them read or reading to them or playing math games with them. (volunteer trainings are helpful, color coded reading and game levels make interactions simple)
- Community members should be active by coming into classrooms and talking with students about their careers (i.e., fireman, policeman, carpenter.) especially at the early elementary level.
- Make sure that kids succeed whether they are gifted, "normal," or in need of support that they feel safe and learn.
- Provide an consistent, clear avenue for handling complaints from parents about teachers so that issues can be resolved fairly and consistently for the benefit of all concerned.
- If multiple complaints occur, insure that procedures are in place to deal with those issues.
- Use resources wisely. Don't waste materials or equipment
- Get the state and federal government to support their mandates with additional money rather than reductions.
- Have ½ day kindergarten every day. What we are doing now is not good for young children.
- Provide opportunities for children who are not the most skilled to play sports.

- The emphasis on having to play a sport all year in order to participate at the high school level is costly and prohibitive to some children not to mention the pressure.
- Resolve the problem between colleges and the high school about weight of credit.
- Kids take less challenging classes to keep their grade point high. Some colleges have a 5 point scale others a 4 point scale.
- Offer PSO classes at the high school campus.
- Provide volunteer help for students with limited parent involvement.
- Better publicity for school activities so people in the community know what's going on. Make aware public service activities (ex: Walk for Diabetes, things at Christmas time).
- Zero tolerance for being a bully. Would like to mandate kids who bully to undergo an educational program of some kind.
- Need better publicity to get information…compared to other schools systems, more information needs to get out to the public.
- Regarding people living on fixed incomes, if there were more activities publicized, perhaps those on fixed incomes might no resent paying more taxes.
- Get parents engaged in their kids school work.
- A cooperation with a college so kids would have easier access.
- Credit course for older children that may be interested in teaching and work with teachers.
- To break cliques down, investigate possibility of wearing uniforms…anything to make the children more "equal."
- Let's get things together so our kids don't have to "pay to play" for any of the extras (sports, band, choir, etc.)
- Think school is doing OK job on keeping teaching end up—test scores are good.
- New elementary school.
- Better Athletic facilities
- Old stadium used for middle school sports and youth sports
- No more cut backs in transportation—restore high school busing
- Don't have so many dog gone fundraisers
- Don't spend my money on these surveys
- Get rid of inclusion, find a better way.
- Wider variety of class options.
- Get rid of old teachers and hire good qualified teacher
- Not let politics rule sporting events
- Make sure everyone has supplies needed.
- Open up school facilities to the general public for viewing or use.
- Have "open houses" for the general public as "show and tells".
- Investigate alternative funding sources rather than relying on property taxes.
- Lobby state government to do something in regard to the school funding ruling by the Ohio Supreme Court.
- Blow up the Penfield and Carlisle facilities to collect on the insurance.
- Initiate a more challenging curriculum.

- Start early testing to establish where students have aptitude or interest then provide corresponding classes rather than an overly broad approach to all students.
- Focus on what would help students for life instead cramming their heads with stuff they'll never use.
- Eliminate grades and use a pass / fail system.
- Keep grading system (3 people).
- Institute some manner of controlling access to the facilities.
- Publicize web site and any other sources of information about schools.
- Don't rely on the web site and Rural Urban to communicate with the public. Penfield residents who don't use computers have access to neither.
- Use local cable TV to provide information to the public instead of just sports.
- I wish I had an answer to why levies don't pass in this district, but I don't.
- We need a group to spear up more school spirit. We need a new fight song.
- Conflict Resolution or Mediation Programs to help kids solve problems and conflicts
- Kids with leadership skills need opportunities to develop them, and those who don't need help obtaining them.
- Increase security; Secure doors (Elem/MS)
- Check the curriculum of Keystone v. other districts. My child transferred her from another school and Keystone seems behind.
- Challenge students more: My child gets straight A's without bringing anything home or studying.
- Raise more money for scholarships for the kids
- Take greater care in hiring teachers, including substitutes, to insure Keystone is hiring the most qualified teachers.
- I recommend that Keystone take much greater care of their current facilities, no matter which building.
- Get more involved with teacher performance, and intervene when necessary.
- Improve communication between the school and parents, especially with the older children.
- I hope they don't give up the goal of getting the campus. It adds credibility to the area. The BOE should consider alternative ways for funding, such as an income tax.
- In these tough times, it is difficult for most people to shell out additional $'s; however, if we were to create a series of community days which would help to educate and build awareness around the state of our schools, we may see more of a willingness to come together as a community to help out. I don't feel that there is enough done to really build this awareness so it is always a shock when the schools request more money
- People need to be educated in the form of specific examples of how Keystone compares to other school districts; sell or utilize West Carlisle or Penfield Schools;
- Create a drama dept for the high school- offer plays;
- No open enrollment;

- Install a bigger, more visible crosswalk sign at Liberty and North Center Streets;
- Move the mobile unit (trailer?) to an area behind the school to open up more parking spaces in front of the school;
- Change the time that the middle-schoolers go to class in the mobile unit (trailer?) to10 minutes later to alleviate a traffic jam in front of the school during morning drop-off;
- Summer enrichment programs for children
- Year-round school: too much is lost over the summer and the beginning of the year is so much review
- Adult classes at the school: parents could take classes to be able to help students, especially in math
- Foreign language should be required for all students, should start in elementary and should be at least four years with much emphasis on conversational skills
- There should be a resource bank of the senior citizens in this area: if a teacher needs a speaker or help in an area there would be a list of people to call
- Since there is such a large percentage of the residents of the Keystone District not having school-aged children, there should be a way to get them into the school. The grandparent's days don't cover enough people.]
- Get senior citizens to volunteer in the classes: would be a big help since most parents are working. They could tutor, especially when students are preparing for the proficiency tests; read with students; whatever the teachers would find a need for
- We want Keystone students to be able to compete with students from any other schools
- Need more communications with the citizens
- Need more security within the buildings
- A different funding mechanism
- Increase opportunities for non-athletic extra-curricular activities
- Sports are an extra-curricular not a total immersion of the student
- Expand college elective offerings
- Expand transportation
- Cut pay to participate
- Increase adult activities
- Try to change state funding
- Hire more experienced teachers
- More electives
- Turn fire station into performing arts center
- More emphasis on academics
- Higher salaries
- More parental support
- More field trips – okay to pay for bus
- New way of funding schools
- More paid intervention support staff
- Sub-contract busing/student transportation

- Update and improve the school website – maybe add as a course to offer
- Pass a levy – winning football team
- Improve communication
- Teacher incentives
- Teacher forums
- Common planning
- Full-time special education supervisor
- School-initiated fundraiser for extracurricular activities/fundraisers
- Intervention teacher
- Full time staff for special education
- More electives
- Keystone based Post Secondary Education Courses
- More staff
- More community involvement
- More education funding
- More curricular and extra-curricular offerings
- Reduce or eliminate pay-to-play
- A better quality of food choices
- More homemade foods
- Vending machines with better foods
- Security increase, phones in rooms, cameras, security staff
- More administrative involvement and positive staff recognition
- More student education in problem areas ex: respect for others
- Adjust grading scale, weighted courses, honors and AP weighting
- Offer post secondary options at the high school
- Better student drop off plan
- New elementary facility
- More bathrooms
- No elementary-middle school bathroom sharing
- Sound proof classrooms
- All Day Kindergarten
- Continuity of principals
- Expand the group of citizens who are involved with the schools
- Fresh voices are needed to speak to citizens groups, not the same people all the time
- Get the community to understand the importance of the public schools
- Make certain all leadership positions have building level experience
- Hire staff with experience
- Make certain that costs for rentals are covered
- Too much emphasis on athletics
- Increase communications from offices to classrooms (technology)
- When someone new is hired, proper training is necessary
- Stop going to the people for funds, find another way
- Schools need to be run efficiently like a business

- Put back FFA
- More people involved in the schools vision and leadership
- More citizens involved in the schools
- More Board visibility in the schools to see what is really happening with their decisions
- Academics and sports should work together
- All students cannot afford pay-to-play
- More help for problem children
- Retirement incentives
- A floating bus monitor to help on busses experiencing difficult children
- Cameras outside to catch “Red” runners
- Bring back the FFA
- Staff development with teachers and drivers on the Expectations riding the bus
- Communicate the bus safety etiquette to parents
- Weighted GPA’s
- New Math program
- AP classes
- Block scheduling
- Long term subs should be certified in their subject taught
- Long term subs should shadow the teacher before taking over classes
- Tutoring center
- Bring back the talent show
- Bring back VOAG, Model UN, FFA,
- Halls should be by class for better unity
- Keep youth for youth programs
- Provide areas for youth murals and art work, break up the white walls
- School spirit emphasis
- Senior privileges, more outside tables for lunch
- Bring back busing
- Control traffic for drop-off/pickup
- Adjust bus routes, split up kids evenly on the buses, some buses are not 25% filled
- Implement all-day, every day kindergarten
- Bring in a qualified teacher when we have a catastrophe in a family of a teacher
- Increase parking spaces
- Update and/or improve M.S. and E.S.
- Celebrate accomplishments, make them known

5. If you could push one magic button to change one thing about the Keystone Schools

- Increase funding to provide more opportunities
- Increase the community’s expectations of the schools and its’ graduates
- To pass along, to the community, the knowledge the schools are teaching and to have it get excited about it

- Have the Community become aware of the overall situation in the schools and respond accordingly
- That we get our priorities straight and take the millions that we pay the professional athletes and put it back into our education and children.
- Get uniforms to make kids more equal
- Better mathematics and science programs. Not up to college standards for their entrance tests
- Actually pretty happy so far with the district as of yet.
- Children wear uniforms
- Free passes for Senior Citizens for School functions
- Communication
- Improvements to buildings (KES & KMS). If not just new ones. A school complex made up of the HS, MS, ES with fields, tracks, etc. all in one location.
- Don't judge each student's ability by test results.
- Give old folks a break on taxes.
- Concern for kids' success & their well being as individuals.
- Keeping children interested in what they are learning.
- That the District never had to ask for money.
- More computer-related things started at an earlier age.
- Start foreign language education earlier.
- Improve public relations.
- Every student getting a good quality education.
- Think about our kids and plan ahead for their well-being and academic needs, for the special ed. kids as well as the gifted and average children.
- Kids graduate knowing how to survive on a budget, how to have a family - making those classes mandatory so they're prepared on how to live in this world.
- More sporting opportunities, more course electives, and more advanced classes.
- Never hear about violence in the school or about racism.
- MS & ES parking lots improved.
- More teaching in the classroom—more assignments in classroom.
- Math program needs to improve.
- Improve math and science program.
- New elementary school.
- Swimming pool—more exercise facilities which can be open to the public
- Better food in the cafeteria.
- Method of funding the school would be changed to income or sales tax.
- More challenging curricula.
- More emphasis on life preparation and surviving as an adult.
- I would wish for a levy to pass, to provide the school district with the means to provide what they need. I would like to see the staff receive a pay increase.
- New elementary and middle school buildings, IMMEDIATELY!
- A football stadium
- New elementary and middle school
- Return busing

- New elementary and middle school buildings
- New outdoor facilities at the high school
- New middle school and elementary building
- New elementary and elementary building
- If I could press a magic button, I would wish for our school levies to pass.
- Levies to pass
- Sports complex
- How the school generates its revenue; An alternative to property tax.
- I would love to see a community center go in (maybe West Carlisle) for summer/weekend/afterschool activities.
- Provide more programs for our students to expose them to all of the options they have available to them when they graduate.
- That the elementary, middle, and high schools, and the district as a whole earned an "Excellent" rating
- Provide more programs for our students to expose them to all of the options they have available to them when they graduate.
- When there are enough complaints about a faculty member, something should be done. Parents should be heard.
- Need to teach better work habits for students and teachers. There are too many days off. Sick leave and personal days are abused.
- Need good teachers and administrators; need to prepare children for the future with good work habits and morals
- Kids should be encouraged to take pride in themselves; respect themselves; be patriotic; respect leaders
- Youth for Youth should be open to all
- Make all kids want to learn and be happy
- With the a.m. announcements give an encouraging though (pep talk) for the day
- Open the second access road to the high school
- Increase salaries
- The state would fund schools differently
- EMIS simplification and timelines
- Complete the school campus building concept
- New operating funds
- Students attitudes, responsibility and respect
- A solution to assure students' participation in their own education – take on more responsibility
- All students are motivated to learn and succeed
- Turn fire station into a center for the performing arts
- Love/appreciation from all students for the subjects we love and appreciate
- Ohio Graduation Test in May
- Levy – remove financial burden from the district/administration/teachers
- Get quality parental involvement
- Communication between grade levels especially 8 & 9
- Double number of teaching staff

- Increase teacher salaries
- Foreign language in the Middle School – MS/HS cooperation
- New facilities for the elementary school
- Alternate classroom for kids that don't want to be here
- New management of funds – reconfigure
- Better pay for supplemental contracts
- Ohio Graduation Test split between weeks
- Every student has a positive work ethic
- Community support
- State funding gets corrected
- Education is valued as it is in other countries
- More creative, supportive leadership with staff involvement
- Financial resources
- Change the community involvement toward education of those that have no children in school
- Develop better communications with the community
- Education is the top priority of the community
- Every child shows up at school ready and capable of learning
- All Day Kindergarten
- Keep reasonable class size
- New facility
- Air conditioning
- Technology for all staff
- Just elementary restroom and more of them
- Parenting skill classes
- Grant writer on staff
- Elementary counselor
- More administrative help
- Finance what the district needs to provide a quality education for all
- Community should respond to our/their needs
- Engage our public to respond positively
- No unfunded mandates
- The community would openly talk to us about our needs
- Less athletic focus
- Staff raises
- More state of the art schools
- The way schools are funded
- Increased student discipline
- Up to the minute technology
- Have all schools on one campus
- That the bottom line would not always be financial
- School Funding process
- Let the coaches coach they way they feel is best
- Better communications to all the groups involved with the schools

- Add high school bus routes back to the transportation program
- Drop pay-to-play
- More interest in the music program
- Student booster groups (spirit club)
- Weighted GPA
- Cafetorium is too small
- Bring us up to date (2008), we are behind
- Need to be competitive
- Make the funds we have work for us
- Put the money in the places we need it
- Finish stadium, track, other projects promised
- Clean up old stadium, very outdated (track too)
- Don't use blackmail tactics for levy passage
- Improve our math program
- Be on top, number one district around
- Give each child what they need each year
- Be competitive, be in that top 10%

6. What do you always/never want to see hear or feel about Keystone Schools?

Always

- Good character and ethics exemplified and taught
- Hear people say "Keystone is a good school system"
- Students excited to learn and teachers to teach
- Proud of Keystone. Went there myself and am very pleased so far with my children. Lack of discipline for those who don't follow rules, or take time from others to learn.
- Friendship, racism
- That our students are doing the best they can.
- School Spirit, Pride, Success
- Kid enjoy going to school.
- Always want to hear that Keystone gives a quality education (pride in school system).
- Stress/publicize educational achievements, not just sports.
- That we have superior rating in education.
- Children are getting an excellent education and preparation for their lives ahead.
- Always positive remarks from staff and public and pride in school
- Always want to hear good state report card meeting or surpassing.
- I would like to always feel that the students, staff, and community feel genuine pride in their district.
- School pride
- Kids being held to a high standard: academically and behaviorally
- Things are running smoothly
- Teachers challenging students

- I want to feel that the teacher loves my child and cares that my child gets the best education.
- I want to feel that my child gets a good education.
- I want to know that my child will be prepared for college.
- I would always want to hear that people feel Keystone is a good, strong district with parents, students, and staff who take pride in their district.
- I want to hear and feel positive things about my school.
- Pride
- I always want to see pictures and drawings hanging on walls, trophies and special accomplishments in display cases, students helping each other, and special announcements.
- Positive things,
- That the kids are the #1 priority when any decisions (big or small) are made
- A strong sense school pride/school spirit
- The feeling of confidence in knowing that whether your kids are at the elementary, middle, or high schools that they will be in a positive learning environment where they are encouraged to succeed academically as well as in any other aspect (for example: sports).
- "I want to be proud of my school."
- Students say, "Boy, did I have a good day."
- Want to feel there is honesty.
- To feel as a small town
- Keep an open door policy
- To see fiscal responsibility
- Provide a quality education exceeding state standards
- Athletics perceived as a good program
- Children are always safe
- Energy
- Excitement
- Good support for staff
- Cleanliness
- Smiling
- Respect
- Cooperation
- Variety for lunch
- Good rapport
- "Feng shui"
- Clean "State of the art" facilities
- Mutual respect among all
- Feel welcome and safe
- Smiles
- Feel respected, wanted and appreciated
- Strong Security
- Job security

- Safe building facilities
- Successful staff and students
- Doing the best with the available resources
- Safe student atmosphere
- Sports are free
- The same educational opportunities as surrounding districts
- Have a line of communication to stop rumors
- We are a good district
- We are spending wisely
- Feel that all jobs are equally important
- See all people working together enjoying each other
- Want to hear positive
- Want to see staff get along and help each other
- All staff members feel appreciated
- All employees get a pat on the back
- Hear how athletics and academics are excellent
- Have opportunities for students
- Want to hear good things about Keystone
- Want to hear about our accomplishments
- Want to hear about our high academic performances
- Want to hear how successful we are

Never

- "The schools don't communicate with people"
- "The schools waste money"
- Don't want to hear "We have always done it that way"
- A lack of security in the schools
- Never want to see or hear about a student killing anyone at the school.
- A tragic problem that requires police intervention.
- Never want to hear that there is violence and drugs in the school.
- Never want to hear that the system is struggling and school performance is down.
- The buildings that are all closed up and left behind is a constant reminder of a failing school system.
- Never that they were inadequate in the role of education.
- Never that were racists—always that we are very supportive.
- I don't want to hear degrading of the school or of the students who go there.
- Violence
- Bad reputation as a school district
- Teachers losing their jobs
- Verbal abuse from a teacher (to a student)
- I would never want to hear that students feel unsafe at school.
- I don't like it when people say we don't measure up to other districts.
- I would never want to lose control of our school to the state.
- Apathy for the school

- I never want to hear or see that someone's opinion is valued more than anothers because of their last name.
- Threatened, scared to send my kids to school-some days I am
- Any rating less than “Effective”
- That a child sex-offender lives or works within walking distance to the schools
- That sports are more important than academics
- Negativity regarding the district, faculty and staff, or students
- Negativity, it is just a vehicle for failure
- Do not want to hear bad language
- Feel unsafe
- Want to hear from a student that they were not prepared for their next life step
- Want to see or hear of metal detectors or police in the buildings
- Keystone is viewed as a racist school district
- Policemen/security
- Graffiti
- Broken windows
- Tunnel vision
- Lack of center for performing arts
- Darkness
- Unsafe
- Disrespect
- Tension
- Drugs
- Cursing
- Put-downs
- Apathy
- Favoritism
- Clogged toilets
- Fighting
- Handguns
- Inappropriate language/dress
- Feel threatened by violence
- Hear of staff reductions or curricular and extra-curricular reductions
- Reduction in classes
- Alienation of students or groups
- Any more reduction in services
- Go back to the way it was one year ago
- “We don’t have that program in our school”
- We squander our money
- “We have always done it that way”
- Want a parent to feel unwelcome at a school, meeting or event
- “I’m not voting for this levy because of….when the real issue is “don’t raise taxes”
- Negative responses from the community

- Negative responses from the media
- Hear of more job cuts
- Want to settle for a lower level of education
- Want to see cohesiveness gone
- Want to see extra-curriculars cut
- A Columbine situation
- Want us to be considered racist
- Lose the Music department
- Want to lost opportunities ex: bussing
- Want to lose extra-curriculars
- Don't want to hear or read about our drug problems
- Don't want to hear negatives
- Don't want to hear about irate parents

Additional Comments:

- "My college student (from Keystone) is leaps and bounds above the others (at her school)!"
- "Our district is much more than it once was."
- "I love the new high school."
- (On levies) "We need to get away from thinking that the government owes us, to provide everything for us just because we pay taxes. If we want a quality school in our community, we need to pay for it."
- "I will always vote for the school levies, but I want a district that is accountable for their spending."
- "My daughter is happy with all her teachers."
- "Why does my child not receive a weekly spelling list?"
- One person said, "I think the teachers in this district spend more time with their students than other districts," in which another person then said, "I don't."