

Kenmore Town of Tonawanda UFSD study question:

Are there options to the current practice that might provide more efficient ways or patterns to organize how the grades K-12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?

RESULTS OF THE
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
WORKSHOP OF
THE KEN-TON BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND SUPERINTENDENT
ON OCTOBER 2, 2012

October 4, 2012

Workshop facilitated and report prepared by:
The SES Study Team
c. 2012

“Custom tools and research to aid a school district in defining a vision and decision options for serving students in the future.”

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Planning for the Future

A Customized Workshop Presented to the Kenmore Town of Tonawanda
Union Free School District
Board of Education
and Superintendent

October 2, 2012

6:30 PM

Kenmore-East High School Auditorium

Workshop facilitators, the SES Study Team:

Dr. Paul M. Seversky

Mr. Douglas Exley

Mr. Sam Shevat

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Mr. Robert Dana, President of the Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD Board of Education
2. *What are the key questions/data that our Ken-Ton school community needs to answer/discuss about how best to organize and deliver the grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve program to the pupils of our community over the next three years?*

Outcomes:

1. A rank-ordered tool that the district can use to focus continued school-community discussions, analysis, and actions.
2. A blueprint for the study and for other district leadership analysis and research.

3. Particulars about the Study:
 - ✓ The study question.
 - ✓ Methodology.
 - ✓ The study as a tool for school-community discussion and analysis.
 - ✓ District plan/vision as to how to use the study as a tool with school community stakeholders.
 - ✓ Public communication about the study and the focus of the Board.
4. Closing Thoughts by:
Mr. Robert Dana, President of the Board of Education
Mr. Mark Mondanaro, Superintendent of Schools

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On October 2, 2012 the Ken-Ton Board of Education and Superintendent worked together in a public workshop session to answer the following question:

What are the key questions/data that our Ken-Ton school community needs to answer/discuss about how best to organize and deliver the grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve program to the pupils of our community over the next three years?

The purpose of the effort was to create a written tool by the Board and Superintendent that will guide the study. The study will identify possible scenario options that the district and community may want to consider as they chart the future of the Ken-Ton school district.

The written tool also is valuable to engage public discussion and staff discussion about the short range and long range future efforts of the school district.

All of the ‘answers’ to the workshop question provided by the Board of Education members and Superintendent are important. All are listed in this workshop outcome report. The rank-ordering of the ‘answers’ by the Board and Superintendent is a preliminary scan. The scan suggests which of the items might be given priority collaborative attention by the study, district, and community in identifying viable scenario options that Ken-Ton may want to pursue.

Planning for a people-service organization is not a static effort. The ‘life’ of a school district serving the young people and community is dynamic. It often is influenced by variables over which the district and community have no direct control. Such variables include future pupil enrollments, State policy about school funding, and the local economy. This guide that lists the values expressed by the leadership of the school district will help focus the development of the study, and may help community discussion of a very important public policy decision the Board of Education is facing over the coming months.

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What are the key questions/data that our Ken-Ton school community needs to answer/discuss about how best to organize and deliver the grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve program to the pupils of our community over the next three years?

Rank Order	Key Questions/Data Identified and Rank-Ordered by the Ken-Ton Board of Education and Superintendent on October 2, 2012
1	The options should identify the number of buildings and staff necessary for both short term and long term viability of the district benchmarked to potential future enrollments and historical staff turnover.
2	We hope the options identified by the study will first focus on student programming and community pride of the schools and then on efficient use of resources listing the opportunities and challenges for each scenario option.
3	How can we use this study not to 'just survive', but to fulfill our "20/20 Vision" and to 'get even better' as a district?
4	How can we ensure that the community has a voice in the study?
5	How can we use this study opportunity to further our progress with the multiple pathways effort for students at Ken-Ton?
6	How can we stop eliminating student programs due to financial constraints?
7	How can we operate more efficiently and improve teaching conditions at the same time?
8	No matter the outcome of the findings of the study, we want to make sure we maintain our strong, positive relationship with our staff and community. How will the findings of the study help the district better meet student needs?
9	How will the study findings help us identify what are the key obstacles that are blocking us to achieve excellence across the board right now? Will the study findings take into consideration the district's current policies, practices and values with respect to transportation bus routes, times, walking to school patterns?
10	When we examine the findings of the study, how do we look beyond the data to understand the real impacts on the students? Are there certain patterns of student achievement one can expect and corresponding data to grade level configuration patterns?
11	How can the findings of this study produce better results from the efficiency standpoint of all the district's previous long range plans? What outside factors need to be considered with the findings of the study? (Example: private schools, other public schools, charter schools?)
12	If one of the options identified by the study includes redistricting, what opportunities and challenges are there concerning the effect on students from a neighborhood school to one that is farther away? If there is a consolidation, what factors will go into deciding which scenario should be chosen? If a scenario points to a particular building to be closed, is there data to support that?
13	Are the scenario options described in the findings of the study 'Doable'? How can the community and district work together to be sure that they remain unified with whatever scenario option, if any, is chosen?
14	What might need to be done to our buildings in order to implement a particular scenario or scenarios? How can we use this study opportunity to "future-proof" the district?
15	Are there are options that might provide us with long-term stability?

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