



PALMERTON AREA COMMUNITY SURVEY

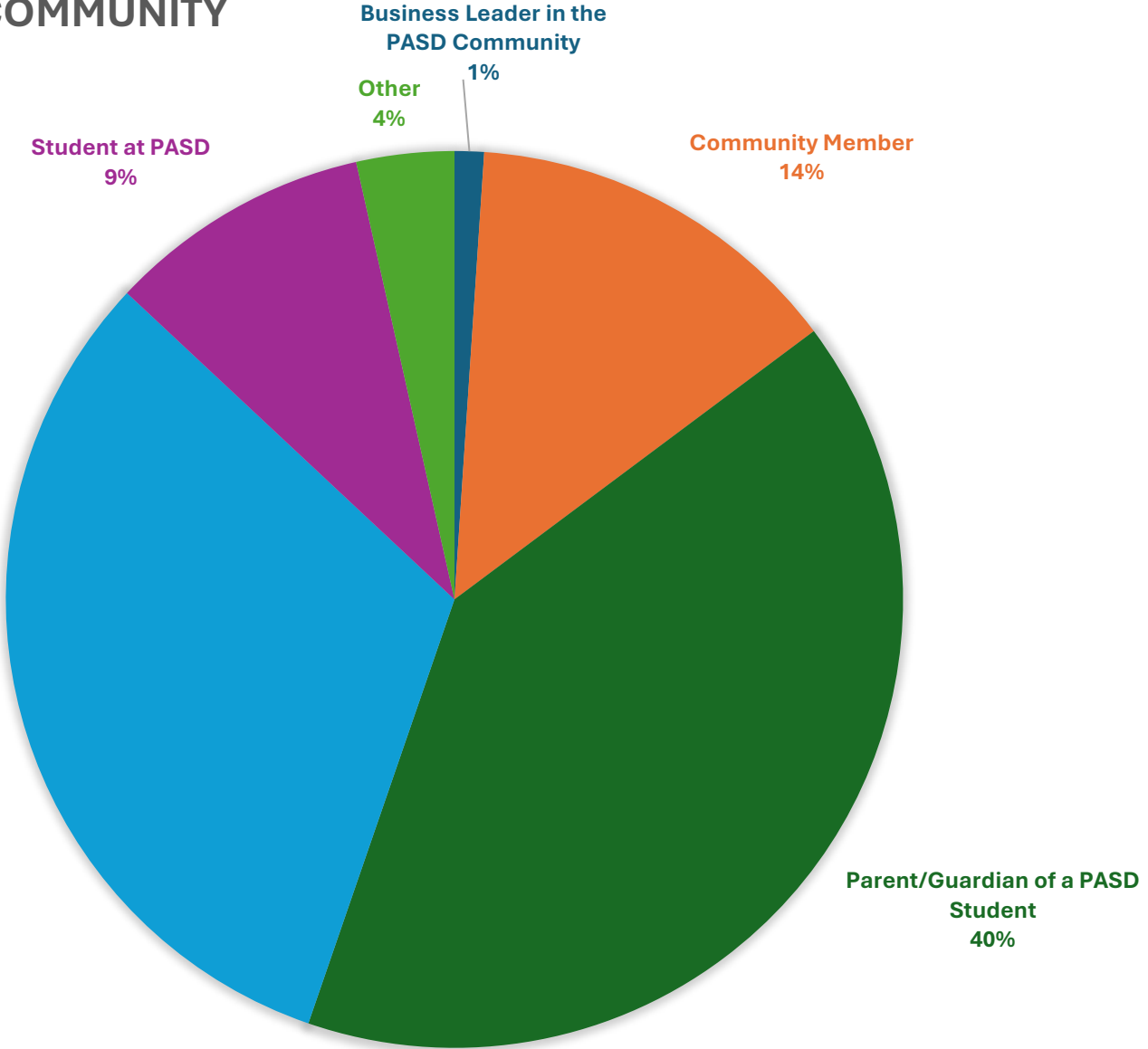
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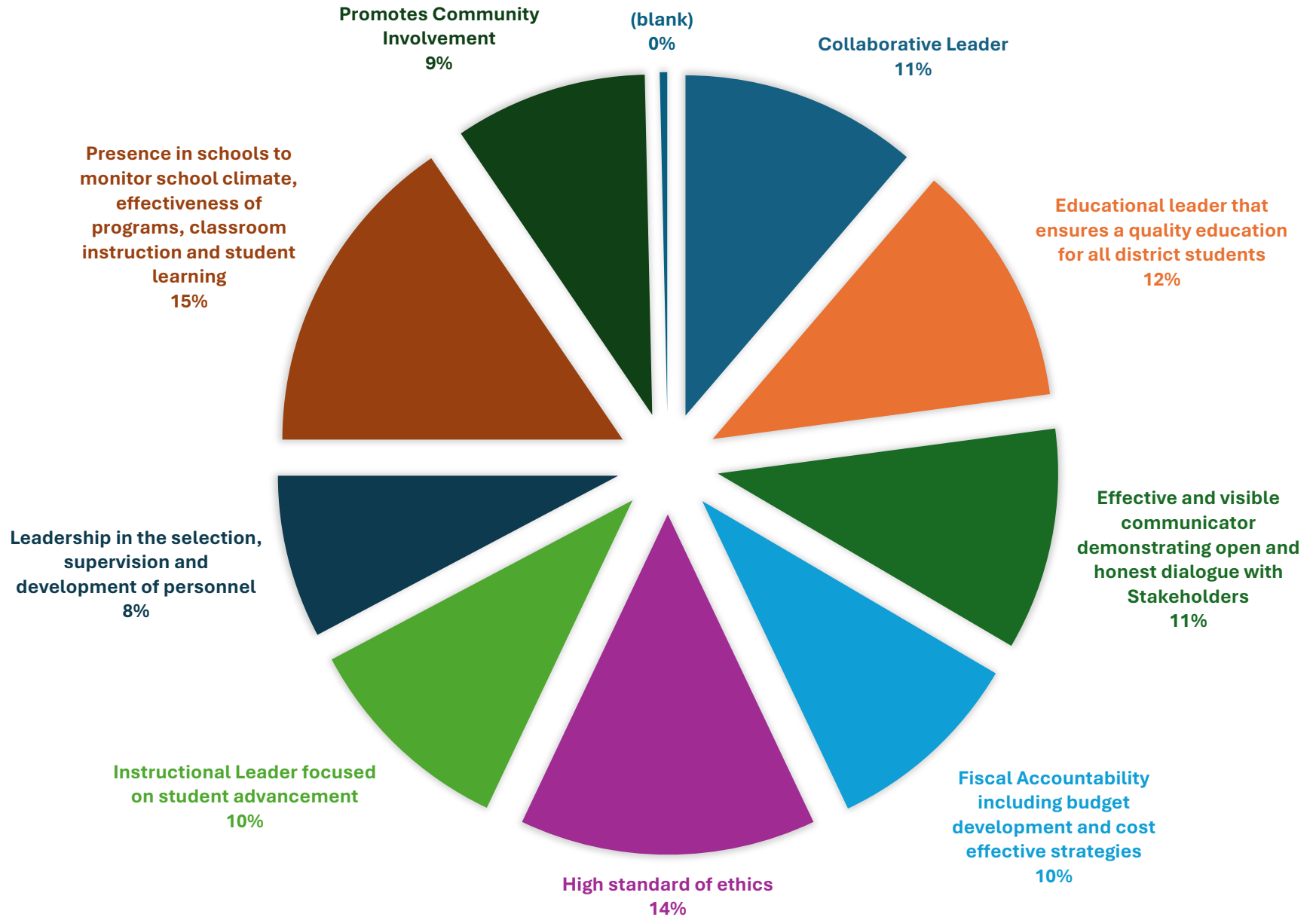
JUNE 18, 2024

PASD

STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY



FOUR MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION



Primary focus of Superintendent

Being present and available in all buildings
Building a relationship with the community, students and staff.
The student's education experience
Effective use of current staff during school hours and hiring if needed part time employees to fill in those much needed areas such as professional assistants and nurses which staff has been asking for years
Maintaining fiscal responsibility
Program development
Review of school culture and climate
Observation and evaluation of school personnel
Focusing on education and involvement with the children.
The implementation of Morale Building for all.
Improving academics
Getting input from district staff on needs and supports, understanding family and community challenges, understanding district long range goals and how to plan to meet them
Stop ignoring the bullying that's going on in the schools
How to keep the good teachers you have and support staff make a livable wage
Involvement in the school itself. Getting to know the staff and students.
Focus on the kids getting the right education for their needs
Learning the schools and the culture of our town
School climate
Getting to know staff, students, and school board as well as gaining an understanding of our community.
Reasonable budget for taxpayers, not bow to the PSEA
Observing - what is currently going on that is working, what is currently going on that is not working, what are we missing. Then create a plan of implementing changes, as needed.
Bullying. It's out of control.
Evaluation of what is working and what needs improvement early on. Implementation of a plan for changes only after a valid assessment has been made.
Review: budget, curriculum and present a plan for the future. Really get to know staff in all buildings and levels, not just teachers.

To assure that each school is safe- more armed security, no critical race theory, no Democratic suggestions to change our schools in anyway, visit each school to see that it is working the way it should, be a leader to every student, teacher and parent.
Making sure the teachers are on par with expectations and to make sure administration follows the rules in all handbooks and does not pick and choice when enforcement should take place.
Focused learning on the primary subjects like math, reading, science, and history. Politics should stay out of school like DEI.
Set standards be consistent
Higher an Assistant Principal or Principal for Parkside and Assistant for Palmer. The volume of students, parents, staff, discipline and behavior issues is far too much for one Principal to handle.
Look into redistricting. Some buildings within the district are overcrowded while others have excess space, primarily at the elementary level
Addressing changes needed within the district and the old school and out dated way of thinking many staff have while creating bonds with the community and staff.
Better educational opportunities for high schoolers and more arts in the schools less emphasis on sports
Building community report
Gain a better understanding of the culture, demographics and strengths and needs of the school district.
Assess district needs and be visible and available to all staff, student and parents.
To listen to students and staff and try to make adjustments for better learning and working environments
Listening to the staff, they lay the groundwork for student education and involvement. Their voices need to be heard more.
Get to know who is working for him/her. Be present!
Developing a good relationship with the board of education, keeping them informed of events and happenings in the district and making recommendations about the daily operations the district.
OBSERVING! Watching, actively listening and learning about the Palmerton Area School District and its Community then when he/she understands move forward to promote excellence in learning for all of the students!
Special education, and students with IEPs who need the extra help. My daughter is not getting the attention she needs with her IEP. This needs to be addressed.
Learning the climate and getting to know the staff and students in order to better ascertain their needs and goals.
Raising academic standards, more variety of high school classes, bring back life skills classes, enforcing dress codes the bikini tops and sandals are a bit out of hand and focus on preventing bullying suicide awareness
Supervision of staff and meeting all school district employees personally.
Protecting our kids

Understanding the current status and atmosphere of the district, and evaluating and recommending solutions to areas showing need, whether it is facilities, education, teacher quality, or budget.

Getting to know the students, staff and curriculum of the schools

Less virtual says more in school days

More support from teachers

Getting these schools back under control. No more drugs and fights! Stop worrying so much about the sports programs and focus on education.

Fiscal responsibility. Tax increases need to stop and the district must relentlessly work with state officials for a better funding solution. My family is in a new house on less than half an acre in the district and have been assessed over \$13,000 in property taxes. It's not sustainable and the kids we are investing in won't be able to afford to come back and live here.

Getting to know the needs of the student body.

He/she should spend time in each school to observe the climate of faculty and students, and specifically address positions with high turnover rates to determine the underlying causes of the turnover.

Becoming aware of the school and community surroundings. Building a working rapport with staff and creating an open door policy.

Get to know community, teacher and children. Know the culture and community well.

Review district wide policies and procedures.

Ensuring safety of all students....stop the bullying and enforce proper disciplinary action against the students who are bullies! It's the main reason I removed my child from PASD and transferred her to a Cyber Charter School. My poor child suffered from others bullying her since 5th grade and after 3 years of it and unsatisfactory action against the bullies her father & I had enough. No child should have to deal with that.

Have good communication between students, parents, and community.

Education

Understand the students, parents and community as a whole. Be mindful of the community who must pay for the decisions that you will make

Taking the time to get to know the staff , students and parents.

Student growth and achievement while also not putting more burden on the taxpayers. Create a welcoming and positive climate that makes people want to work there and stay!

Students grades

They should focus on ensuring teachers have the resources they need to teach in a safe and nurturing environment free of personal political agendas.

Listening to teacher and parents current concerns

Student education and how to make the learning process better

Bullying
Making sure students are getting the best education.
Presence in schools to get to know the people and climate
Evaluating the schools, teachers and students to see what needs improvement.
Continuing to promote community involvement while providing a strong educational foundation for students in the district
The teachers and students
I would hope it is to accomplish whatever goals are collaboratively decided on between the board and superintendent as priorities.
Forming all schools into one cohesive team. All on the same page, all doing the same thing.
fiscal accountability
Student education.
Bring respect back into the classroom (from both students AND parents), getting to know the teachers and staff who work for you, plan a direction for the school to follow and how to best achieve the goal(s), and look into issues/problems in each building and formulate a plan for addressing.
Getting the schools back to what they once were. Hold parents accountable for their kids. Stand behind their staff when problems arise and take the initiative to be involved and not "hideout" in their office doing nothing.
The primary focus should be the students. Doing what is best for the students and future owners, workers and adults of palmerton.
Get rid of the marking period projects. The kids can only do so much of it, and it turns into a parent project. Please go back to book reports. They just needed to be revised a bit.
Students first
Student and staff! Develop a relationship with both!
Behavior issues within the classrooms.
Getting to know the employees and students
The superintendent should work to ensure that the students of Palmerton Area School District are afforded all the possible opportunities that are available in other schools.
First 6 months understanding how things operate before making changes. Be in the school buildings
Student engagement
Ensuring students get the best education possible while providing a safe environment and staff that has the necessary resources to provide this service.
Providing an environment where students can reach their highest educational potential but need to be aware of costs local taxpayers can afford.

Entering the schools to evaluate and having meetings with HR and all staff (grouped by departments) to hear their recommendations on where change needs to be made.

Sit down with parents and see where the families would like to see change.

Take these points (without judging) along with what is seen in their personal evaluations and create an action plan to improve where needed.

Involvement with the students

Getting to know the school district. The teachers and staff. What challenges we have as a district, were we are lacking and what can be done to improve the situation. Be active in grants and student acknowledgments.

Improving the quality of education for the students.

Up hold and maintain the highest work ethics of all staff and accountability to all staff.

Student safety and transparency with parents

Become acquainted with our school, community, and students

He or she should get to know our students and review our current courses. They should develop plans to advance our academic programs.

getting to know the staff and community

Assessment of education trends.

Hiring

Communication

Getting to know her/his crowd.

They should do their best to involve themselves with the school and the students and make the students feel positive about themselves

Reviewing what is in place, what needs changing, and what we should champion.

Distribution of responsibilities now that we finally have an HR person and Schuler isn't doing two jobs.

Stabilizing the district. Facilities upgrades.

trying to figure out different strategies that work best for our school

Vertical alignment - Students are struggling when getting to the high school.

Building upkeep and sanitation - the High School has multiple issues including drain problems from bathrooms backing up and continuing bug populations as a result.

The pulse of the educators and the relationship between them and their students

Understanding PASD, the students, faculty and opportunities to support and advance PASD students.
Learning the district inner workings and creating a plan for the future.
Development of a relationship with community.
Learning. Learn what needs to be changed or stay the same. Learn about the community and what parents/students need/want. Learn what they need to do to support the district.
Getting to understand the community and school climate
Understanding the current culture and climate of the district.
Education
Understanding the environment and the wants and needs of the students and community
Getting to know administrators, staff and community, set goals for each school and develop a trust in administrators to make positive decisions about their buildings
Academics for students. Ensuring the reading program follows Structured Literacy and the math is supplemented with addition work for deep understanding of content at the younger grade levels.
Student safety
Looking at student views and opinions of how the school can benefit for students.
Getting to know students and staff and the "quirks" of the individual job, so they can proceed with their best foot forward. Be humble and willing to get their hands dirty, so to speak.
Quality education aligned with Pennsylvania standards
Establishing a culture that is welcoming, accepting, and open towards growth/development.
Building a relationship with others in the school community
Ensuring our children are safe in our schools
Clear communication
I feel the new Superintendent's role should be, especially during first year, getting to know other administration and staff to determine needs of individual buildings and as a district.
future goals, moving forward
Understanding budget/fiscal responsibilities, leadership to bring the staff/admin together, getting the board to understand and execute their role
Get to know the kids and willing to help them
To become part of the community and make an appearance at school events
Make it a point to be present in the schools and classrooms and get to actually know staff members!
Relationships with the community and faculty.

Learning school policies and getting acquainted with staff and students
Presence in schools to monitor school climate, effectiveness of programs, classroom instruction and student learning
Building trust and rapport with teachers and parents.
Primary Focus should be working on the buildings - Palmer is too old and should not have been renovated. We need a new school.
Spending wastefully
Learning about the schools' communities and cultures. As well as being a good leader
Honesty and listen to needs of staff.
The main focus for the first year needs to be accountability for all employees at all times. Too many people get special favors. Without accountability, there is chaos.
get more money this school is gross omm, there are flies all over the school I've seen it in the food. and lower the prices of the snacks I'm fat and those prices need to go down.
Being a positive force for all schools, making connections with teachers, students, administrators, and community. Making sure that the policies in place are being followed.
Dress code. Why are girls allowed to wear belly shirts and short shorts??
Collecting data from all levels of staff and parents to see what issues actually exist as opposed to those they only hear from Admin, board etc
No failed Keystones
Safety, parental involvement, no politics or parlor games.
Security and education of the kids.
The programs at the elementary level are too focused on test taking and not enough on collaborative learning. Please assess how students are being advanced from grade level to grade level in k-8. Students are arriving at the High School having not passed all classes in 7, 8. This is detrimental to our quality of education and letting down our most vulnerable populations.
Looking at each school and how it should be updated.
I believe the Superintendent should get a very good feel for the community in which he/she is responsible. He/she should get to know the people that are working in the trenches (staff/teachers). He/she should be looking at ways to better help our students with emotional/behavioral problems. Right now we don't seem to have the resources to help some of our students in house and we don't seem to have the money to outpace them. We are doing a disservice to not only the individual student but also the students and staff that need to deal with the disruptive behaviors on a daily basis.
The students.
Getting to know the students and families. Making sure the students are heard

Form positive connections and help reframe culture of all school district employees

I think besides the daily duties that every office has, the new Superintendent should focus on watching, listening and learning about Palmerton's strengths and weaknesses of staff and students. Then make a plan of action on how to turn the weaknesses into strengths without losing the strengths.

I believe the Superintendent's primary focus should be to improve the school's environment and make sure the students are taken care of. Getting to know everyone.

Learn about our community, schools and curriculum.

To learn the values of our school and to get to know us for who were are

I feel the new Superintendent's first year they should spend time in each building to view how things are being run. First year should be a build up of information and wanted change. Have staff meetings with groups (teachers, IA's, technology, custodial, cafeteria, secretarial) to get unjudged input from the employees on areas they would like to see change. Have an open meeting with parents on their concerns for their students and where they would like to see change.

Take this information to create an action plan moving forward within the district.

Ensuring students are receiving a quality experience in both education and atmosphere.

I am sure a good amount of observation and gaining understanding of current processes is necessary to be able to then develop proper strategies for improvement. I think academics, students, and staffing need to be the primary focus - sports and extra circular to follow.

Communication absolute disaster with the shutting down of schools early this year.

I think the new Superintendent should conduct a comprehensive assessment of district resources with input from community leaders. I think this would be best accomplished by establishing a transparent, and routine communication system to encourage collaboration among community stakeholders, educators, staff, and students. The district can take advantage of involving students as community stakeholders, enriching the classroom curriculum without significant cost increases.

The primary focus of our Superintendent in his/her first year should be a movement toward the prevention and removal of bullying in our district and promoting the general wellbeing of its students.

Ensure smooth transition.

Getting to know the students and learn all about our small town Bomber Pride.

See what works and what doesn't before changing everything right off the bat. Get input from teachers and staff members before implementing new things.

Forming leadership that will support all districts students and staff. They should be involved and give support to the community and school events.

Improving upon all areas of academics and understanding the needs of the students while being transparent with the community.

About the education and safety for the students

To actually look put for student safety and not say they “Don’t believe in 2hr-delays”

Being present in the schools and at school community events in order to get to know the students/teachers/community. The students, teachers, and community members should know who the superintendent is. PASD needs a leader - not a boss, not a figure head, but a leader who will be a part of this school community.

Getting to know the district processes, getting to know staff members/students, being "present", learning the current school climate

Coming from a rising PAHS senior, the Superintendent MUST focus on establishing an effective communication system between themself, the school board, and the PASD teachers. Often times, I feel as though the PASD teachers are not given a say when decisions must be made regarding punishment among other things. This MUST be changed as it has negatively affected the high school these past few years. Teachers and club advisors are to be given full authority in making these decisions as they are the ones who see these students every day and know them personally. Whoever the new Superintendent is MUST respect this and give teachers the authority and respect they deserve.

Getting to know and understand the students, community, schools, staff, and district. Work on making REAL connections with the students and staff. Learning the systems that are in place, talking with staff and students about what works and what doesn't to try to come up with plans to improve in following years.

Cresting high educational standards and methods through which we can meet those standards.

The students

Curriculum. Go through it, be transparent. Keep curriculum from becoming "woke." Curriculum for HS students should include real life skills (how to budget, file taxes, what insurance is, cooking, using basic tools, etc.). There is so much easliy taught, valuable knowledge our students leave school not knowing. Student achievement is important, not simply advancement. Student, family and community inclusion are important. Ask student opinion on appropriate subjects being discussed/decided for or within the district. Be known amongst the students/ aware of school/community climate. Budget appropriately!!

The superintendent's primary focus should be getting to know the stakeholders and getting their input on situations. The superintendent should be someone who shows an interest in the kids and staff, acknowledges all student groups hard work throughout the year, and keeps the best interest of everyone in mind. The superintendent should be visual in the schools, so students get to know them.

The safety of the kids and staff

Building relationships with community, staff and students.

Reviewing/Analyzing programs and procedures to see what should be updated to reflect education in 2024 and beyond.

Focus should be going back to real teaching and less teaching to take the PSSAs and Keystones. Too much time is spent on test prep for those standardized tests unless in teaching the kids what they really need to know.

Also strategies to handle bullying in the school district. Because the current is not working.

I feel that the superintendent's primary focus in their first year should be to learn about the district and the students and staff that work in the district.

Making themselves familiar with the community by paying visits to the schools.

Getting to know the district.

Getting to know the faculty, students, and the district as a whole.

They need to be visible and they need to watch what is going on in these schools. They need to see more than just what is happening at the surface level. Talk to parents, talk to LOTS of parents, talk to the students, ALL of the students, listen to opinions, look for the gaps in what should be and what isn't. Create an action plan for how they are going to make improvements and focus on the real issues that are preventing our kids from getting the education that they deserve.

Leadership of staff and students

Become acquainted with the staff and cost effective strategies.

Making sure that all students are eligible to graduate once it is there senior year.

high visibility within the schools for students and teachers, attendance/participation at Act 80 days, in-services, faculty meetings, student events

To get to know the kids

The new superintendent needs to focus on improving negative environments in the schools (not all have this, but some do) for both students and faculty/staff. Once cohesiveness is improved, the rest should fall into place.

Focus should be to enhance Palmerton's education in the classroom and not on the field. Often our focus is outside the classroom and while that is great what the kids learn in the classroom is what will help them in the long term. Our balance is often off in our district.

Creating a positive learning environment

Understanding the school district and how they operate

Holding students accountable instead of allowing them to not turn in work and accept a zero and also be in contact with the parents more when this is going on. Not wait almost an entire school year and then let parents know this has been going on for quite some time.

Learn about us, our community, get involved, see where and why students struggle, understand the struggles of the community and that raising taxes for the district will not solve school issues, it will only balance the budget.

I believe a pioneer in the education system is needed to work with the union to develop a new system to find well qualified staff and pay them well for their work, while still maintaining fiscal responsibility and moving to more of a traditional pay scale, retirement, healthcare program.

Let the board know who is in charge of day to day operations.

Paying the TEACHERS more, removing Master's Degree requirements, and doing away with Leader in Me.

Students

Uniting the district to work towards a common goal

Staffing and compensation. We will continue to lose good teachers unless something is done. We are one of the lowest-paid school districts in the surrounding area. We are also one of the few that have to substitute by committee without building subs. The building subs have been a huge help. I would recommend, however, that you lower their salary. Building subs should not be making as much as a first-year teacher who does twice as much preparation as they do. It's a slap in the face to a full-time, first-year teacher.

Getting to know PASD, their staff, and their community to determine area of focus and improvement.

The Superintendent should focus on the effective operation of our school district. This includes overseeing the general administration of all instructional, business or other operations of the district as well as advising and making recommendations to the Board of Education. Promoting teamwork among teachers, administration, students and parents is also important.

Learning the district policies and procedures, visiting buildings to get to know staff, and interviewing staff to identify areas that need improvement and what is being done well.

Understanding the unique community of Palmerton

Improving quality and organization of space used for the district. Proper supplies to the schools

Learning more about the district, staff and community.

Improving staff/faculty - focus on quality education and stop the indoctrination and woke nonsense

Developing rapport with all stakeholders and observing how things are done to make informed decisions for the following school year.

Familiarize themselves with teachers staff and the community.

Building morale with community, staff, and students.

From what I hear, building a stronger, more positive, more trusting work environment/culture among the faculty is a priority. This spans across many buildings but I find that a positive change needs to occur especially at the high school.

Meeting with various stakeholders to understand the needs of the district.

Staff involvement

In school educational focus. Not making rash decisions that effect parents livelihoods

Learning the school district and seeing what works here might not work elsewhere and vice versa. I never like a new leader to step in and Implement change without first observing how the place works

During the first year, the superintendent should gather information about climate and identify problems areas and challenges to focus on in try future. They should also indemny areas of strength so they know what areas they can continue to support.

Speaking with staff about staff and student needs, learning about programs and educational resources that can help students, staff, and families.

What is in the best interest of the district, staff and students.

To promote Mr. fink as principle of the school

Getting involved with schools to understand what needs are wanted to improve the district.

Ensuring the district is financially responsible while continuing arts, music and sports

Getting to know everyone as individuals

Sound budget and education program

Knowing the school and making sure education is meeting standards and keeping the kids safe

Focus on the current leadership in the High School relating to their effectiveness in performing their job duties and communication. Emphasis on supporting organizations and clubs with adequate funding other than the sports teams.

Curriculum

Getting to know every aspect of the district and forming a plan to make it a better place for all in every area.

Talk to students get their thoughts and opinions on their educators.

Getting familiar with the community and staff members.

Facilitating organization and working closely with district leaders.

The student's well-being regarding academics and mental health.

The Superintendent should use the first year to learn about the district and get to know the staff, students and community. Be a good listener and observer.

Improvement of physical building well being

Establishing relationships with the community, staff, students.

Getting to know the current status of the systems in place. Making small goals at first to support larger ones.

Getting to know the community, district, employee, and students. Also, observing how it currently functions to see what is working well and what needs improvements by talking to those in the "trenches" or the bottom up first (students, support staff. teachers, and parents).

The superintendent should spend the first year getting to know the faculty and staff in the district (not just other administrators, but those of us who spend every day with the students).

Creating a positive environment that fosters TRUST amongst the staff and students.
making the best possible environment
He/she should spend time getting to know who we are as a community. The staff, students, and community members as a whole are an invaluable resource.
Learning our current practices, our amazing community, and develop an understanding of our strengths and weaknesses as a district. He/She should also work to develop a rapport with staff members, the community and school board to encourage open and positive dialogue.
They should focus on being a leader and getting to get used to our school and the events that occur.
Reaching out to understand the concerns of parents being excluded from information about what's going on in school- such as holding the kids who caused damage while breaking and entering the weight room rather than honoring them in the paper.
Open communication with principals
Adjusting to staff, students and community.
Learning what our students truly need to be stable free-thinkers, steadfast against political rhetoric from any direction.
Creating a cohesive environment and be VISIBLE.
Connection with staff and community
Connections with staff and students
The Superintendent should be present and working on building a rapport with the students, staff, and community members. The Superintendent should be someone that our students know and our staff are able to communicate with on a regular basis.
Becoming part of the community and gathering information about schools/school climate/needs
Getting to know the community, students, and school district personnel.
Educational standards
Making the teachers feel like they are not in an us vs them relationship with the superintendent.
Furthering the education of students
Getting to know the school, staff, and students
The kids in the community and their needs to grow
Work along with principles to come up with best practices. .while being g good stewards of people's \$.
Implementing and assuring administrators are following through with policies and procedures to ensure a smooth and successful educational process for staff and students. For example, a no cell phone policy, more strict dress code policy, zero tolerance bullying policy, no smoking, vaping or illegal substance policy, occasional drug searches, etc.

Making the school safe from outside threats. With the current environment of today's world, there should be some kind of metal detectors and not allowing people just to walk in. Esp at high school. One day I was waiting for my child and I was able to walk right into school into the bathroom!

I believe the Superintendent's first year should be about meeting everyone and becoming familiar with the school. This means conversing to teachers, students, parents, and the school board. By being approachable and listening to their thoughts, they can become an excellent leader for our schools.

Making sure everyone is following the rules including the employees.

Ensuring school policies are enforced and followed

Student involvement within the schools

Holding personnel accountable for their actions; we need people to display better work ethics & morality.

Acquaint yourself with the staff, teachers, and all the employees. Remember you are working for the tax payer.

The Superintendent's primary focus should be developing effective working relationships with teachers, administrators, the board of directors, and the community to determine pain points and develop actionable plans for improvement where necessary as well as plans for the maintenance of the district's strengths.

Approving more opportunities for sports at younger ages or other programs to get children involved in things.

To learn the culture of the district and the community so that the superintendent can be more effective in creating strategies to fulfill the district's needs.

Get to know the district and identify any needed improvements

Getting to know the staff and community

Getting to know the make up of the administrative staff as well as the make up of the buildings, Making note of things that could be changed in the short term and long term to make the district a better place for students and staff.

Learning the kids and the way they act

Being fun

Getting to know the community, staff and students should be the first thing. Their primary focus for the year should be to evaluate what is working and what is not and determine the best way forward.

Getting to know staff and students, finding out what is working in each building and what is not and how to improve on that, vision for making sure ALL students are successful and FULLY ready to move onto the next grade level (and not just be pushed along).

Greatest Strength of PASD

The high quality of the educators
Small town feel- our terrific sports program.
Commitment to the students and their education
Dedication and commitment of our young teachers
Towamensing Elementary- it's a different school with clearly different culture and standards. I wouldn't send my children in town to school if my life depended on it.
Community sense
Our students
Small community involvement
The staff. Principal Ralph Andrews needs more recognition and support for managing two buildings and the Palmer building project. You need to give him whatever he needs so he doesn't leave. He's a human being and going to get burnt out. He needs an assistant principal.
It's a small town and small school
Community involvement
Sports community
I'm not sure
We are a close knit Small town community that always pulls together for families in need. As they say "it takes a village"
Quality staff that supports our student's needs as well as a supportive community.
Community support
Still searching for one
Small, tight knit community that supports the school district.
Community involvement.
We are a close-knit community that support each other and while "outsiders" sometimes make us uncomfortable, those who come in and are willing to understand and work with us will be successful and accepted.
The greatest strength is the involvement of parents
The teachers, students and parents working together for the betterment of our children's future.
Homegrown teachers, alumni that want to be involved, varying programs that help all students
The students and Community involvement
The educators

Small school in a great community.
Dedication of the Teachers
It's small but active community
Community
The small size
It's people. We are a close-knit community. We come together strong when needed and thus accomplish great things. We value and respect our community. Palmerton is a great place to live. We want to continue this. Our Education system is a vital role in this goal.
Most staff and all students
N/a
A sense of pride for the school district and community. An incredible special education department.
We a small, tight-knit community, always having each other's backs and support is clutch!
The community involvement.
It's size...not too small. But the mentality of us being small and what can we do/the woe is me attitude is horrible.....WE MAY BE SMALL BUT GREAT THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES!!!
Spending money on things that are not improving the education. You'd rather spend millions on a weight room. How about getting better learning tools. Or healthier lunches?
Their community.
Small classroom sizes, teachers that actually care about their students
Quality teachers who are invested in their students current performance while supporting their continued growth and development.
Community as a family on most cases
The collaborative efforts of community, teachers, and students.
Their strength in community involvement
None
Safe atmosphere
Still holds a small-town school district feel
The teachers. Their commitment to their students.
Faculty that is incredibly dedicated to our students and go above and beyond every day to provide the best possible education for our students
The residents and how they want the district to be successful. Eliminate embarrassing situations like the dismissal of Ken Termini by a mutiny.
Smaller school so children know each other and know teachers.

Connection to the community.
Low real estate taxes compared to the rest of the area, which in today's economy is commendable since PASD upgrades existing buildings instead of demolishing and building new.
Not sure
Community involved
Small town feel with compassion for our teachers and students.
Strong sense of community.
Palmerton has a great community.
Leadership
The community pulls together for each other.
Our class sizes are acceptable
Size
We have some great teachers but need plenty more
Community
The community involvement
Education programs and extracurricular programs
Community
Teachers who care. An involved community.
Community involvement
It's students!
A great tight knit community that cares about their children.
parent involment
The faculty.
The teachers (most of them). I have witnessed many who would do anything to help a student succeed.
Their principals and teachers.
Small community. Allowing students to make great connections without having to reach so far.
Sports and school clubs
Idk
Community
Being a smaller district is a strength as we can stay family friendly

Family/community
The sense of community that the students feel in school.
Community involvement
The dedicated staff
Providing well-rounded educated individuals.
Ability to hire and retain quality staff.
The small town feel. The community always coming together and helping one another.
The education
Small town education, everyone knows everyone but this can also back fire when conversations are held that should be kept private. It seems too much information that is discussed privately ends up doing discussion in public and the. It leads to damage control or rumors that are not factual.
It is a very welcoming district that has the feel of a community.
Community participation with in the district.
The community and how it rallies behind the school/students
Community
the staff
Community
Our staff and our community
Spirit
The education system.
The staff is very close-knit with the students and they make sure that they are always there for them
The community support for the schools is impressive compared to larger districts.
Community
Community involvement.
a tight knit community
The variety of opportunities being provided through clubs, sports, and activities.
The Community
Small size
Community support
Small town feel. Community involvement in schools, PTO involvement in the school (Towamensing).

Traditional Values!!!!
Positive Student/Teacher relationships and parental support
Small town values and ethics. A true caring community for children.
Community
Its effective programs as well as its support of extra activities including athletics and arts
The students....we have really good kids. We should be involving the parents more at the secondary level
N/a
The small class size along with the small town feel.
Palmerton is fairly good at keeping the school a safe and calm environment for the most part.
Sense of community and support of their students.
Community
The staff and the pride our students have in our district.
It's staff and communication
Small town feel where families generally keep watch over their neighborhood
Not sure
As a new employee I find the greatest strength to be the sense of community that both the school buildings and the town itself provide.
Community
Its staff/people
Communication
it is an easy place to live
Teachers who love their job and care for their students.
Community based values
community involvement
Small student ratio for hands on learning
Teachers work together and have positive relationships with each other.
The greatest strength in Palmerton would be the staff and students.
It community focus.
The student cultures and traditions.
Community support
The students.

nothing
We are a family and we support each other.
Teachers that we've encountered have been wonderful.
There are a lot of opportunities for students of the highest levels to do more, and for those who are interested in niche areas to engage in learning more about those things.
No comment
Tight knit community.
The security and family feel, at least at towamensing. They always call if there is an issue and sincerely care. .
Your staff is incredible. My elementary students have engaged with them and enjoyed them.
Me
How well the community is involved with our district.
I believe the greatest strength is it teachers/staff. We have some very good teachers.
b-129
There is a lot of different classes to choose from.
Community
Employee loyalty
I see a strength as the students. They are willing and able. They just need to know that the District's leader has their back and is available to them.
The greatest strength of Palmerton is it's community.
Teaching
Staff
The greatest strength of the Palmerton Area School District is Our alma motter
Our students and staff.
Community feel and being proactive in finding resources that better the students
Intimate classroom settings which are great for learning and student connection. I think Palmerton does a great job with their sports programs and extracurricular activities. The FBLA Program is AMAZING! The current computer teachers are awesome!!!
It's kids
Overall, PASD has very respectful and kind students.
We are a small community and district, so everyone knows the people around them and can have a close relationship with anyone in the community, including other students, teachers, or administrators.
Expertise of the staff.

Close knit community, Bomber Pride, graduating class size.

Small district where many people know each other. Community involvement.

I think our pride is the greatest strength. You can see this pride through the community, students and staff. This is shown at football games, other sporting events, drama productions, concerts and more.

Palmerton Area School District has many great teachers who work hard to help students grow academically and emotionally. Palmerston offers many activities and clubs for students to pursue their interest. Palmerton's academic offerings are superior to other districts in the area.

Communication , and cares about my child's education

The community

The teachers in this school district work tirelessly to do what is best for students. We have a strong community that is proud of our schools.

I have always felt that the greatest strength was our team-approach. However, I have felt that this has not been the focus recently. I would love to go "back to the roots" of collaboration.

PASD does a great job of hiring GOOD teachers. I have had very few instances of having a bad teacher who does not teach the way they most certainly should. This definitely is a strength of our district, and I hope this continues!

We have a solid community with members who are willing to help our students if asked. I feel that the very vast majority of our teachers and support staff genuinely care about our students and their growth in all areas.

I feel our S.S. Palmer principal, Mr. Andrews, is very supportive of both staff and students.

Community

We have a pride in our community with conservative values.

We came from Northampton Area SD 4 years ago and we truly appreciate the "small town" feel of this school district. I believe teachers and staff truly get to know their students aiding in academic success. My son, going to 8th grade, truly loves Palmerton ASD.

Our greatest strength is our staff who works hard to meet our students on their level each and every day.

Communication

We are proud of our community, students and are dedicated to make it the best it can be!

Tight-knit community. We all care about each other. The superintendent can pull from that to help create a culture where learning and rigor are at the forefront.

The employees!

The staff

Unity, pride and commitment.

Its greatest strengths are the students, the parents, and the staff.
Right now, I am struggling to see strengths due to the lack of so many essential things in the school. To the point that my child no longer wants to attend even part time at the school and would rather go full time at tech so they don't have to attend Palmerton any longer.
Our community
Graduation rate.
Lots of clubs and activities
willingness of staff, students, and families to help those in the district and community in need
The grades
It is a strong community that is closely knit. When there is a problem in the area, the community comes to the rescue.
Our community is strong.
Its many dedicated teachers
The staff is extremely nice
Offer help
Our community!
In my opinion, student engagement and opportunities available to the students is the strength.
The Staff
Small community that allows people to get to know one another and come together!
No comment
Staff and community pride in their town/school
Within the building walls are coworkers who work together and treat each other as family (mostly). The joy of a small district, in my opinion, is not being invisible. You feel more supported, more like a part of an actual team. This does not mean there is no breakdown in communication, but I do feel as though every employee has been able to find their "tribe" somewhere in their respective building.
The amazing staff, administration, and students.
Promotion of Positive School Culture
The staff is a dedicated one.
The amazing faculty and staff
The sense of community and safety the school holds
The staff is small but hard working and willing to go the extra mile for its students.
Small community/school and class sizes - only if students have daily interactions with staff and faculty about their futures and actual learning - spending multiple days watching cartoons in high school is not beneficial to students
Its community spirit

good leadership
Small class sizes with a close knit group
The teachers and staff
The greatest strength has always been this District is community-based. The community will rally and support its teachers, the programs, the students, and more. Palmerton's strength is its community since they are intertwined.
Community involvement and support
A community that sticks together
Small community
We have an excellent supportive staff and community. We need to take advantage of that community that is willing to support our schools in any way.
Community
I personally enjoy that staff gets to know and creates positive relationships with students. I also feel that communication is strong between schools and families.
The teamwork and support you get from your co-workers.
Mr. Fink's Nose
Teachers are supportive and care about students.
The partnership with the community,
Keeping everything running smoothly! And listening to others when issues arise!
Community involvement
small district that cares about the kids
Small town atmosphere where local business and private citizens are an integral part of the students' education.
Dedication to students
It's a small district that can focus on each individual's needs.
Community
The staff's commitment to the students and providing the necessary supports to set them up for success.
Connection of students and the greater community
Collaborative welcoming environment
The greatest strength is a strong dedicated staff. The staff is here for the students not the money.
The staff and the people who care for the students
Community involvement

The sense of community and family; being a smaller district where students don't "get lost" as easily

The greatest strength is its sense of community and the support it gets from the community.

Palmerton is a tight-knit community that truly cares, and that is evident in our schools as well.

The close knit community of Palmerton is unlike any other, and one of it's greatest strengths. This community ALWAYS comes together to help those in need.

teachers

The sense of community and tradition has always been strong in Palmerton.

Our educators

The greatest strength is that we show bomber pride and come together as one big family.

Parents that care

We have great students

Family atmosphere

The teachers and students care not only about academics, but also one another's well-being.

Community

Excellent teachers, students, and community support.

Excellent teachers, students and community

The PASD has a strong sense of community. The buildings function well together and support one another. It would be nice to have a Superintendent who could work on connecting those buildings a bit more so it doesn't feel like every school for themselves.

Passionate stakeholders

Community involvement

Small town school district which allows students to be recognized individually instead of as numbers.

Students, staff, and community are all awesome!

All the education

The closeness of the community and how it connects everyone at school

The presents of principles and teachers and them knowing the kids.

Small town feel. Good educators

A sense of community and tradition that makes a person feel like they belong.

Palmerton area is a good school that people look for. To keep it that way.

The greatest strength of the Palmerton Area School District is probably the education and activities that give students a break from any possible stress by giving them a day of fun. By giving students fun days, whether for just two periods, half the day, or all day, the students can spend time with their friends while playing games or participating in activities hosted by their teachers.

Having many clubs to make many friends.

Community

Teachers who care about students

At the High School level, the personnel in the English department are top notch! Also the new Guidance Counselor seems to have things moving in a better direction.

There is no greatest strength!

The greatest strengths, as a recent alumnus, are the high-quality instructional staff and tight-knit community.

Teachers

Pride in the district. The majority of students, faculty and staff try to be the best they can be.

Small town feel.

Sense of community

The students and staff.

Our friendship

Our awesome field hockey team

Community pride

Your teachers and staff (most). Most truly care about the students and will do whatever is necessary for them to be successful, however, there are some teachers who really could care less and don't want to be bothered (yes, have seen that).

Greatest Area of Need for PASD

Relationships between leaders in each building. They need to delegate responsibilities amongst each other.
Communication with the community and what is going on in the school. Lack of social media of positive school features and students. Lack of quality special education supports. More is needed.
Security
Maintaining the school while being fiscally mindful of the community during the budget
Bullying is huge!!! Equity School climate and culture Increase in acknowledgement of mental health Community events and activities as a whole district Kindness and social emotional learning Academic rigor in high school grades
Small town judging.
Superintendent, Administration, and Board working as one cohesive team. There has been a change in the Board and the way business is conducted. There needs to be stronger leadership with effective communication. Administration needs to be stronger. There's too many discussions done behind the scenes that impact the whole or attempts are made so that forward motion is paused. That must stop. The focus SHOULD always be the kids, their education, the teachers, supplying their tools for best practices, the taxpayers, and fiscal responsibility for our community members. There is no room for egos. There is no room for sidebar conversations based on false accusations and gossip, yet that appears to be where the attention is. This practice is not conducive to anything good. Alliances formed with any party, other than genuine human beings finding likes and similar interests and developing relationships, should not be happening. The public sees them, the staff sees them as well as every other stakeholder in the community, they are inappropriate because their purpose is to harm others, and they have no place. Palmerton is standing in Palmerton's own way of being the best we can be. It's time to wake up.
Academic level. I feel the kids are very behind other schools. I have a 10th and 4th grader.
Make IAs full time employees with starting pay at \$20 an hour. Partnership with other community resources and nonprofits.
Bullying and accountability

<p>Classroom size. Ss Palmer/Parkside compared to Towa. Redistricting. Palmerton is losing good teachers and staff Due to pay.</p>
<p>Making sure all students feel safe amongst one another. Giving parents peace of mind while doing so.</p>
<p>They need to crack down on the bullying and make sure they listen to the parents that is dealing with bullying and take action little bit more seriously</p>
<p>Safety and compassion</p>
<p>Stronger leadership. We are very top heavy in regards to administration for a district of our size and actual leadership is rather weak, especially at the upper administrative level.</p>
<p>Less "small town" politics and nepotism for students of "important" families.</p>
<p>Reasonable budget that fixes infrastructure, employee compensation should be a secondary concern.</p>
<p>A focus on academics. We hear all about the sports and the facilities that are needed for it. What is being done in regard to curriculum and academics? We need to hear more about it.</p>
<p>School needs to enforce their own rules. It gets old fighting with your kid about a dress code that isn't enforced by the school itself. Also bullying needs to be handled the bullies need to be dealt with not the victims.</p>
<p>A better long range plan for an elementary school than refurbishing an over-100 year old building that was never appropriate for this age group,</p>
<p>Sharing resources across all areas of student academics, sports, and activities.</p>
<p>Sports. The present athletic director must see that EVERY sport is fair, he lacks this majorly. We can do better!!</p>
<p>Less focus on standardized testing. I get that much of it is mandated but students shouldn't need to have increased anxiety throughout the year because of a week's worth of tests. Students with good grades still feel the pressure of a test. How often in your professional life have you had to take standardized tests that would dictate your future? In those instances, what was your anxiety level? Our guys don't need more than they have, life is hard enough.</p>
<p>Security</p>
<p>Leadership and consistency</p>
<p>Re-structuring the workload for SS Palmer/Parkside. Both buildings are completely out of space and too much for one administrator to oversee.</p>
<p>Better collaboration between Administration and Teachers/Staff</p>
<p>Its acceptance and recognition of diversity both academically and socially</p>
<p>High school building</p>
<p>Special Education understanding by staff.</p>

Perhaps facility evaluations. High school and Palmer are old buildings. Come to think of it Parkside and even Towamensing are older. I'm not suggesting new campus or buildings, but, when are these buildings too old? The community deserves quality, but how much can we afford?

Accountability of Superintendent that all things are handled appropriately and not turn a blind eye.

COMMUNICATION!!!!!!

Admin listening to the parents students and staff

Holding students (and parents) accountable for their behavior and their absences. Being diligent and consistent with how to approach these situations so that they don't continue to happen is important.

Keeping up with the latest technology including AI.

COMMUNICATION!!!!!!

We need to be a district that can communicate have dialogue with ALL involved in the education of our students! That means Administration, teacher, parents, students and community members!

Communication. There are people in the high school office who don't know who came and went. Disgraceful not knowing if students are in the building.

To find a leader that is committed to upholding the standards of the district.

Extremely limited electives, stronger computer skills and life skills classes

More parent involvement

Putting too much stake into standardized tests. That one day does not designate the knowledge or not. Should not be a graduation requirement either.

Keeping quality teachers and having a balanced school board

Having the resources for ALL students academic & mental needs

Virtual days and keeping parents involved in decisions dealing with school shut downs. Unless we go to board meetings regularly we will never know the decisions made which makes it very unfair to hard working parents

Sports are given too much emphasis. Academics should be prioritized over football.

Fiscal responsibility. Innovation - can kids partially learn online and partially learn in-person to help cut costs and provide more flexibility to families. Professional jobs and high education have moved to more hybrid work.

Expanding the offerings in Art and Music Education. Not everyone is an Athlete.

Discipline needs to be the same for all buildings (dress code enforcement, attendance standards) and discipline must be consistent (all students should be treated the same, policies should be upheld uniformly no matter who the student may be)

The Schoolboard. There is no way a husband and wife should be allowed to sit on the board at the same time... eliminate that distraction.

Maintain taxes

Holding employees accountable for their job performance.

Education should be top priority!

There's too much focus on sports, and don't get me started on the other groups like FBLA, Band, etc that are essentially shoved to the side, they are great activities too and should receive the same acknowledgment/support that sports do.

See to it that all the arts are as important so all students are included not just football.

Education, giving the children on all levels the ability to succeed, challenge them, open their eyes to the world

Not sure

Discipline. Parents as well as students need to be held accountable for issues with their children.

Student academic achievement

Teacher involvement

Students need more opportunities to learn

Dual enrollment collaborations with local colleges for high school students

Less tax costing projects that are not necessary and more public involvement and maybe include the public more in things having to do with the district

Taxes

Not sure.

Effective communication with parents

Teachers

Better allocation of financial spending

Resources for staff and students

We need board members who are representatives of the community instead of being on the board for a popularity contest, bringing their own agenda! A board who can work together and with the superintendent! A board whose members are not an embarrassment to the community they represent! We need a board that is willing to learn and adhere to basic rules. We need to stop spending money we don't have!!!!

Updates to all schools.

bullying is out of control in all the schools

The curriculum.

Too many. Bullying is a big one (cell phones don't help); blatant disrespect and no consequences (or joke consequences) so students keep acting out making it difficult to teach; parents who constantly get their way because administrators are afraid to say "no"; LACK OF COMMUNICATION is another big one (within buildings and between central office and staff); the fact that students who can't read, write, or solve basic math problems are just pushed along to next grade level (where they will just continue to have more problems); teachers who don't teach; no plan in place for special needs students who stay beyond graduation (teachers are NOT babysitters, they are there to teach) and finally, the fact that whenever Palmerton is in the paper or on the news, it's never positive always negative.

Not having 12 different superintendents in the past 20 years.
Quality of teachers and especially guidance counselors.
Update the junior high with new paint, add something colorful to the walls. Its all gray or white and looks like an asylum. Not welcoming at all.
Saving money and putting the students first
Morale
Security within the schools.
Keeping good employees
The high school students would benefit greatly if they had more AP classes to choose from.
Look into class sizes at Tiwamwnsing compared to Palmer. They are so small compared to Palmer. The students at Palmer are not getting the same level due to some classes are double the size compared to Towamwnsing.
After school/ in school homework/ study support.
Pursuing the Arts!
Sports are an important part of a well-rounded education, but need to focus funding on providing educational materials necessary to provide a top notch education.
Curriculum being balanced across the board. Structure, better support of the staff, better disciplinary action follow through with student referrals, better security measures.
Communication
More space/buildings for students? Or rearrange grades to better make use of current schools...
The quality of the education of the children.
Accountability of staff not getting the results expected! And fairness across the board for all students.
Leadership. We need a superintendent that isn't afraid to do the right thing. Someone with a voice who will make the tough choices. Someone who will also will keep the parents informed of things happening with in the school so we don't have to hear about it via social media while our kids are in school.
Course selection -- We need more courses that advance our students studies in a particular area. For example, we have one CAD class. In other schools, there are numerous engineering and architecture classes that students are able to take as they move through high school. Palmerton students are going to college without the knowledge that other students have because of the lack of opportunities provided during their high school career.
physical buildings
Financial responsibility
Hiring for experience rather than economics.

Activities for non athletic students
Funding the extra activities.
I think that the value of the students and what they do is not always focused on enough.
We need more funding (through grants) for the arts and after-school programming.
SS Palmer
Facilities at the elementary level.
we need more teachers to help students learn effectively
Building sanitation & cleanliness at the High School.
Preparation for higher level curriculum.
Consistency in discipline.
I think an alternative school for those children who do not learn the same way most children learn.
Prioritizing what is best for the students, while also increasing opportunities for the academically advanced.
LEADERSHIP, not just a social media presence! Curriculum and student needs should be the focus!
Superintendent having the students best interest in mind, taking into consideration the families effected by their decisions.
Staying with small town values.
Our school district teachers would benefit greatly from professional development training and clearly defined goals
Bullying needs to be addressed. Elementary schools need to be able to perform the same activities.
Accountability
Maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all students.
Consistency and moving in the direction of best learning practices
Speaking on behalf my my children. Bullying needs to stop and have more control, from in classrooms to playgrounds to bus rides. It is unreal what my young children witness or encounter at the elementary level.
Parents need to have better access to the curriculum to see exactly what their children are learning
Palmerton needs to look at more student opinions and involve students in large decisions I think. Such as things like field trips, renovations, new classes, new clubs, and spirit days or weeks.
Improving online footprint. Schoology, school website, etc. Making it a little more informative and easier to navigate. It can be frustrating to some that aren't tech savvy.
Rigorous academic challenges
Accountability for all members of the our community, from the top down. Cracking down on bullying.
Creating a welcoming environment for those who relocate into the Palmerton area

I feel that sometimes administration, teachers and support staff are stretched thin. Of course, employees don't mind covering other responsibilities to cover a co-worker/peer but additional staff would be beneficial.

upgrades to buildings

The Board to understand their role as directors

Security

the high school building is gross and falling apart in some areas

Open and clear communication and a leader who is present and engaging.

Parent involvement is very cliquy-that will trickle down to the students

more college course electives and also the standards of Home Economics and business type classes

I can only speak for elementary at this time, better communication if a student is struggling along with better action against bullying.

Getting a new curriculum in a timely manner.

We need to address the needs of the buildings and allowing the teachers/staff to have more of a say in our daily routine.

Offering of more advanced/stem style programs to help our kids succeed after high school.

The amount of students who don't try in school to any degree and just cruise through the day.

The buildings....air quality, leaks etc.

No accountability anywhere, anytime

all of it

We need to hold kids accountable for their actions consistently and effectively to prevent discipline issues, bullying, and educational disruption.

Bullying and dress code.

Bullying is rampant and right now the only way we are dealing with it is through "restorative conversations". Useless for some issues. Cell phone and technology use is ruining our schools and there is no desire at the highest levels to ban them during school hours. THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE to ensure safety, mental health and learning. As long as students can access a phone, they have little to no desire to be present in the classroom mentally, they rush through assignments, they violate the privacy of others through photos and videos taken during the day and even of staff.

This is indeed possible, districts and buildings do it everyday. pandering to parents is failing.

Individual teachers can try to ban them but unless everyone does it is an exhausting, daily battle and should not be a teacher's responsibility.

Stop hiring locals. The surrounding schools hire from Allentown to Scranton and beyond (not just Carbon county). Palmerton needs to be competitive with pay to attract talent. Again STOP HIRING FROM CARBON COUNTY, there is a vast educational gap with these folk, education trickles down.

Bullying in certain schools.

The insult have iPads so the parents can check up on things. I feel I shouldn't have 3 apps on my phone for school.

The Wonders program is a failure - and I am saying that as an educator in ESL, I would NEVER give one of those tests to my own students. The lack of reading novels at Palmer is an embarrassment and is hurting our kids bu not preparing them for the next level. History and Science have noticably taken a backseat. These should be full year courses starting much earlier.

Jamo

Updating in the elementary school. SS Palmer has so much mold inside of the walls. Some classrooms you can see they are covered up just by plaster. The air quality in there is horrible. Walking around the school it's not inviting (becuase it's so old and falling apart). The staff and student air quality safety should be a huge concern with that building.

As I stated above I believe we need to address the number of students coming to PASD with emotional/behavioral problems.

office

Students behavior.

Caring about students and not having favoritism

Appropriate space and resources for students and staff

I hear that staff are leaving. Staff that have a lot of years with Palmerton. We need to find out why they are leaving.

The greatest area that needs improvement is the actual building itself. The lockers are very outdated and there is a gnat issue.

Focusing on mental health

Unified administration

The greatest area that needs improvement in this school is our learning skills

Communication improvement. Training for new staff/positions, support of students and staff.

Utilizing and valuing staff input. Improving team building skills amongst ALL staff.

More involvement from counselors to prepare students for after high school plans, more introduction opportunities for either colleges or job placement after school. I think the school could be better at connecting with the community on the achievements of their students, sports are not the only thing to be celebrated (though I greatly appreciate seeing this). PLEASE support the arts and encourage students to join these programs! More feedback from teachers on student progress through school. PLEASE CONTINUE TO GROW YOUR COMPUTER SCIENCES PROGRAMS!

Communication

Communication with the administration and between school levels needs to be improved.

Bullying is one of the greatest areas in need of improvement in Palmerton.

Ensure student responsibility.

Hopefully the much needed renovation at SS Palmer will also spruce it up a bit. Inside of the school is looking rough, water leaks etc. Would be great if 6th grade was with 7th grade at the JR high. Children in 6th grade know way too much now as days to be housed in the same building as our young children. When building the addition to the JR high, this would have been great to add. Would have free'd of space because SS Palmer seems overpopulated.

Youth sports through the school would be fantastic, other schools have field hockey and volleyball for elementary students. Schools should also be open on the weekends for youth basketball, when 90 of our students are playing basketball and there is no time to prepare because of the limited time/ space... makes for a very unsuccessful season.

In regards to student work and rigor in the classroom, the bar seems to have been lowered a lot over the last several years for a variety of reasons. We seem to be targeting our lowest ability students. We aren't challenging out middle or high achieving students enough.

I think we need to upgrade some of the places in schools that are used a lot. Such as the bathrooms and lockers in the high school.

The greatest need for a new superintendent would be to keep the parents and community informed about different happenings within the district. More transparency about decisions about the academics, health and safety of students is needed.

More field trips , more people caring about bullying

Organization of Student Council events

Inequity across the district elementary schools. SS Palmer/Parkside have nearly twice as many students as Towamensing. Yet Towamensing's student to teacher ratio is better. Students receive more support in those smaller class sizes at Towamensing, even though SS Palmer/Parkside are Title I schools with needier students. We need a superintendent who will value equity for all students, and look into the possibility of redistricting the elementary schools.

Supports for student social-emotional/behavioral functioning including staff to provide these supports

Communication top-down

Collaboration

GIFTED AND ADVANCED EDUCATION!!!! As a gifted student, I feel as though my education was never once enriched through the gifted program. This program must be improved to ensure that the PASD gifted kids are being challenged. In addition, more AP and honors electives should be added in the high school. Other schools have tons of higher level class options for honors students to take, but at Palmerton, these options are limited. I would like to see this change for the grades below me.

Our greatest need is a strong superintendent. A successful organization starts from the top down. We need a leader who leads by being involved with our students they serve and staff and by making sure that everyone has the tools and support needed to be successful. They make sure others in supervisory roles are doing what they can to support our students and staff as well. Our candidate should be someone who is involved because it helps students not because it's a good photo opportunity. A person who can make what are sometimes unpopular decisions with the board and community because they are what is best for our students.

Creating a professional environment where teachers feel supported in the decision making process.

Communication

As a taxpayer, the budget is always important! We need to get students back to grade level. So many lost so much academic-wise during covid. Curriculum should focus on student achievement, not just advancement. This includes teachers; there should be an open dialogue between teachers and superintendent and board as to what is needed to provide the best Limit the computer use! When the doctors are saying screen time is a problem, schools should try to be less of a factor in that problem. Pencils and paper are still ok for homework while schools can still promote and facilitate the use of technology in other areas! I think as a district, we need a superintendent who is going to look out for what is actually in the best interest of the STUDENTS and their academics and development, not just the district as a business.

Our greatest need is a strong superintendent. A successful organization starts from the top down. We need a leader who leads by being involved with our students they serve and staff.

Resources and staff for the educators when it comes to behavioral and emotional children within the classrooms

Taking a look at using our resoureces to the maximum extent possible, because they are limited. For example, redistricting to use our buidlings and staff more effectively. Maximizing the curriculum for all buildings, etc. Also, to bring the elementary schools together earlier instead of seventh grade.

We need a leader who is willing to have their staff's back. We can't have a leader who will bend to every parent's complaints or issues.

See previous remarks

Communication

The gnats in the highschool cafeteria

Keeping a positive working and learning environment.

Equality across all the elementary schools in regards to class sizes (number of students per class), as well as implementation of programs with equal concentration on those programs between the elementary schools. Not allowing one to get far ahead of the other when the program was started at the same time for both.

The bullying MUST be gotten control of. It is RAMPANT in ALL of the schools. Look at the many many many posts made by both parents, students and even some teachers about the bullying. We need to worry less about taking 35 parents to court every quarter for students

being 2 minutes late to school and more about the fact that students are afraid to go to the bathroom, to walk home and just to go to school because the bullying is out of control. The bullies get their hands smacked and the kids who end up pushing back on the bullies because the schools do NOTHING, then those kids are punished to the max. This is not right. The dress code is also out of control to me. Girls can wear shorts showing half of their bottoms and shirts barely covering their chests, but sleep pants are not allowed? This is absurd and if you think this isn't happening, just sit and watch the line of students walking into the school in the morning and then see how many actually got coded for it and who just wear the same thing the next days. Kids can't focus on learning because they are just trying to survive the day there and that is not how school should be. My child should not have to decide to go to another school just to feel safe, when the education they want is at Palmerton.

Goals for student academic success

Frivolous spending tax payers money.

Security Systems

equity between the two elementary schools (staff and class size), behavioral support/interventions

The food

Safety in schools is very important, which includes effective security guards whose clear and obvious focus is on keeping all in the building safe. In addition, parents have way too much power. Whatever they say seems to be what rules. That undermines the expertise of those who are hired and trusted, which subsequently decreases work morale and motivation.

Our focus on education and making sure our students have the skills necessary to succeed.

curriculum

The kindergarten cut off date should be possibly October 15th.

My daughter misses it by 2 weeks. All her friends that will be five a few weeks before her or a couple months before are all going from the Pre K counts program at Towamensing elementary and she won't know anybody when she goes to St John Neumann. Her birthday is sept 16th. She actually goes to Towamensing Pre K Counts and sees her brother who is in Kindergarten all the time so she is in the school and she doesn't understand why she can't go to kindergarten there. Her preschool teacher says she's more than ready. I wish you guys made exceptions or did some kind of testing For kids a month or so of the cut off.. She is tremendously upset that she can't go there. I will unfortunately have to send her to St John Neumann Catholic school just for kindergarten and then transfer her back over to Towamensing for first grade.

Student engagement and communication with parents

This is not only a Palmerton issue, this is an issue many places. A lot of students are frustrated, feel left out, unappreciated, only the "test score matters" not them, or what they learned, "pass this test or you can't graduate". Bullying is on going, either you are part the crowd or you are the one bullied.

I believe the district is doing well overall. I have noticed some grounds/maintenance in the blacktop areas of the facilities that could use some updating. But that is minor in the grand scheme of things!

Back door politics between staff and Board members. The School Board getting involved in day to day operations.

Athletic Department, pay your coaches more like other districts and get rid of your "coaches handbook"!

The district ...and rules

Aligning the district towards a focus on instruction

The elementary buildings. Slapping some makeup on a boar doesn't make it pretty. S.S. Palmer and Parkside have gone through some cosmetic changes, but that doesn't change what is going on within the buildings.

Classrooms have loose floor tiles, broken ceiling panels, leaks, walls that are lumpy from years of terrible patch jobs and overlaying paint, and classrooms that are too small to accommodate the growing population of Palmerton. Let's not forget about yellow, orange, and green water coming out of classroom sinks, bats gracing our presence every so often, and a crumbled and dangerous parking lot and playground. The buildings, particularly S.S. Palmer, can't possibly be that safe. The air quality is horrendous. I tend to get an extremely dry throat and nose by the end of the day. The smells that waft through the building on any given day are anywhere from scrumptious to noxious. I understand S.S. Palmer is historical, but is the safety and health of students and teachers not worth a change? Something needs to be done. New coats of paint and Leader and Me street signs at every corner of the hallway are not enough.

The schedule and use of in-service days.

This district needs to be mindful when planning new initiatives and programs. Major decisions that impact the district should be handled with a conservative timeline so that the transitions can be seamless and productive.

More input should be given to staff to drive things such as instruction and in-services. Some teachers have too many students on their teaching load. With this comes more work - more IEP's to execute, more re-eval forms to have to complete, more grading, more behavior problems, more parent conferences, etc. It doesn't take long for these teachers to feel swamped and burned out. Positions should be looked at and relief should come to those with a heavy teaching load by adding new teachers or juggling staff around who are under-utilized.

Instilling and maintaining pride in all district stakeholders

Space

Curriculum alignment

Staff/faculty/guidance counselors - actual engagement with students to prepare them for further education, scholarships, career goals etc

Clear direction and follow-through on implementation

better communication

Additional options for involvement in clubs/afterschool activities

Facilities

Communication is one of the biggest areas where this District lacks. The open lines of communication between administration to teachers to students to parents is disjointed and need to be evaluated. In addition, I also feel as a District there needs to be more support to all the students involved in school events, whether it is sports, scholastic competition, drama, music, etc., the list continues. Palmerton is not

alone in this aspect, but let's be honest, most schools focus on sports and the athletes, but so many amazing kids also get overlooked due to that mindset.

Curriculum Development

Communication

Overuse of "remote" learning

I agree with updating schools, but we already have a quite High tax rate. I would like to see someone go for as many grants as possible to do the Improvements that are needed.

We need to look at the budget to pay teachers so we can attract and keep high quality educators.

Recognizing staff in meaningful ways.

Simplifying educators' lives.

Make learning relevant.

Accountability of students and administration who are willing to hold true to the accountability.

More Mr. Fink Posters

Cleaning and renovating bathrooms.

Ensuring that all staff positions are filled each school year

Listen to teachers, staff, parents and students!

Teacher salaries

The schools need to be updated and kept clean

Communication, Communication, Communication

This includes updates to the calendar on Palmerton SD website

Curriculum

I would imagine communication since no one was aware of the renovation project until the last minute. I'm not sure I can honestly answer that otherwise with not being involved inside the buildings.

Elementary curriculum, 504 failures, jr high structured to promote bullying, mold issues at high school, stipends for arts/music program to low, problems reported to principal not being seriously addressed

Communication throughout and within departments, schools, and admin

Organization and Direction

Students need to receive the appropriate consequences for their behaviors and need mental health/ social emotional support to succeed.

The need is to update current practices in teaching.

Adjusting Curriculums

Strong leadership that can unite staff which could benefit the entire district and continue to promote a quality education for students.

Multicultural awareness

We need a leader, that will instill leadership in the rest of the administration.

Communication starting from the top. We should be using Schoology as our main source of communication starting with the superintendent to principals, teachers, and event he PTO like other school districts. One form of communication. Not papers for some things, phone calls for others, and Schoology for others. Each school also should be uniformed since currently it varies.

We need a leader in the superintendent that is there day in and day out to support the staff and students. A true leader knows those who are working hard in the trenches, and values their opinions. The super should be visible in the schools, and not just when the media is there or there is a photo op. Amazing things are happening in our classrooms every day and it would be great to have the district's leader there. My students should be able to recognize the superintendent and feel comfortable greeting him/her in the hallway or classroom as they do with other staff.

Morale and consistency

remodeling!!

We need a superintendent that shows that they value the staff, students, and community members. Palmerton does not need a mouthpiece that caters to board alone. He/she should listen to what the staff and students need to be most successful. That can only be accomplished by spending time in the schools. The students should not only know the superintendent's name, but also recognize him/her. Students should feel comfortable enough to greet the superintendent and tell him/her about the great things they are accomplishing both in and out of the classrooms. My own children (upper elementary) did not know who Dr. Frankelli was. That tells me she did not spend nearly enough time being present in the schools. We need a superintendent that can be seen by staff and students during the daily grind, not only when there is something to take credit for or photograph.

Curriculum, funding, staff/sub shortages

The bathrooms and lockers need to be redone especially the lockers. The lockers were the same since my mom went to school.

Keeping parents informed of what's happening in the high school

Student to follow the rules, and if not except the consequences

Communication

Setting behavioral boundaries that are for the students' highest good and then maintaining those boundaries through both positive support and consequences.

Standards

Facility maintenance and upkeep.

Facility maintenance and updates

Our district needs to focus more on it's own unity. The buildings almost feel pinned against one another. We're all one district and should be working on similar goals. We would benefit from a Superintendent who can help make that happen.

Professional development for staff

Longer term strategic planning around buildings and facilities

Course offerings and standards (teachers do not have high enough standards)

Honestly, it's a great school to teach at. I can't think of anything. My only comment would be that Jodi seemed to treat the teachers in a way that was a little distrustful and not too professional.

I would love to see a superintendent who respects teachers and realizes that almost all them are going to do their job well if given the opportunity.

Having more junior high clubs

Encouraging students to strive for their very best and always have their future in mind because you can only go through highschool once

I'm pretty happy with Parkside and SS Palmer

Good quality education at reaso able tax rate.

Enforcement of policies, procedures and discipline.

Stop bullies! I feel this is a reason why a lot of kids go online school.

The Palmerton Area School District prioritizes creating a safe learning environment, and their initiatives contribute to a positive and secure atmosphere. While security guards are present, some students may wonder if additional safety measures could be implemented. These might include clear emergency protocols, utilizing security technology like motion detectors, metal security doors that can be remotely closed, and providing expendable objects that can be used in the event of self defense. While a security guard's presence is a deterrent, a comprehensive approach might be even more beneficial. Law enforcement and security specialists could help assess the district's needs and identify the most effective safety procedures.

Having many students getting away with things such as name calling, threats, and not following school rules in general.

Policies follow through

Focus on ensuring that students excel both academically and socially

The district overall needs to be first & foremost concerned with the level of education that is being provided instead of focusing so much on extra curriculans/sports.

School test scores need to improve and budget needs more scrutiny.

While fiscal responsibility is important, I believe that cost-cutting and penny pinching is inappropriate when it comes at the expense of the future of our community, especially when such measures eventually end up costing the district (and taxpayers) more due to not being done right the first time.

More opportunities for sports or extra curricular activities for young ages. Allowing parents to be more involved in school celebrations. Unless your PTO you cannot come to the color run, or field day to watch. There is no more Mother's Day celebrations or Thanksgiving lunch they used to have.

Strong educational administrative leadership.

An "activities bus" for the students who stay after for clubs or sports. This would make it much easier for the kids to be involved without figuring out how to get home.

Organization and advancement of curriculum

Effective and consistent leadership and follow through on initiatives.

Kids bullying others

our football team

Communication from the central administrative team

COMMUNICATION!! ACCOUNTABILITY!! RESPONSIBILITY!!