

## **Suggestions for the Positive School Climate Policy**

On Monday November 13<sup>th</sup>, Citizens Power Network hosted a Town Hall meeting centered on Resolution No. 49-1718. The entire community, school board, and superintendent were invited. These are some of the suggestions that the community made in the event that the resolution was passed as a beginning guide for the new policy.

1. Define or give examples of what a “subgroup” such as “special needs students, low income students, etc”.
2. Along with the other committees and working groups, create a committee of only community members to review the new policy.
3. For the school by school needs assessment, a new type of survey should be given. Make it clear as to whose needs are being assessed. This should be an annual survey that measures the concerns of parents/guardians, students, and teachers. This survey should be given to all three groups.
4. To ensure the maximum amount of community input is given, the District should call, email, and text message all parents/guardians of future events and meetings at least two weeks before said events and meetings. There should also be letters sent home with students for their parents/guardians with a signature tear off to ensure that the parent/guardian received the information. These events and meetings should also be posted on all of the District’s social media pages as well as their website as well as at every school’s parent center and front desk.
5. Along with a school by school needs assessment, data and a community forum at each school should be used to inform SRO staffing levels.
6. The District should ensure students are well informed that there are restorative practices as an alternative to suspension.
7. Rather than having a principle determine if a student should receive suspension as opposed to restorative practices, there should be a board of peers or other such third- party judge.
8. The proposed policy should have a certain amount of community signatures before being considered to the Board to ensure the proper amount of community input.
9. The new school climate coordinator and office/point person should be chosen with community input.
10. There should be a clear plan to prepare for when the climate coordinator’s position expires.
11. There should be annual reviews of school climate after the two-year plan is implemented to ensure we don’t fall back on our commitments and promises.
12. There should be a sustainability plan for when the two-year plan reaches its conclusion.
13. There should be a push for more parent/guardians- teacher conferences at the high school level to solidify community and school bonds.
14. There should be more accountability towards security and staff who are mistreating students.
15. There should be a clear and well-known system where a student can report a security or staff member if they’ve mistreated said student.

16. Every SRO should receive regular training on how to encounter students with special needs and trauma backgrounds.
17. Rather than *considering* pre-arrest diversions, SRO's should be *required* to apply pre-arrest diversions before arresting a student that poses a serious threat.
18. There should be more incentives and rewards for rehabilitated students and students who've improved on their attendance.
19. Parents/guardians should receive automatic phone calls, text messages, and emails when their student is tardy or absent from a class.
20. There should be more programs for high school students with a free period. Programs such as a student center or an elementary school volunteer program.
21. Along with community input, the policy should be data driven.
22. There should be youth mediation commissions as a step before suspensions where students' peers can intervene and mediate a situation.