

# Exchange Summary

Mercer Island School District  
September 27-October 8, 2021

Please share your thoughts with the School Board about what characteristics, skills, and leadership qualities you would like to see in the next superintendent, as well as what you think are the most important tasks for them to accomplish?



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation



**1,491**

Participants



**1,618**

Thoughts



**57,191**

Ratings



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation




What option best describes your role in the district?



**1430**

Responses

| %   |  | Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i> |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 66% | (950)                                                                               | Parent / Guardian            |
| 17% | (254)                                                                               | Staff                        |
| 14% | (202)                                                                               | Student                      |
| 5%  | (75)                                                                                | Community Member             |
| 4%  | (70)                                                                                | Other                        |



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation




Which school site are you most closely associated with?



**1423**

Responses

| %   |  | Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i> |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 13% | (194)                                                                               | Island Park                  |
| 26% | (379)                                                                               | Islander Middle School       |
| 11% | (164)                                                                               | Lakeridge                    |
| 49% | (703)                                                                               | Mercer Island High School    |
| 10% | (146)                                                                               | Northwood                    |
| 12% | (184)                                                                               | West Mercer                  |
| 2%  | (36)                                                                                | District office              |
| 2%  | (29)                                                                                | Other                        |



WORDCLOUD

Top Rated





## THOUGHTS

### Key Thoughts



**Making sure our district has good teachers.** An experience with a good teacher is the foundation for a life of learning.

4.3 ★★★★★ (43 👤)

Ranked #1 of 1595

**Support all children in the District, whether gifted or struggling.**

4.3 ★★★★★ (41 👤)

Ranked #2 of 1595

**Folks move to MI for the schools and it is imperative that we keep MISD as the pinnacle of public education success. Will need to be open minded** We need to continue to provide the resources to hire the best teachers and offer a superior educational experience

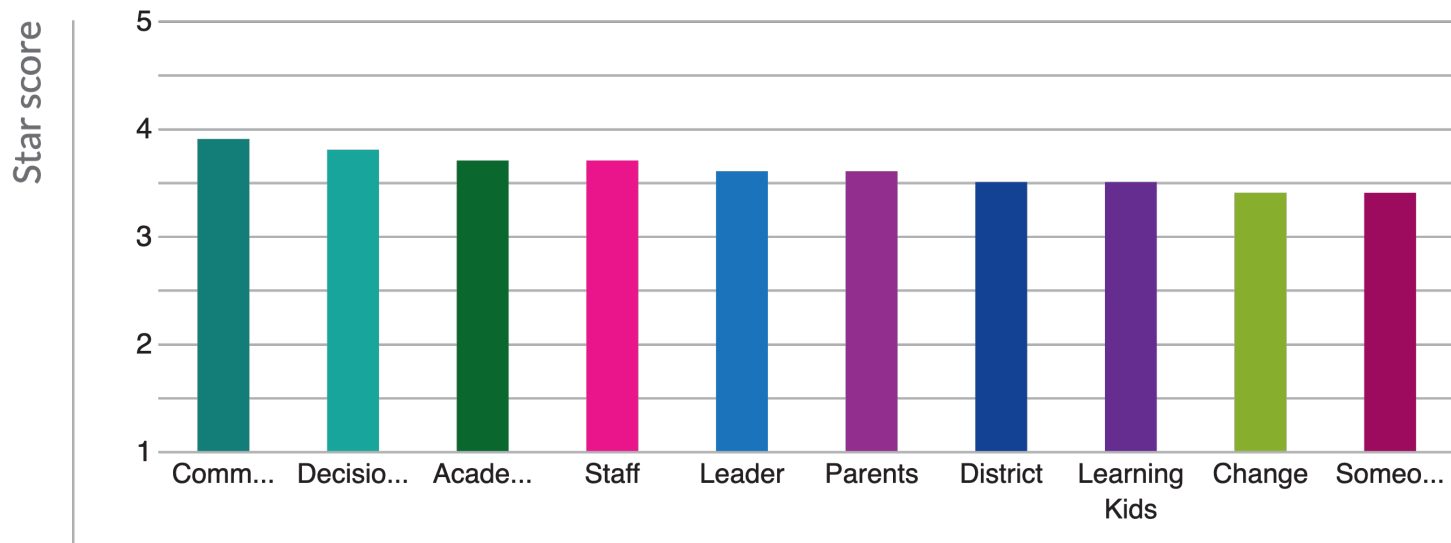
4.3 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Ranked #3 of 1595



## AI GENERATED THEMES

Top Themes by star score





## THOUGHTS

### Communication



#### Clear communication

4.2 ★★★★★ (35 👤)

**Communicates clearly, effectively and transparently with students, parents, school staff and school board.** It demonstrates integrity and adherence to the district's mission and values.

4.1 ★★★★★ (43 👤)

#### Transparency and Clear and Concise Communication

4.1 ★★★★★ (43 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Decisionmaking



**Integrity is one of the most important characteristics for a superintendent.** Because it impacts everything they do and every decision they make.

4.2 ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ ( 15 👤 )

**Transparency** People need to know why decisions are made

4.1 ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ ( 42 👤 )

**Problem Solver** Role requires making difficult decisions. Ability to think critically, consider different factors/stakeholders, & take decisive action is critical.

4.1 ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ ( 41 👤 )



## THOUGHTS

### Academic excellence



- Vision and common sense to make MISD a beacon of academic excellence. People used to move here for the school district... now they leave because of it** We need someone who can listen to parents, hire and support great staff/teachers and focus on academics and helping kids excel (not holding them back) 4.1 ★★★★★ (37 👤)
- Renewed focus on academic excellence. Emphasis on teaching students critical thinking skills rather than any particular point of view.** Students need to be taught how to think; not what to think. 4.1 ★★★★★ (31 👤)
- Maintain and promote academic excellence** Allowing all students to develop to their maximum academic potential, especially in high school, should be the prime focus. 4.0 ★★★★★ (45 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Staff



**Transparency, listening to the community and staff, and offering challenging curriculum**

Parents, students and staff need to know the students' needs are being considered and met.

4.2 ★★★★★ (44 👤)

**Transparent** Transparency evokes trust from staff and students. Having a leader that is willing to share both good and bad news will be respected.

4.2 ★★★★★ (44 👤)

**We need someone who believes that student voice & staff voice matter** It's important to hear from students & staff- especially when it's uncomfortable. That's how real, meaningful change happens

4.1 ★★★★★ (42 👤)



## THOUGHTS Leadership



**Apolitical** MISD needs a leader who can focus on education for all students free from political bias (right or left).

4.1 ★★★★★ (43 👤)

**We need a nose the the grindstone and hands on leader. A leader who leads by example.**  
We need someone who can inspire our administrators.

4.1 ★★★★★ (33 👤)

**Non Political leader - someone who can build trust in the community, not just echo the loudest or most popular political talking points.** Our school district has become hyper-political. We need a leader who stays out of the fray and fads and can build trust and focus on educating.

4.0 ★★★★★ (43 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Parents



**Our superintendent should be a great listener first, and communicator second.** A leader must listen to constituents to be informed, then form and share their own thoughts and ideas with clear rationale behind them.

4.0 ★★★★★ (42 👤)

**Transparency** School system needs to engage with the community and listen as well as describe what is happening in the school system

4.0 ★★★★★ (42 👤)

**Truly listen to the needs Of families in the district - including parents and students**

4.0 ★★★★★ (42 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### About the District



**Making sure our district has good teachers.** An experience with a good teacher is the foundation for a life of learning.

4.3 ★★★★★ (43 👤)

**Support all children in the District, whether gifted or struggling.**

4.3 ★★★★★ (41 👤)

**The district needs a strong communicator who believes in transparency.** Parents want to know what is going on in our district and the factors behind how and why decisions are reached.

4.2 ★★★★★ (44 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Teaching and Learning



**Prioritize engaging, rigorous, supportive, differentiated learning, Encourage critical thinking, connection, creativity and innovation .**

4.1 ★★★★★ ( 44 👤 )

**Strategic thinker** Someone who can think about ways to continue to enhance the core curriculum and engage students in fundamental learning is critical for students.

4.0 ★★★★★ ( 43 👤 )

**The superintendent must prioritize the fact that learning is key in basic disciplines and not let politics infect the learning environment** Students/children do not need to have a political agenda as an overlay for their learning. Parents can teach their children about politics.

4.0 ★★★★★ ( 43 👤 )



## THOUGHTS Change



**Continue to focus on providing students with skills they need to be successful in today's world.** Our world has changed. It is no longer critical to memorize info, but instead to be able to locate the info, work in a team, communicate effectively..

3.9 ★★★★★ (42 👤)

**Highly organized, effective and efficient communication, open minded leadership that does not defer to the loudest voices in the room.** Fundamental to the role and in representing an entire community of students/teachers/etc. Be forward thinking but don't change just for the sake of it

3.9 ★★★★★ (20 👤)

**The superintendent should be forward thinking in terms of understanding how the world is changing and, therefore, how our kids education should change** Education approaches should not be static, Education needs to change with societies needs

3.9 ★★★★★ (18 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Characteristics



**Good communicator, focused on academic excellence, kind, analytical, direct** We need someone who can communicate clearly about issues affecting our school, someone who cares about keeping our schools at the top academically,.

4.1 ★★★★★ (43 👤)

**need someone who can retain good teachers and hire better teachers.** Good teachers make students like the subject and want to learn more. Bad teachers make students lose interest and have doubts in student's ability.

4.0 ★★★★★ (44 👤)

**We need someone who puts students first. Students deserve a challenging curriculum, respectful school culture, and their needs put before politics.** Our children's time at school needs to have value now and in the future.

4.0 ★★★★★ (43 👤)



## WRAP UP

### Next Steps

Questions?

