

## SESSION 3 REPORT – SCHOOL PLAN GUIDE REVIEW

*NAME OF SCHOOL: BRET HARTE MIDDLE SCHOOL*

*DATE OF SESSION 2: 11/27/2012*

*NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: Building Skills Partnership*

*NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: LUIS SANDOVAL*

*DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 11/30/2012*

### REVIEWING YOUR EDUCATION, YOUR OPTIONS

#### I. Step One: Examining a School Plan Guide

The parents were divided into small working groups. Each group was given the task to review the School Plan Guide submitted by each Planning Team. Each of the groups spent 10-12 minutes on each school plan, noted any questions that they had and identified if the school plans meet their expectations in the following areas:

- 1) **Student Vision**
- 2) **School Vision**
- 3) **School Performance: Where is the School Now?**
- 4) **School Priorities**

The following is the captured feedback, questions, and comments the parents provided as they reviewed each area of the School Plan Guide for each planning team. The two teams were Bret Harte Middle School and Sankofa STEM Academy.

#### Review of Bret Harte Middle School Plan

##### **SECTION 1: STUDENT VISION**

The comments below were gathered in written and verbal forms during the review of the School Plan Guide. **The most prevalent theme expressed by parents centered on the issue of academic preparedness and performance.** Here is what they said:

1. The students need to learn how to dominate the material/curriculum.
2. In order for everyone to reach their goals, I think that the School Report Cards should be sent out and given to parents more often and ages dog time to see where we need to improve.
3. I agree with the vision because a lot of students are not at the academic level that they need to be.
4. I agree with the student vision and I would just like to make sure that the students will have everything that they need for their academic progress and development.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

5. How do they plan to help students that are behind?
6. First and foremost, I think that the kids need to be developed academically and socially since a very young age and at earlier stages of their schooling, so that they become better-rounded individuals academically and socially.
7. We need more programs to help our student's progress.
8. We need more algebra.
9. I want kids to have a good grasp of their academic abilities.
10. I would like for the students to have more help in math.
11. The students should have the resources available to them to help them out in the areas of need.
12. I agree that the students need to be competent to continue on to the next level.
13. I would like for every student to be proficient in every subject.
14. The students should be well prepared so that they can be confident with their abilities.
15. I would like to see students that are prepared.
16. I would like for students to develop critical thinking skills and learn how to better their own communities and look forward to graduating.
17. I want Bret Harte to turn out students that a proficient in every subject.
18. I agree with the Principal's plan that focuses on the progress of the students.
19. What is the plan to get every student to grade level?
20. I agree that we need to develop students that are critical thinkers.
21. If we develop students that have strong social and academic skills we will develop students that are mentally strong and well-rounded.
22. I feel that my daughter is capable to succeed academically.
23. I want to see students that are responsible and who are confident in their academic abilities to succeed at any level and to score high in proficiency exams.
24. The students need more homework.
25. Students should develop their abilities and study skills.
26. I would like for students to be at their appropriate proficiency levels academically and socially.
27. Students at Harte should be able to adapt to any learning environment.
28. How will students maintain their grades?
29. I would like for students to have a confidence in their academic foundation.

Another prevalent theme was the **quality and accountability of the teachers.**

1. We need to more responsible teachers in order for the students that are behind to progress.
2. The students should be in class with teachers that are following the proper curriculum, so that they can advance to the appropriate levels.
3. How will teachers be held accountable?
4. There need to be more qualified teachers that can motivate the students, because I know that there are some that don't do that and instead the discourage kids. What can be done with these types of teachers?

Several parents expressed **concern about the plan and how it would be implemented.**



## Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

1. What type of decision making will there be in order to make the school better?
2. What can be done to help the students in math and ELA?
3. I agree with everything within the plan for the student vision, I just hope that it comes to fruition.
4. This good, I just hope that it is implemented because as of right now, it's just on paper.
5. How will my son be helped in order for him to raise his grades?
6. I agree with the plan for the student vision.
7. Everything that is proposed is fine I just hope that it gets done.
8. What can I do so that my daughter can become an excellent student that likes to read, and that's responsible and ready academically?
9. How do they plan to identify, separate and then help the students that are not proficient?
10. What will be done in order to improve the proficiency rates?
11. I do not agree with the plan and I don't have any questions or comments.
12. I believe that this plan will prepare student for the high school.
13. How will this plan help African American students do better?

The theme of **college readiness** was also prevalent during this discussion:

1. The student's vision should be to prepare themselves for college.
2. I agree with the plan in regards to the students becoming more respectful towards the teachers, classmates, parents and towards their community.
3. I would like for student to have the tools to be able to go to college.
4. I think that the students need to be provided with the tools that they will need to be ready and eligible to apply and go to college/university.
5. The plan is not identifying how it will help our students get to college.
6. How will the plan help kids get to college?
7. In order for students to be prepared academically and to build confidence they need to develop certain abilities, so that they can develop the confidence in themselves in order to envision a positive future that will have them excel personally and at a university.

The topic of a **safer and secure school** came up at several points during the meeting. Here are the comments gathered from parents:

1. More security in the school.
2. We need support against bullying and take threats seriously and address disrespectful behavior, so that students can build self-esteem.
3. How does the plan intend to combat violence and drugs in the school?

**Parents expressed concern about communication:**

1. I like the explanation of the goals that were set for our students.
2. The communication between teachers and parents needs to improve.
3. We need to have better communication between the teachers and parents of the students when it comes to report cards.



**Other question and concerns:**

1. This is a very good. This will make the kids feel good.
2. In my opinion, we need to focus our attention and energy on the kids because they are joining gangs and becoming gang bangers or just becoming lazy.
3. I like what is being planned for the children. I really believe that the needs and suggestions of the parents are being taken into account.
4. The students should have adequate and equal material that other schools have.
5. Separate the students with leadership qualities by elective (choices), so that they can be mentors for other students.

**SECTION 2: SCHOOL VISION**

During this portion of the review of the School Plan Guide, a significant amount of written feedback commented on the need for a safer and secure school:

1. As parents we want to feel that our kids are safe inside of the school and the students need to feel and know their value as participants and as part of the student body, so that then they can comfortably participate and interact with other classmates and teachers.
2. The students need more security so that feel safe.
3. Stricter rules need to be implemented, such as no tolerance policies. Also, we need tutoring programs for individual needs and more counselors and psychologist (therapist) for the students.
4. It is the responsibility of the parents to take care of their children, but the school and the staff needs to have more security to make sure kids are not getting into fights or doing drugs. I hope that things get better here as this has been one of the worst schools in the district and I hope that the proposed changes are implemented.
5. I agree that the school needs to be a place that is safe for the students.
6. I agree that the school should foster an environment that is safe and that it will be a campus that listens to the needs of the students and parents.
7. There needs to be more security around the school's campus.
8. I would like for there to be more security for the children.
9. I would like for this school to be a safe place of learning and the teachers that are here should be prepared and up to date with current teaching methods.
10. I want the school to provide more security in and outside of the campus.
11. This plan will provide a more secure campus for the students and their families.
12. I don't like this plan. I feel that there is too much harassment at this school and this in turn does not allow students to improve.
13. The school should have a positive environment.

Another prevalent theme during this portion of the review was the need for there to be more **qualified teachers and teachers that have high expectations of the students:**

1. The school needs more Personnel or it will continue to have problems.



#### Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

2. The teachers need to learn how to get the curriculum across to its students and make sure that they understand it.
3. In order for the school's culture to really change, the teachers need to set a positive attitude and tone in the classroom.
4. Parents want more prepared personnel.
5. We need more teachers to develop our students.
6. I would like for there to be more prepared staff in this school.
7. Principally, the school needs to have the qualified staff that will prepare the students.
8. There needs to be more responsible teachers that are present; there are too many teachers that are absent too often and they just send a substitute teacher who just has the students watch movies. This is how the proficiency rates begin to drop.
9. I envision a school that has teachers that effectively communicate with their students and that not absent.
10. We need qualified teachers for our students.

#### Parents also wanted more **clarity on the plan and how it would improve performance of all students.**

1. We need block scheduling, math electives and everything else that has been proposed to be put into practice.
2. The goals are set up really well and this I am sure will improve our student's futures.
3. I agree with everything and hope to have satisfactory results.
4. What will be done to help students get to their appropriate grade level, because the plan does not mention how it's going to help those that are behind?
5. What will be done by the school to get the students to go up in grade levels because the plan does mention what will be the tools provided for students to improve their grade levels.
6. The school vision is too elaborate and I question whether the opinions of the parents and students are being taken into account.
7. How will we know if the learning environment is suitable enough for the progress of the students?
8. What is the plan to turn the school's environment into a positive and attractive environment for the students?
9. How will the plan help those that are not doing well and will it help the parents of those children to help their children to improve?
10. What kind of help will there be for students that have behavior and learning issues?
11. From the morning (beginning of class/school) until the end of the school day... how will you keep children encouraged to remain engaged in learning and to be respectful?
12. With the proposed plan, the kids at this school will have the impulse to strive for a better future and this will in turn rub off on their families.
13. Will there be changes amongst the teachers?



Parents also expressed a **willingness and responsibility to support the success of their children and the school:**

1. The parents want to be proud and satisfied of their children and of the school.
2. As a parent, I would like to know what teaching strategies are being implement and practiced by the teachers, so that I can implement some of those at home with my child.
3. The parents and students will feel satisfied when we get some change accomplished.
4. I want a school that supports its students.
5. Parents need to realize that it is our responsibility to make sure that the students are keeping up and maintaining good grades.
6. The school needs to make parents feel welcomed and make them feel that they are being taken into account and allowed to participate more in the education of their children. They need to work in conjunction with us parents in order to create a brighter future for our children.
7. What will the school do to make the parents feel welcomed?
8. How can we get all parents from different ethnic group to participate more, even African American parents?

Parents also asked about **how the plan intends to improve student and school performance.**

They said:

1. Having too many substitute teachers affect the school's API score and proficiency rates.
2. Students need to compete with one another so that they can push each other to become better on a daily basis.
3. We need to motivate and create incentives so that the students are prepared on a daily basis and so that they become ambitious and know how to succeed.
4. The school needs more help from the parents, the district, the teachers union, and the teachers in order to help our students learn in the classroom.
5. The school should have programs for gifted students so that they are being brought along accordingly and not stunted.
6. The school needs to increase its academic/proficiency levels.
7. There should be tutoring programs for the proposed curriculum.
8. Assign more homework.
9. How will the school give the students a chance to express their gifts/talents (learn language)?

**The theme of preparation for college was expressed in written form as follows:**

1. I would like for my child to go to college and become a professional and for the school to foster the kind of environment that is safe and that motivates and prepares student to do go to college and become professionals.
2. The school should prepare students that are independent and that are ready to succeed in a university setting.
3. The school needs to provide everything that may benefit the children and provide the resources necessary to motivate them to go to college and become professionals.
4. The plan does not outline how it will assist the kids in their path to college.



**Other question and concerns:**

1. More teachers.
2. I would like for there to be better communication between the parents and counselors. I have personally been calling the counselor at the office for the past two months and their voicemail box is always full. It is not until I come into the office that that I can personally communicate with a counselor.
3. I agree with everything.

**SECTION 3: STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

During the review of the School Plan Guide, and based on the amount of written feedback provided in session, parents discussed **how the plan intends to improve student and school performance:**

1. We need to focus more of our attention on the students and the parents need to make a better effort to get involved in their child's education.
2. It's improving.
3. The students should be given daily homework assignments that are relevant to what they are doing in the classroom so that they build a good base and practice what they are learning. In doing so, this will encourage the students to develop goals and become more efficient. Also, the parents need to get involved in their child's education and go over their work on a weekly basis to ensure that they are up to par.
4. The students are not prepared academically to continue on to the next grade/level.
5. The reality is that there are students that are not proficient and they are bringing down the school's API scores.
6. The reality is that the school has dropped academically, however, there is plenty of staff here that has been fighting and is willing to continue to fight on a daily basis to improve the academic level of this school. Parents are fighting along with them to find solutions to our issues and shortcomings.
7. The school performance is too low.
8. The proficiency rates are too low.
9. There should be some kind of incentive program to motivate students to raise their proficiency rates.
10. Although the school is improving, we need to continue to improve.
11. We will improve little by little if the parents and teachers work together.
12. I don't think that there are enough strategies that are available to improve proficiency rates and to motivate the students to continue with their education.
13. I think that we are at a good academic level, but we still need to better capacitate our teachers and students.
14. The students need to invest more time in tutoring session and the parents should be there to help them as well.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

15. We need to provide more tutoring hours for the students that are behind so that we support them and motivate them.
16. The tutoring programs should be in sync with the school's curriculum.
17. The school should focus on the most basic areas like ELA, Math (algebra), and English learners.
18. We need to give the students more time with the language tutors.
19. The school students need to improve in various academic areas.
20. The students need more homework.
21. The proficiency rates are low due to the lack of confidence of the students in their academic abilities. Also, the food needs to have more nutrition values as this also effects the student's learning capacities.
22. Both the students and teachers feel that more needs to be done in order for the proficiency rates to get better.
23. The teachers need to focus on preparing their students to get to high school because the proficiency levels are too low.
24. The performance is too low.
25. The goal should be to develop students that are mentally prepared and that apply themselves.
26. What can be done so that the school continues to progress?
27. What are the proficiency levels of the students in math and ELA?

The theme of **safety and security** was also discussed by parents during this portion of the School Plan Guide review.

1. The school needs security cameras and better security when school is out as well as in the campus during school hours.
2. There is not enough security in the school's playgrounds, bathrooms, and after school hours.
3. We want more security because the students don't feel safe and if students don't feel safe them, how will they be able to focus on their students.
4. There is no security or school police at this campus.
5. The students should feel safe.
6. There needs to be more security in the playground and throughout the school.
7. There is a lack of personnel to endure the safety around the campus. What can be done to address this?
8. The school needs to have more control in the playground and around the outside of the campus as well because people are doing drugs.
9. The school needs more personnel in the school to ensure the safety of the students.
10. The school needs more safety personnel when kids are going home, when kids are coming to school, during lunch, in between periods, and in the restrooms.

Similar to previous comments, parents expressed concern about **teacher effectiveness**.

1. I would like for students to be in school every day and we need more teachers and school staff that are bilingual because not many of the current ones speak Spanish.



## Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

2. I feel that the teachers need to be better prepared and develop more professionally in order for them to adequately teach our students.
3. How will the teachers help the students that are behind?
4. How do they expect the kids to do well and improve if there are teachers that do not show up?
5. We need stable school personnel.
6. The proficiency rates are too low; the teachers' attendance rates are not high enough and there are too many substitutes; there is too much violence; and the focus that is put on raising the proficiency rates is too low.
7. Monitor the attendance of teachers as well as their development with the students, so tha they can have a stable learning system.

### **Other question and concerns:**

1. I am aware that the school is not doing well economically, but can we as parents do to help our children make it?
2. We need more teachers.
3. How can we make sure that the Latin culture is not lost in all of this?
4. Will the plan focus on how to improve the proficiency rates according to each student's level of proficiency?
5. The school has a problem in the proficiency rates of math because he proficiency rates are too low.
6. The school is behind in many areas and there needs to be a lot of improvement, but instead of just talking about it, we need to put things into practice.
7. The school should support its teachers and students more in English as this the principle language in the U.S.
8. The principal of the school should send more letters to the parents' homes with the results of proficiency exams and updates on the areas of support that the students need.

### **SECTION 4: SCHOOL PRIORITIES**

As parents analyzed the school plan priorities, they were critical about how the plan actually intends to address student performance. These are the comments:

1. The school needs to extend the schedule and school/class hours to develop students better.
2. With extended class hours and stronger effort from the student and parents, the students will have a better chance to prepare themselves for the future.
3. The students need to develop more confidence in arts and math.
4. All of the classes are important.
5. The children need more help and attention in math/algebra.
6. What is the best way to improve the proficiency rates in algebra?
7. What's the strategy to help our children improve and become proficient?
8. The school's priorities should be in math, ELA, algebra and English composition.
9. How will they improve the proficiency rates in algebra?
10. What services/resources will there be available to raise the algebra proficiency rates?
11. How do they plan to help the students in ELA and math?



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

12. I don't understand the section four in regards to the academic results. For example, what does SDAEI-CARE mean?
13. We need to improve in math, especially algebra.
14. How can students be motivated to strive for a better future?
15. The students that are behind need to be helped out so that they raise their grade and then be ready when they get to high school.
16. The school's priority should revolve around motivating students to be more involved in the fine arts.
17. The students need help so that they are in a stable learning environment.
18. I would like for there to be a larger focus on students that are behind and more resources invested in them to make them proficient.
19. How much help can someone get that can't pass or be proficient in any of the three subjects?
20. What kind of math and ELA help will there be for the students and how will the help be implemented?

Parents also discussed **the need for a safer and secure school:**

1. How safe will the school be?
2. The safety of the students in the school.
3. We need more security outside of the school.
4. I would like for the school to improve the school's security and we need more parents to get involved and help out the bilingual teachers and principal.
5. More attention needs to be paid to kids who are bullying others

The topic of **teacher quality, and training** was also prevalent.

1. We need to prepare the teachers so that they can help the students that are behind.
2. The teachers need to continue to receive professional development for the sake of the students' progress. Also, current and future teachers should volunteer after hours to tutor the students that are behind.
3. In order to reach our goals we need teachers that are aware of the different things that are out there that our children use such as video games, the internet, etc., that they can use as teaching tools to help our children out.
4. How trustworthy is the teacher's academic level in relation to the student's needs?
5. How can we motivate the students and can the teachers be sent or be provided more professional development training?
6. We need to make sure that the teachers are qualified to teach the subjects and grade levels that they teach.
7. There needs to be a high priority on the professional development of the teachers and ensure that they are qualified and capacitated to focus their attention on the students that are not proficient in math, ELA, and history.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

8. I would like to see specific dates that are planned for the professional development of the teachers. The district should focus on developing better teachers and supporting the ones that they have because good teachers = good students.
9. Teachers need to be better prepared so that they can get through to our children.

Parents asked about the **plan would address various topics affecting student performance.**

1. Some students feel that their voice is not heard.
2. Will the school entertain the idea of having academic decathlons between the grade levels in order to make the students better on a daily basis?
3. What are the priorities to make the school better?
4. How are we going to help kids that are bilingual?
5. What services are being proposed?
6. We need a lot of clarification. We do not understand what they mean by the Socratic Method.
7. Everything has been done really well, however, I don't see any concrete dates that say when all of the issues that they have talked about will improve?
8. What is the Socratic Method?
9. What outside resources will the school bring in?

Several parents **expressed the need for collaboration between parents and the school.**

1. The strategies should be done in conjunction and in partnership with the parents for the progress of the students.
2. The school had many priorities that need attention and as long as we don't come to an agreement over what are the top priorities and begin to work together, then the school will continue to be mediocre.
3. The students and parent need to follow the rules and need to work together in order to come to an understanding of what needs to be done.
4. Teacher and parents need to work together for the sake of the students.
5. Instead of suspending kids and sending them home, there needs to be some sort of special room for these students and that way the school does not miss out on funding.
6. I think that the parents need to get more involve in their children's education and they need to learn how to study and learn the ways of a student and learn how to speak English so that they can help their children more and so that they can better understand the report cards and the academic necessities/rigors of their children.
7. Counsel students to see where they are emotionally and gradually check on their behavior and their adjustment.
8. How can we make sure that teachers, staff, and students have open communication so that they can maintain student progress?



**Other question and concerns:**

1. There needs to be more time in between class period so that the students have plenty of time to get to their next class in a timely and safe manner.
2. I agree with everything. This is all good.
3. The plan is perfect.
4. I agree with the plan.
5. I like the teaching plan.

## **Review of SANKOFA STEM Academy Plan**

This plan was also reviewed by participants through the following four areas:

- 1) Student Vision
- 2) School Vision
- 3) School Performance: Where is the School Now?
- 4) School Priorities

### **SECTION 1: STUDENT VISION**

A prevalent theme amongst parents is the need for the school and the plan to **incorporate safety** and communicate better with parents about safety issues. Parents expressed the vision in which students have a safe school. Comments include:

1. Have a safe school.
2. Have better protection in the schools and better communication to prepare students for society.

Many parents expressed the need to have **qualified and experienced teachers**. They also expressed the need for teachers to better communicate with parents. Several parents commented that there should be more training in math and science and that the school should have additional resources for professional development. Comments include:

1. Students need to be helped by teachers regarding academics and their homework. Have teachers answer students questions.
2. Teachers need to help students want more.
3. Have more communication with the teachers we have to communicate with the teachers and the school.

Parents expressed confusion on the lack of clarity from the STEM academy, as the plan contained language that is not familiar to parents. Parents expressed the need **for additional clarification on the plan** and had specific questions for the planning team. Comments and questions include:



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

1. I agree towards the Sankofa STEM academy. My child will actually be challenged and will not be stuck in one level. It would be great if my child graduated from a school where uses science, technology and engineering and math. Not to mention with a relationship with USC.
2. What kind of plan will be put in to place to help transition the slower learning students to STEM academies teaching practices?  
The plan is great.
3. As a parent I am satisfied with the proposal and I don't have any questions.
4. This plans sounds really good, but I hope this is just not another plan because what we need is results.
5. The difference between Sankofa and Bret Harte is like water and oil. Bret Harte is the water, will stay low and never get up. Sankofa vision will implement the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Where the focus is science, technology, math.
6. How is the Sankofa plan going to be implemented? I don't understand the Sankofa plan.
7. Algebra and language are not part of the plan.
8. I hope that everything being proposed be realized so that our student be successful and accomplished individuals.
9. Have a wider and ambitious vision and have priorities reflect it.
10. This plan is good but we have to implement it and just have it be a plan.
11. The student vision sounds good.
12. It's a good student vision.
13. This plan shows a good educational system.
14. This plan focuses on how things can be more striking and less boring.
15. I like what this plan does for students, but I would also like to learn more about what they are doing with student disabilities.
16. Several parents agreed that they explained their understanding of students very well.

Parents understand that plans are intended to **increase school performance**; however, parents expressed the desire for students to become deep learners. Parents envision students being successful in their academic and performing at standard grade level.

1. I believe that to obtain academic achievement, by understanding or explaining topics, students need to understand both English and Spanish. By understanding both, they will have success in the future.
2. The best instruction so that students all learn equally.
3. Have student learn so that they can become successful academically and in their profession.
4. Students need more instruction in English, algebra, and general education. To stop laying off students. We need responsible teachers.
5. I think it would be great a SSA academy so that it helps them improve in their expectation towards students and students have a successful future.
6. More focus on all students and have students obtain better grades.



## Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

7. Become a deep learner in all areas and become a critical thinker. That as they graduate that student be life-long learners and productive.
8. Have the motivation to continue forward and with goals to continue learning.
9. That it be required for the student to concentrate well in their academics so they would be able to speak and read well in their language so they could learn well.
10. The children expect to receive better academic information and education to reach a higher scholarly level for better development.
11. Have better academic preparation in this school to be able to be proud of this school.
12. Math prep for the children.
13. I like this idea because that way the students are better prepared and they leave academically prepared. I like the fact that they will be driven forward.

There were **other comments** throughout the conversation that parent had regarding the student vision exercise, these comments include:

1. I like how this STEM program can help students with disabilities. I would like for more help for disabled students.
2. It is important that each student is dealt with according to their issue. Whether academically, emotional social etc.
3. We hope that everything is fulfilled. Get to work.
4. Our school does encourage our students to be good community leaders.
5. My question is: having a child in the advanced program, how can you help her so she can continue to advance even more?
6. Always attend students-teacher conferences, and that children have better attendance in school.
7. Become knowledgeable in technology.
8. Focus myself more on my child.

Parents expressed the vision for their children to be **college and university ready**.

1. Have students better prepared for high school and college/university.
2. My daughter wants to go to the university.

### **SECTION 2: SCHOOL VISION**

Parents expressed that they envision a school that is safe and secure. Parents expressed the concern for more security so that children have a safe learning environment.

1. I would like there to be more security in the school and more activities in the school.
2. That will be a secure school.
3. Bring to date the technology in the school and teachers teaching practices.
4. I would like there to be security when kids get out of school. Because I have seen fights and how they are disrespectful to each other or to teachers/others.
5. A healthy environment for better development of a child is really important along with safety. Peace and safety for students is priceless.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

6. They are willing to have a safe learning environment.
7. More security is the priority.
8. The school needs more personnel to help with security.

Parents expressed that there is a need for parents and teachers to work together. Parents expressed the **need for teachers to be equitable** amongst students and to have better communication with parents.

1. Dedicate themselves 100% to teaching students and to motivate students.
2. That all teachers treat all students the same, regardless of differences in cultures.
3. All teachers, parents and students must work together.
4. Have more communication with teachers. A better plan for our students.

A lot of parents expressed concern that this plan was too aggressive and not based on current circumstances in regards to resources. Parents had questions that need **further explanation regarding this plan.**

1. Great plan, hopefully it moves forward.
2. It seems that children want a way to have recognition/ how can you do that?
3. We need better explanation and time to discuss because there are a lot of things I don't understand in this plan.
4. It appears that Sankofa is a dream and not based on reality.
5. Its expectations are good. Hopefully it is sincere for the betterment of all including parents, the community and students.
6. It seems like they will have success because they will be working jointly and they will be making an academic plan with each one.
7. We parents hope that all these strategies are implemented.
8. I don't want them to plan and not do anything, I want make a goal and work towards it.
9. It sounds very good because teachers, students, and parents will be working together.
10. How will the school structure be if the SSA take over? Will there complete teacher/staff changes?
11. They focus a vision not only on students but they go beyond to school, community and culture. Every teacher is a professional. Teacher and parents have a support between them "teach-ins". Modify and focus on nutrition like an important part of education.

Parents have the expectation that the school need to involve parents in meeting the new school vision. Parents want to be engaged in the process and would like for the school to better communicate how they can assist in **implementing this vision.**

1. Communicate with parents how to help so that we can ensure the plan is successful.
2. Several parents agreed that teachers and parents should be involved so students can achieve.
3. It is good. That way parents will be more present and the school will be like a family and will be linked well.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

4. We parents are the first ones that should educate our children and we should support the teachers in becoming volunteers to be more informed. Also, all parents should come to the meetings.

Parents appeared to like this plan and how it raised expectations for all students, teachers, and parents. Through the implementation of this plan, parents feel that school performance will increase. Below are comments regarding **school improvement and performance**:

1. The school needs to improve overall so that all students benefit.
2. Ensure that all strategies are being implemented to improve.
3. We hope that this SSA academy will improve our children performance so that they can acquire the skills to be involvement in society.
4. That it be required for a student to help out the school for their academics.
5. It sounds good that there will be more support for the students and have more workshops for the parents.
6. This plan explains more about the school performance.
7. Hold workshops after school, so that students are motivated to be in school during the day.
8. Students who improve and are focused will have a better vision for themselves for the future.

Parents expressed that the **school and classroom should be modernized** with this plan. Comments below:

1. I hope all classrooms do get computers so every child can have a better understanding to research various projects as needed.
2. Schools should be able to count on all the necessary technological advances for better learning.
3. Provide a space for academic sciences.

There were **other comments** throughout the conversation that parent had regarding the school vision exercise, these comments include:

1. The school need helps with teachers, parents and students. All need to work together to improve the school.
2. They have changed the school menu and many of the children do not like the food currently being served. And it is important that students focus on their academics and if they are hungry not to focus if to eat or not.
3. Have more communication with the teachers and better communication with the children so they can gave an education and respect.
4. We already have most of those things.
5. I would like for there to be workshops on how to prepare to go to the university.
6. My school vision would be to have a cleaner school.



### **SECTION 3: STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

During the student performance exercise, parents expressed the **need for more qualified teachers and personnel** in an effort to increase school performance. Parent expressed the need for better communication and high expectation from teachers.

1. Teachers should understand of students that don't understand 100% English, that they may not understand the question, material or class.
2. Have better teachers.
3. We need more commitment from teacher to raise low performance scores.
4. Have teachers place more focus on students when they give feedback and comments, so build their self-esteem and confidence.
5. More communication amongst teachers and students.

Although this plan answered several question for parents in regards to academic, parents still had concern regarding **school security**. Parents wanted more information in regards to plans to secure the campus.

1. Several parents wrote that this is a better explanation about the type of student performance that there will be.
2. This plan does not meet the expectations academically let alone security wise. There is much that is lacking.
3. At this moment Harte Prep isn't performing well because many things are missing for example security, etc.

Several parents **expressed the need for teachers and parents to work together** and form a partnership to increase school performance. Parents want better communication and cooperation.

1. For its first year, things are moving in right direction. But cooperation and communication with parents can be improved.
2. We all need to work together to improve the school.
3. What can the school, parents, and staffs do to be more creative to make sure this year (next) can be different?
4. We need to progress and progress even more. Students are performing very low in all their classes and I believe all students should be in their respective education – learning level.

Parents expressed their praise for this plan in increasing student expectation and providing a plan for increasing the school performance. However, parents also were skeptical of the increases in performance. Parents had several questions regarding the academic performance of the school that were not answered by this plan. A large portion of parents expressed their understanding of the current situation of the school in relation to **school performance**.

1. Its better, but there is a way to get in the kids who want to learn to give them different options of learning.
2. The school needs to be more engaged with the students to motivate them.
3. I would like to for the school to prepare more for the API.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

4. The school is performing somewhat ok.
5. They are only focusing on the shortcoming of students but not doing an assessment of students and their performance.
4. I think all these measures are important to improve student performance, and a priority for students, teachers and community.
5. Here on reports is says that we have not achieved our annual API progress, but only achieved a small increase. Why? Why aren't we meeting expectations?
6. This school is not performing well. Students need more ways of learning, including with more homework, placing more focus on the subjects being taught, and helping students understand material so that their grades improve.
7. Academically the school has not improved or increased test score in the past years.
8. I understand that the school performance is low, but as a parent I also understand that student performance start with us as parents being involved. And we as parent are sometimes first in not voicing our concerns, missing meetings, or be interested in speaking to their teachers.
9. Poor performance but the small improvement it has made it is only small.
10. I would like for there to be more math homework.
11. They are really low at this point. I hope they raise their expectations.
12. Very bad. They haven't been able to reach the necessary academic level in 7 years.
13. The students are performing better. I am a mother and I speak with my son and y notice he is getting better.
14. A little bad but I hope they get better.
15. Need more help with language (English).
16. Is there a place for students who need extra help in some areas?
17. Sankofa focuses on really high standards but we can't get on a really fast way when out students come with different levels of education since elementary school. Bret Harte need the support of the school and district = best school for students.
18. It is performing poorly, needs to do better.
19. I suppose things are improving.
20. It's sad that the points for algebra have gone down 97-98.
21. Support in the low classrooms, focus and motivate children to achieve so that they can have better grades. Prepare special teachers to implement these points and observe the abilities of each student so we can help them in whatever area they need it.
22. That it be required by the school for parents to attend meetings to help the community and our children to get ahead.
23. Give them more attention in the subjects students don't understand.
24. It sounds good that that there will be more opportunities to have a laboratory for students.

There were **other comments** throughout the conversation that parent had regarding the school performance exercise, these comments include:

1. We all need to work together to improve the school.



2. What can the school, parents and staff do to be more creative to make sure this year (next) can be different?
3. We need to progress and progress even more. Students are performing very low in all their classes and I believe all students should be in their respective education – learning level. \

#### **SECTION 4: SCHOOL PRIORITIES**

Parents expressed the following priorities as being top issues that need to get resolved with this plan. These school priorities include the following.

Parents expressed that the school needs to make a priority the **safety and security of the school/students**. Parents expressed that although this plan has great academic expectations, it lacks a plan to increase security in the school.

1. Maintain a safe environment.
2. Safe and secure school, and hygienic. A place that students feel motivated to come to school.
3. Excellent plan, but priority is security.
4. We need more security for teacher and students.
5. More security, attention to bullying amongst students. And more parent volunteers.
6. More security.
7. It's good because there will be more security.

Parents want more **qualified teachers and personnel**. This is a top priority for parents and it should be as well for the school.

8. Staff to go into class and observe how the teachers want to communicate.
9. Equip teacher in their respective subject areas. And help students become engaged and motivated.
1. It's important for teachers, parents, and counselors to all work together.
2. Maybe there are teachers that should retire. It may be necessary to hire young blood, young teachers that are more up to date.
3. Several parents wrote that there has to be more training for the teachers and for parents too.
4. Better prepared teachers.
5. Use all strategies to re-enforce learning. Have individuals capable in all their subject area.

Parents expressed their approval of this plan but many hope that this plan is not just another plan. They would like for this plan to be implemented and not simply be set aside. Parents would like for **additional resources or clarity** to follow this plan in effort to ensure that this plan is successful.

10. I like this plan.
11. Everything appears great in the plan; it's just matter of implementing it.
12. I think the options are great at Sankofa STEM to propel students forward.
13. If the Sankofa plan gets approved we hope that the entire plan is not only a promise but actually gets implemented.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

6. We hope that all the plans that were given to us to read are implemented and put to work.
7. They need to meet the goals and just make promises.
8. The best thing about this plan is the way it prepares the students. But results would be better.
9. It is very good because they will be preparing the teachers better and there will be more security.
10. I like that there will be more educational programs and more tools that the students can use to develop their talents because no child is slow. We have to help them in their abilities. Also have educational programs for the parents so they can build their selves as human beings and be better prepared for society.

Parents expressed the **satisfaction of increasing school performance** with this plan by updating the school to a curriculum of the current time by incorporating STEM programming, supportive programming, and stronger commitment to all (students, parents, teachers). Parents expressed the need for more programming around cultural awareness, and math, and sciences. Parents also expressed that teachers should be better qualified in their specific topic areas.

1. Better programs.
2. A priority is to teach all students, but also security, respect from teachers towards students, and from students to teachers, and amongst classmates.
3. A priority is to raise their academic performance.
4. How can we provide a welcoming environment for self-expression/gift/talents/extra activities/ release relief/excite learning/ environment?
5. Break down barriers of cultures and language.
6. Requires a strong commitment and all to be involved (students, teachers, parents).
7. The priorities for this school to update it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But its really important that Brett Harte receives the economic and cultural support.
8. To increase student performance we need better teachers, not mediocre teacher or substitutes. Or teachers who don't do anything and just make children feel bad.
9. Give homework during vacation and in days. Give students a class on why to say no to drugs and the dangers of it.
10. Place focus on mathematics, reading, writing, and other subjects including English.
11. Give students vacation homework and have them read books and ask them what the story was about.
12. The priority is our children because if we don't put our part for our children then nothing is fixed.
13. These are necessary priorities but they are also essential for student improvement.
14. I hope for much better results and to receive updates from you and the students.
15. They need to implement the plan and not only make promises. This plan is more detailed and offer more solutions. It's all well as long as they implement.
16. It would be great if after classes, students had the support to do their homework so they can be more successful.



## Session 3 Report – Dialogue with Planning Teams

There were two teams who engaged the participants in a presentation and dialogue about their proposed plans. This section is divided into three parts per team dialogue: 1) The Planning Team Presentation, the 2) Q&A time and the 3) Suggestions/Comments that were shared during the dialogue.

### **Part One: Planning Team Dialogue**

#### **Bret Harte Prep Middle School Presentation**

Mr. Papp presented for the team that was made up of several Bret Harte teachers and the Principal.

During the presentation Mr. Papp highlighted his team’s vision for the student of Bret Harte, which included a focus on the whole student, to support them in being lifelong learners and contributing members of society. He also shared that their vision was built with input from students.

On the topic of School Vision, Mr. Papp highlighted the issue of safety, developing a welcoming environment, and switching to a block schedule that would allow students to take electives and spend more time on lessons. He also shared that his team tracked school performance using MY DATA, CORE K-12 and the CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. Although Bret Harte’s API score has increased, it has done so very slowly over the last decade. Their instructional priorities will focus on English, Math, and Algebra.

#### **Sankofa STEM Academy Presentation**

Dr. Carol Cobb presented on behalf of the Sankofa STEM Academy planning team. Her plan focuses on the whole child. Their philosophy is that every child deserves an education; classes should be small, values diversity and inclusion, and uses real world applications of academic lessons.

The interventions introduced by Dr. Cobb include block scheduling, service learning, mentoring, tutoring. On the topics of safety and security she discussed efforts to reduce bullying, a community partnership around the school to patrol, and curriculum helping develop the student’s character.

This plan seeks to fill the gaps and provide the Harte Prep community with another educational option. Her team has a goal to improve the relationship with parents so that they are partners in instruction.

## **Part Two: Questions and Answers Section**

The following were questions directed to the **Bret Harte Prep** planning team:

1. **Participant:** If block scheduling is implementing when will it begin?  
**Answer:** Block scheduling will be August 13, 2013.
2. **Participant:** In your past 10 years what have been some trends that you have noticed?  
**Answer:** Teachers having to leave either because low pay or seniority. Students wanting to learn more.
3. **Participant:** What is Socratic collaboration?  
**Answer:** Students will challenge each other/ students talk with each other. Have a service learning component and expanding on what students learn. Change the way we teach.
4. **Participant:** My child never gets homework?  
**Answer:** It's a policy of district to give homework. Sounds like something is going wrong.
5. **Participant:** I had to take my child out of the school because teachers are not going their job.  
**Answer:** I do see some teachers not doing what they are doing. Their expectations will be much higher.
6. **Participant:** What type of security will be implemented or no change? What are you planning?  
**Answer:** We are lucky to have 1 officer. We are fortunate that we don't have that many issues at this school. We are planning to have more security officers in the future.
7. **Participant:** The teacher's attendance is worse than the students.  
**Answer:** Teachers attendance is poor because of pregnancies or other personal reasons. But you are right we need to fix it.
8. **Participant:** I understand that anytime we speak of teachers is a touchy subject, the fact that there has only been 5% growth, is that enough? We need teachers and schools that are relevant. What about professional development for teachers?  
**Answer:** We need more teacher collaboration, more discussions on how to do things better. Better best practices – we need to be trying to do better.
9. **Participant:** For the student vision. How can you motivate the children to want to go to school?



**Answer:** By being honest to the students, gain their trust and show that we care for them. Teachers will sign a document that includes all the expectations of the job. They also will learn to be self-oriented. The teachers will learn communication and when they see the student not understanding the work the teacher will assist the student. If we keep trying, things happen.

**Participant follow-up:** Shouldn't the teachers already believe that?

**Follow-up answer:** Out school Advisory Board will ensure that the teachers follow the rules. We are all here for the students. It comes down to force that teacher to do their job.

10. **Participant:** What if I have a gifted child that is not being challenged? What can you do?

**Answer:** My daughter was gifted and was being held back. I went to the school and made changes. You aware of the situation will make things happen. We need to place the student in a higher level class with challenging teachers.

11. **Participant:** It would be good that your English low proficiency student is taught in such a way that he (the gifted student) doesn't hold back the other students.

**Answer:** We talked about the various spectrums. We need to boost them up (the students). We are hoping for collaboration. Let's focus on the lower performers and help, identify problems and collaborate. This is what the District wants us to do.

12. **Participant:** I love the plan of all teachers working together. If teachers communicated they would deal with the kids better in issues such as discipline.

**Answer:** I agree. The rules should be the same. We need consistency. The kids are not afraid this way. It is a problem when one teacher has a different set of rules. This plan created a high level from where we all teach from.

13. **Participant:** I hope the plan works. The future would be better with this kind of plan.

**Answer:** That's what we want.

**Participant:** If a teacher has a lot of issues (raised against them) or grievances from parents they should be fired. The whole school should be like that. I hope this plan is approved.

**Participant:** This is about extracurricular activities. How will the kids be affected? Being that they will be mixed?

**Answer:** They will have an extra class, a 6<sup>th</sup> class. It will be a different kind of class. If it is a math class it will be a more real life class and interesting. The class will cater to the proficiency level of the student.

It comes down to the teacher making the learning interesting. As a UTLA Rep. I tell them: "If they don't like the plan the door is there". There are many teachers that are on board yet some are not and I want to get rid of them.



14. **Participant:** How are you planning to implement the 5ES?

**Answer:** It is a strategy where students understand a cycle of learning. We will hang on to the testing we have and get together as teachers and collaborate to ensure the students understand.

## **Part Two: Questions and Answers**

The following were questions directed to *SANKOFA STEM Academy*:

1. **Participant:** Is funding covered through LAUSD?

**Answer:** Yes, there is funding from LAUSD.

2. **Participant:** This plan advances with times in technology and equips the school.

3. **Participant:** This plan provides professional development.

4. **Participant:** Bret Harte does not receive the resources from the district.

**Answer:** We have to outreach to other sources of funding. We need to tap into other sources of support.

5. **Participant:** Everything is based on funding but no hard result outcomes. What if we don't receive the other funding?

**Answer:** Everything is based on money and a plan. If we don't receive funding then we can't proceed with plans.

6. **Participant:** District makes plans, after plans, but just wastes resources. Why doesn't she let me ask questions, for a long time there has been planning and no action.

7. **Participant:** In this plan there is no mention of plan for students with disabilities.

**Answer:** I can't carry the burden of prior years. But we must create equitable opportunities, good match with teachers and students. Teachers must be engaged with parents.

8. **Participant:** Is there a way that we can speak to the superintendent so that he can hear our concerns.

9. **Participant:** What do you need to become a volunteer?

**Answer:** We will start according to the District Timeline. We will have a process.

10. **Participant:** How can we avoid behavior issues in the classroom (bullying) since this is detrimental to children's character?

**Answer:** With professional development the teachers are trained to forecast and prevent. We can never prevent everything however. The teachers will be trained.



11. **Participant:** The reason we want to volunteer is because our children are getting hit (physically hit by other kids).

**Answer:** We are in need of more involvement from the community and other community organizations with services. We can defer some of these needs to such organizations. The parents have to be involved.

12. **Participant:** When you talk about how the school is going to change, how is it going to work? Will it be a complete overhaul of teachers and staff?

**Answer:** There will not be a complete overhaul. Our plan is not to take the whole school but to take a portion of the student through the academy. When you are training a staff it is to make sure that the vision becomes a reality. If teachers do not buy into the mission/vision then we do not need that element.

**Participant follow-up:** Only a portion of the students of the ones with the highest grades?

**Follow up answer:** We will have to work out this issue downtown with the District.

13. **Participant:** Will you have tutoring in the classroom or outside?

**Answer:** If there were parents willing to be trained to assist in whatever we can do legally to help an assist we can utilize them as volunteers to provide this help.

14. **Participant:** I hope your plan comes to be a reality. I hope everything comes out beautifully. I like everything such as the concept and rules for the school. You should pay attention to the teachers. My son has a teacher that ignores him and his questions. If other kids ask questions the teacher answers them but not my son's questions. We need to rectify these issues about teachers.

**Answer:** Teachers should be inspiring students to achieve. Everyone should be in one accord, on the same page. "On the same bus or not in the bus", with the right training in place that includes delivery, implementation and consequences. If parents are involved there are checks and balances. There is training to shift the paradigm and ensure teachers know how to respect and relate to people in a better manner.

**Participant follow up:** I think the teacher should analyze each student and ascertain who and how each student needs to receive help. He should stop favoritism. It is his job to help everyone equally.

**Follow up answer:** We do culturally relevant training.

15. **Participant:** What is your ideal ratio of students to teacher?

**Answer:** 20 to 1. I cannot guarantee that however. There are guidelines to follow. If you equip the teacher to manage the classroom and help individually and collectively and teach students to self-manage while everyone understanding accountability, then the environment changes.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

16. **Participant:** How are you going to evaluate the children in order to keep them in one classroom? Are you going to keep the fast learners versus others in the same classroom?

**Answer:** The ideal way to teach kids is mixed. We teach to the need level of the students. When teachers are trained properly they can do it. Even with 35 kids if they are trained they can do it. We equip teachers with skills.

17. **Participant:** How can your program help Special Ed kids?

**Answer:** Students will get the same resources and support. The STEM program integrated with Special Education allows the students to demonstrate comprehension in ways such as art. We provide them more opportunities to be creative.

18. **Participant:** Does it mean there will be an open door for colleges to help out in other areas like art?

**Answer:** We will tap into community partnership and community programs. Every resource on the community will be tapped.

**Participant follow-up:** I want my kid to be challenged.

**Follow up answer:** With parents like you, committed and engaged, we can succeed.



## Session 3 Report – Participant Feedback Form Responses

### PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM NARRATIVE & RESPONSES

Two sets of feedback forms were aggregated and written comments/feedback were clustered under each category. The first set was for Team One – Bret Harte Middle School and the second set was for Team Two – SANKOFA STEM Academy.

#### Team One: Bret Harte Middle School

1. Student Vision	Does Not Meet My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the skills and knowledge that students will gain to be prepared for the next level of learning.	8	36	19	19
The writing team has clearly identified what students will know, understand, and be able to do when they leave this school.	10	27	27	16
TOTALS PER COLUMN	18	63	46	35

The following written comments expressed the parents' feedback about this section of the plan for Bret Harte Middle School. The main theme was to ensure quality of teaching and teachers. There were some points made about the need for increased security and a level of frustration from participants wanting more time to express themselves.

#### ***Ensure quality of teaching and teachers***

1. This plan only partially meets my expectation because we do not know if there will be well prepared teachers who are capable. We also do not have assurances that these types of teachers will be identified versus the teachers who are good for nothing.
2. The teachers were socially competent and academically responsible (in respect to how the plan addressed some of the current school challenges).
3. We need more teachers with better capacity/competency. The teachers that are really well prepared should not be let go instead they should be given security in their stay at the school.
4. They should have already known what to do and why they should do it (in respect to turning around the school's performance) because supposedly they have gone to school and become prepared to teach.
5. I would like to know what really is happening with the school. I would like for the teachers to have better communication with the students and parents.
6. The school should pay more attention to gifted students.
7. The school needs to help the low performing students so they can raise their grades. We need a lot of help from teachers.
8. I want the teachers to have more communication with parents about what is happening with the student in an honest and direct manner. I am completely in accord with section B of the plan.
9. The school needs to increment the academic levels of the kids.
10. We need to have better communication with the teachers because it is not only their fault for the lack of communication; it is also ours as parents.



11. The school should invite parents to all meetings so that parents can exist/have input in all meetings. This way the parents will listen and know what is happening in the school and with the teachers
12. I want the Principal and the staff of teachers to have more meetings to figure out how they will ensure that the students move from basic to advanced in performance.
13. The portion of the plan talking about students agrees with me, but there are bad points on the plan in respect to the teachers who still do not understand students who live in a world full of criticism and high expectations but do not have the preparation and focus. It is the teacher who needs to intervene. As parents we can focus on this issue but it is the teachers who can elevate the academic learning and professional development of the students.
14. My comment is to focus on the students and teachers. You need to focus on the lower academic levels.
15. How will you develop a student into a whole person? How will they feel responsible for their own efforts?
16. I think the parents are right for asking for more homework for the kids.

**Other**

1. You should have given the parents more time to express themselves.
2. I implore you that you give the parents more time to express themselves (in reference to the short time of dialogue between planning team and participants).
3. I liked how they are attending to me/listening to me and I hope that everything turns out well.
4. I would have liked to read or heard more in detail about the proposed plan to improve the school.
5. I liked the plan because everything was very well explained.
6. Everything in the plan is well done.
7. For the moment this Vision seems ok.
8. The session was delivered well, we would like more information.
9. Who is guaranteeing that this will become a reality? We no longer believe any promises towards the current students. I hope that this will not be the case for future students. These are only chats and conversation you really need action leading to a better future for our kids.
10. Sadly there are many factors that do not help the school improve. I know the school/team is working to improve it.
11. What people don't understand is Bret Harte thought of all students when the Team wrote the plan.
12. The presentation did not say anything about this section. They did not talk about the resources or tools needed.
13. I would like for the team to do their job well and to fulfill/follow through in their promises.
14. We are not happy with the security measures at the school.
15. What type of security measures will the school implement?
16. Your proposed plan is very superficial; it does not totally fulfill any of the expectations. It sounded very nice but from there to actually making it a reality there is a big gap.
17. I will believe this effort until we see the results from this upcoming year, God permitting.
18. The most interesting part of the plan is that parents will have a better future for their kids. Thank you.
17. The presented plan does not clearly teach us what will be the main focus areas.
18. The plan needs more safety. The kids are fighting on the gate where the staff does not interfere in any physical, since such staff can only be act verbally. This can lead to major damage.
19. As a mother I will be 100% sure that my student will be prepared when he/she graduates from school.



20. The team did not explain the plan well because they were hurried. The presentation did not talk/mention all the efforts from the teachers.
21. To me, this plan fulfills some things and not others.

2. School Vision	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team has identified what the school culture will feel like for parents and students.	15	28	39	31
The writing team has identified what the school must do to make sure that all students are successful and prepared to go to the next school level and beyond.	15	22	51	33
TOTALS PER COLUMN	30	50	90	64

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan for Bret Harte. The two main themes were safety and concern for student support.

**Safety**

1. Security is very important and we ask as parents for it to be consistent.
2. We need more communication between parents, teachers and Principal, we also need more security.
3. If there is no money for security staffs, how can our kids be safe? There is a lot of vandalism due to the lack of security. I was personally assaulted by school students.
4. We need to have more security in knowing how to understand the mixed culture of the school and students and make sure that they can participate with other students with respect.
5. We need for the rules to be implemented (security).
6. The plan partially meets my expectations because we do not know as parents how it will be implemented. We need more security inside the school.

**Student support**

1. Of course I like the vision but there are too many substitute teachers and that affects and lowers the academic levels of the students.
2. Well at the moment my daughter is doing well. It is up to every student to reach their own capacity by focusing in doing well.
3. This plan did not specifically explain how it will improve the academic level or to improve the levels of education for both students and teachers.
4. The State should give more funding for all schools and stop firing the teachers.
5. If there is no improvement in the academic level and security level then the school will remain the same. It has been 10 years and the school has not improved.
6. We need a plan for gifted students and special education students.
7. The plan did not explain what the school will do to ensure that each student is at his/her proper academic level.
8. Is there a way that students can have a system that makes them feel more comfortable with coming



to school and staying motivated?

9. There are too many substitute teachers and that affects the students as they fall behind. The substitutes do not give out homework. We need fewer absences from the regular teachers.
10. We need stability for all the school staff.
11. The team did not explain what the school will do in order to ensure each student is at the proper academic level.

**Other**

1. They did not explain the plan well.
2. We want the teachers to work in conjunction with the students and parents.
3. I hope this plan is approved and that it is followed-through.
4. I hope they follow through.
5. I wish there as more communication (between school and parents).
6. Is there a way that teachers, staff, students and parents can communicate better?
7. How are African American students’ needs addressed?
8. This plan really went past my expectations.
9. We need more communication between parents, teachers, students and other school staff.
10. I like the plan because it has a good Vision.
11. I hope every year to be like this (comment in relation to the presentation and how the school has improved for the last 10 years).

<b>3. Student Performance: Where is the School Now?</b>	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified areas within the school’s performance that highlight areas of strength.	19	21	52	29
The writing team identified areas of concern where growth is needed.	17	30	47	26
The writing team demonstrated a thorough analysis of data to address the needs of all student groups.	14	30	40	31
<b>TOTALS PER COLUMN</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>86</b>

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan for Bret Harte Middle School. There was an ongoing concern with security.

**Security**

1. At this moment we need more security and more help with the teachers.
2. More security/protection in the yard and more respect between teachers and students.
3. This school needs a lot better and more security and to pay a lot of attention to the yard area.
4. We need more security at the school for our kids.
5. We need more learning for the students and workshops for the teachers to provide better learning strategies. We need the students to respect each other and their teachers. I am worried about the drugs that students carry in the school. We need more learning in the different subjects and more homework.
6. The team did not demonstrate that we are at 100% (at the optimum level) in respect to



security/safety and the subjects of arts, language and math.

7. We need a lot more security in all physical areas of the school.

**Other**

1. This is a good proposal but will only be implemented if there is a budget/financial resource. I hope they are going to follow through with the goals if not having these meetings does not make sense. I do hope that we reach the goals outlined in the proposal.
2. The planning team did not explain themselves well. We need to know the acronyms of what they were trying to say about the students.
3. All the plans (the two proposed plans) look like good options to me. This is a well thought out plan and I think something good for the school.
4. The teachers have to have the ability to merge the old and new because our students only take a look at the new.
5. I like everything that is being done.
6. I like the plan because everything is going to help improve the school.
7. The plan partially meets my expectations because we do not know how the school will improve the low academic proficiency of the students.
8. How are you going to improve the learning of the students? I would like capacity building of teachers. I would also like the teachers to have fewer absences.
9. It is good to work in groups (differentiated learning) because some need help in some areas and others in other areas, it will be hard to improve without it.
10. Better teaching techniques.
11. Parents and teachers need to work together.
12. I like the proposed plan.
13. Follow through with what you are saying for the benefit of our children. I hope you accomplish everything.
14. At this moment we are very academically low in the school, low in student behavior and in need of capacity building of teachers.
15. We need more information. The team only answered 4 questions.
16. African American parents have to feel more comfortable on providing their input and asking for services.
17. We need to help the students that are low academically, separate them and help them advance.
18. The area of concern is the low academic performance of today, the upcoming school plans. We need scholastic improvement and more homework.
19. I hope that for next year everything we have planned today is implemented.
20. We need more physical education. More homework for the best result of students.
21. Everything seems good to me about the plan because the team is presenting a good strategy.
22. The school levels are low and if the teachers do not put themselves at a higher level (teach or perform at a higher level) the school will remain the same.
23. Teachers and parents working together.
24. Update the work plan of the teachers. More activities for the students, more tutoring and more training for the teachers.
25. The school needs to increase its academic level.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

<b>4. School Turnaround: School Plan Priorities</b>	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the top priorities for the school to improve student achievement.	17	17	51	31
The writing team clearly demonstrated that they know where the school is now and what needs to be done to get to the school of the future where all students are high achievers.	15	21	49	26
The writing team identified various strategies that will be used to ensure the success of students.	12	19	43	41
The writing team identified support that is needed for their faculty and staff to turnaround the school.	14	20	45	38
<b>TOTALS PER COLUMN</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>136</b>

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan for Bret Harte Middle School **when it comes to the clarity of the plan and their expectations of the plan being implemented:**

1. They need to explain things better and give the meaning.
2. Needs more work, more time for teachers to learn, and new strategies to get kids interested.
3. How will the math strategies be implemented? Incentives for students that have good grades.
4. We need this plan as soon as possible. The sooner the better.
5. There definitely needs to be school reform. Now! Not only make promises but implement it.
6. I hope they implement what they have thought about doing to improve
7. I am satisfied with everything.
8. The priorities between students and teachers seem fine to me and I would like for there not to be just one strategy, but rather that they always have lots that work.

The following comments were provided by the parents as they felt **the students could use more services for the students for their academic progress:**

1. They need to increase math, English, and Algebra.
2. If the teachers do not agree with the students they will go down with them without being able to do anything. Don't blame the children.
3. The reform needs the support from parents and teachers, more security personnel, trust between students, and mental actualization. We will all move forward.
4. We know that the economy is low but the academic level and security are essential for them to be successful in the future.
5. I don't get a chance to understand how they will make the ideas into actions.
6. That it be a better school.
7. It's necessary that they have a good team to better the school

The following written comment were provided by the parents and **their concern over school safety and security:**

1. They need more security inside and outside of the school, because they exit through the back side. They need police outside of the school because there isn't control. There is a lot of drugs and



marijuana. They go out and smoke marijuana outside of the school.

2. The school, firstly, needs security inside and outside. There are lots of fights that nobody sees and the teachers who miss a lot of work.

**Other comments and concerns:**

1. As teacher, is not only their problem or concern. We should work as a team =student, teacher, parents. The principal should ask the District For a date on capacitation on new form of teachings that will help our students. Demand Teachers to make example of attendance to students.
2. That the students and teachers push themselves to have good results.

**Team 2: Sankofa Academy**

1. Student Vision	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the skills and knowledge that students will gain to be prepared for the next level of learning.	2	26	30	18
The writing team has clearly identified what students will know, understand, and be able to do when they leave this school.	2	22	32	19
TOTALS PER COLUMN	4	48	62	37

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan for Sankofa STEM Academy and **the need for the plan to provide the school with the necessary resources to successfully bring the student body up to its appropriate grade levels:**

1. This plan has a good plan for students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that will develop students that can compete academically in the modern and technological world and will also develop students that are socially aware of what is going on. This has a strong academic base and will help students develop their academic skills.
2. This looks great. It looks like teachers and students will have the tool and technology to do what they have to do. It will now be up to the individuals who want to take advantage of these resources.
3. We need more workshops.
4. We need more tutoring programs for the students and professional development for the teachers.

The following is the feedback provided by the parents **that portray their comments and concerns about the whether they agree with the plan or if the plan will be implemented accordingly:**

1. I hope that everything that was talked about becomes reality.
2. Come January we will all see what are the propositions and promises.
3. I like this plan because it talks about the curriculum.
4. I like this plan because it talks about the students and about the curriculum.
5. For this to work, this needs to be implemented ASAP and not let it become hear say.
6. These are good activities as they provide plenty of useful information about the plans for Bret Harte.



7. This team identified the areas of need and student focus, however, they need to follow through with everything.
8. If this is going to work, it needs to put into practice and not just die in committee.
9. I hope that everything that was talked about gets put into practice.
10. Everything looks and sounds good, I'm just not sure if it will be implemented.
11. I just hope that all of this that is planned is actually put into practice and becomes reality.
12. I would really like for all of this to come to fruition and not just become simple commentary.
13. I hope that this plan is implemented.
14. This is a very good plan.
15. The vision sounds good, but it is not really clear if this plan will be implemented in every school equally when it comes to technology, teacher development, and economically.

<b>2. School Vision</b>	Does Not Meet My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team has identified what the school culture will feel like for parents and students.	1	27	36	12
The writing team has identified what the school must do to make sure that all students are successful and prepared to go to the next school level and beyond.	3	21	27	32
<b>TOTALS PER COLUMN</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>44</b>

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan for SANKOFA STEM Academy **in relation to what they felt were the plan's strengths and their expectations for the implementation of the plan:**

1. I am enjoying this vision and hope the children get more resources to help my child become a well-rounded person.
2. I would like to know the status of the plan and the progress of the school.
3. This is excellent. The future for students just got brighter.
4. We want immediate results and not long term solutions.
5. I like this plan.
6. This looks good. I just hope that everything is implemented.
7. I really hope that all of this is true and that the school improves.
8. Everything that is planed is good.

The following feedback from the parents expresses the **parent's concerns over student safety and security:**

1. The school should provide a safe outlet for children to express themselves so they can be more effective in the skills such as learning and getting along with others.
2. How will you help parents create an environment they can learn from home and respect, strong morals and good values to take to school?
3. Parent s and community members need to feel comfortable to enter the classroom and learn with the students.



**Other areas of concern and commentary of the participants:**

1. It was explained how parents can help the students and support the teachers.
2. This plan explains how we can help and support the teachers.
3. Have more volunteer opportunities and activities for parents.
4. We as parents are committed to help support the students.
5. There need to be the use of new technology.
6. We need to begin to look at the social ramifications of the deficit thinking of our children. We all need to understand that we are a part of the human race and need to stop identifying and placing ourselves into groups and subgroups. Every person has an immense intellectual capacity and the deficit way of thinking is already starting to set into the mentality of our children and we need to fix this. This is important for their development as student and for the community as a whole.

<b>3. Student Performance: Where is the School Now?</b>	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified areas within the school's performance that highlight areas of strength.	3	30	35	11
The writing team identified areas of concern where growth is needed.	5	23	30	28
The writing team demonstrated a thorough analysis of data to address the needs of all student groups.	4	20	32	19
<b>TOTALS PER COLUMN</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>58</b>

The following written comments expressed the parents feedback about this section of the plan express **the questions and concerns that many parents have when it comes to their children receiving the adequate assessment and provided the adequate resources to ensure that their academic needs are met:**

1. When evaluating the reading capacity/level of students I think that reading should be done out loud and as a groups or in small groups. That way those students can help each other and the teachers can better identify the areas in which students need assistance.
2. The presentation could've included more data to reference how far below the school is.
3. The proficiency rates are too low.
4. We need to improve the proficiency rates in Math and ELA.
5. Sometimes it's hard for students to learn with so many students in the classrooms. Also, there needs to be more professionalism amongst the teacher. There are many that just teach for a paycheck and not for the love of teaching.

The following are comments and concerns that **express the parents feelings towards the plan developed by Sankofa Academy:**

6. Everything is outlined clearly in this plan.
7. I think that this is a good plan and I would like for it to be implemented.
8. We were clearly explained the plan for the students and teachers.
9. We will want an update of the plan and I hope that this plan is implemented.



10. Excellent.

The following written comment were provided by the parents and **their concern over school safety and security:**

1. More security.
2. The school needs more security.

**Other comments and concerns:**

1. I hope the school gets better.
2. More parent meeting/chats.
3. Take into account the students with special needs.
4. We need to develop that are highly proficient with more workshops for parents if it is that teachers don't have the time to reach every student due to overcrowding. We can help our kids through workshops.
5. It looks like the school is better than in past years.

<b>4. School Turnaround: School Plan Priorities</b>	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the top priorities for the school to improve student achievement.	4	21	36	15
The writing team clearly demonstrated that they know where the school is now and what needs to be done to get to the school of the future where all students are high achievers.	3	22	31	20
The writing team identified various strategies that will be used to ensure the success of students.	2	19	34	21
The writing team identified support that is needed for their faculty and staff to turnaround the school.	2	20	32	21
<b>TOTALS PER COLUMN</b>	11	82	133	77

The following are comments and concerns that **express the parents feelings towards the plan, its pros and cons and their confidence over the plan being implemented:**

1. The area that the school is located in was not fully addresses in the presentation. It doesn't seem that it was considered fully during the planning process.
2. I like this plan and I would like for this plan to be implemented at Bret Harte.
3. Perfect. This is the school's future and the students and parents will be a part of it.
4. How can you create opportunities for group workshops in which the community, families, students, and staff can break down barriers by relating to one another and staying on a common goal (unity)?
5. The plan explains how it plans to raise the proficiency rates.
6. We need qualified teachers, more security, and tutoring programs after school.
7. I feel satisfied about the info that was presented.
8. I want to this plan be put into practice.
9. I like this plan because we need more counselors and psychologist to help out with the bullying



between students.

10. Follow through with the plan.

11. Congratulations. This is a very good plan and I hope that it's implemented.

**Other comments and concerns:**

1. What about books? Kids need books to learn how to read better instead of having computers read to them.
2. The school schedule and the workload of the students need to be reformed. I think that the students need to work harder and need to be kept bus outside of the classroom with more homework in order for them to be adequately prepared to succeed in college.
3. I believe that all of the staff should be equipped with the right tools and maybe should think about maybe having extra help as far as kids (T.As/Service students) to help the students in the classroom.