



Excellence All Day Every Day

## PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT

### PRESS RELEASE

March 2022

The Pine Bluff School District (PBSD) recently asked for input from community members via a short survey to inform their planning for the future of education in the district. Over 500 stakeholders of the district responded.

The survey asked students, parents, staff members, and other community members to weigh in on what they value about PBSD and what they wish would change. Hearing from this wide range of people helps PBSD develop a responsive plan to provide the best possible services for students. PBSD's goal is to create a hub of excellence and learning for the entire Pine Bluff community. This survey is the first opportunity of many in the strategic planning process for ALL stakeholders to have their voices, ideas, and experiences considered as the plan takes shape. The district will reach back out to the community to provide additional input in the spring, including the opportunity to participate in focus groups or open community forums.

PBSD leaders have analyzed the survey responses and found a variety of strong trends among the data. When asked "What is something about PBSD that makes you proud and why?", survey respondents most frequently mentioned that they are proud of PBSD's caring staff, being PBSD alumni, the sense of community in the district, the strong athletic and musical programs, and PBSD's rich history. However, many other survey respondents found it difficult to identify anything they were proud of in the district.

When asked "If you had a magic wand, what is something about the Pine Bluff School District that you would change and why?", respondents cited multiple opportunities for improvement. Most frequently, respondents noted a desire to enhance facilities, increase safety in and around schools, improve school disciplinary practices, and increase the capacity of school and district leadership. Many respondents also noted that teachers need more resources and professional support to be successful.

Survey respondents were also asked to choose words and ideas that would represent their hopes for PBSD's future. Safe, successful, organized, improved, well-resourced, and set high expectations for students rose to the top as the most important aspirations for the district.

PBSD leaders, students, and staff, along with the Community Advisory Committee, will continue to review the collected data to shape the vision, goals, and values of the strategic plan. The information will help PBSD to begin to identify priorities and develop strategies to realize these aspirations. Interested community members should stay tuned to the [PBSD Facebook page](#) and [district website](#) for information on participating in the upcoming focus groups later this spring.