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Media Advisory

Hillsboro School District Seeks Community Input

The District partners with Thoughtexchange to encourage a broad-based community dialogue about schools

October 3, 2014, Hillsboro, OR – Hillsboro School District has partnered with a company named Thoughtexchange to gather community feedback about its schools.

The process is three-fold, with patrons first being invited to share their thoughts on three key questions. The second step involves patrons viewing a subset of the thoughts submitted by other participants and indicating those that best reflect their own views and priorities. The third step is where the top themes that emerged through the process are shared publicly.

Each school will run its own unique process with staff and parents of students at that school; there will also be a district-level process for staff and patrons who are not connected with a particular school. In addition, middle and high school teachers will have the opportunity to facilitate student participation, if they so choose.

The process is based on the “wisdom of crowds” philosophy, which holds that the insights generated by a large group of diverse individuals are the best and most accurate, provided people’s thinking is done independently. It is the District’s hope that the process will be simple and quick, yet meaningful enough to engage a majority of the community and result in actionable feedback for school and district improvement.

The first process will begin on Monday, October 6, and will ask participants what’s working well, what could be improved, and what other feedback or ideas they may have. Responses will be accepted through Wednesday, October 15. Invitation e-mails will be sent to all staff, parents and other patrons for whom the District has e-mails. People may receive more than one invitation if they have a connection with more than one school. In that case, they are welcome to participate in just one process or in all for which they wish to provide feedback. A self-register link will be provided on the District’s [website](#) for those who do not receive an e-mail.

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About Thoughtexchange: [Thoughtexchange](#) (formerly Thoughtstream) is an online consultation company headquartered in Rossland, British Columbia, with staff across BC and in Washington State and Oregon. Thoughtexchange has a patent pending “group insight platform” and consulting services to support large scale online consultations in school districts, health organizations and businesses. They are the only technology company with an online process that allows participants to share answers to open ended questions, learn from one another and discover what matters most to the group as a whole.

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