

MINUTES

Math & Science Academy Merger Committee

Thursday, April 12, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.
Room 2A/Virtual

1. Call to Order: 4:15 p.m. (Maggie Burggraaff)
2. Roll Call of Members:

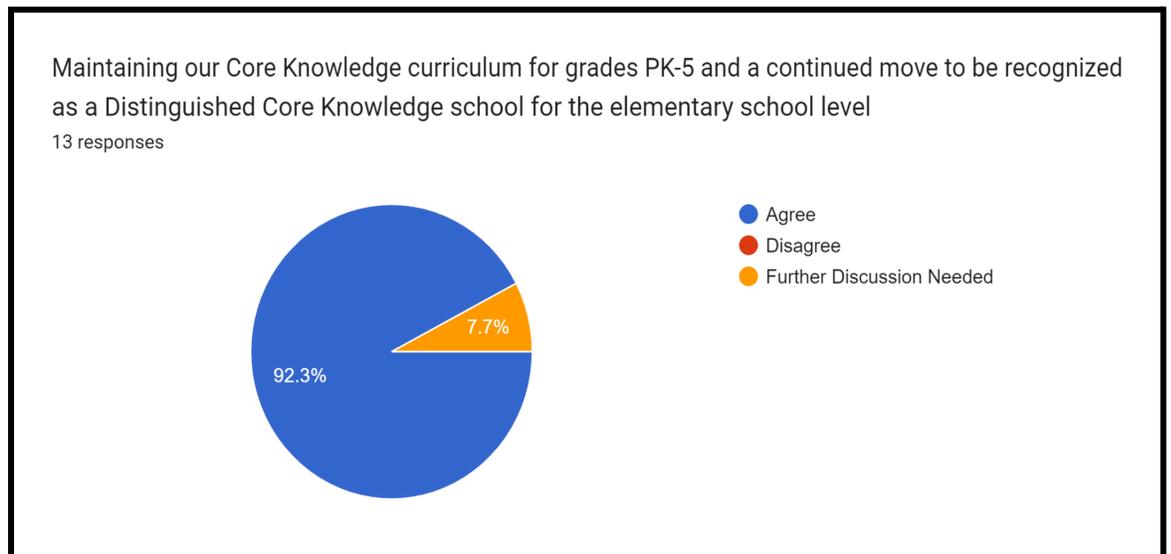
Maggie Burggraaff, ~~Caroline Maddux~~, David Johnston, Diane Thiegis, Heather Krisko, Janice Erickson, Jamie Brodd, Jennifer Heydt-Nelson, Justin Gehring, Kate Hinton, Kristin Walters, Leigh Ann Ahmad, Noah Yehalashet, Steve Hoemann, Randy Vetch, Surender Maddela, Teresa Ward, Mary Yapp

3. New Business -
 - a. Discussion of WLA Critical Importance/Non-Negotiables
WLA Critical Importance/Non-Negotiables (see attachment) - Group filled out this form to aid in discussion which contained WLA's non-negotiables.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjK-Y0_ccOVNIZS-edayVlelQQxuqGN7GMqbNzysnMPxv6g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&fir=0

Survey Results will be presented without names to the BOD.

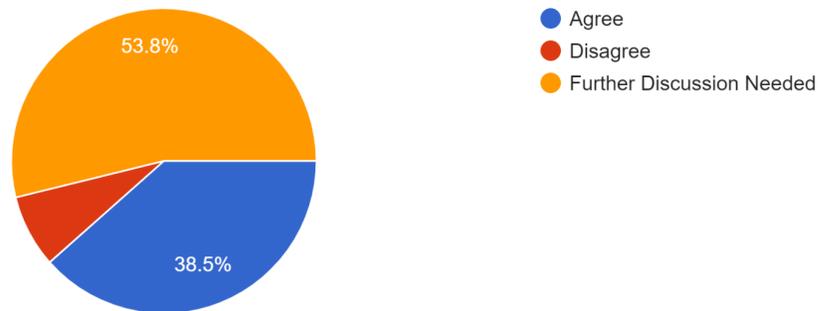
Discussion:



- Maintaining Core Knowledge K-5: A question about how it will best strength the math and science focus.

Maintaining a balanced curriculum that includes the Core Knowledge humanities sequence through 8 th grade, in addition to the science and math curri... with the curriculum being utilized at bot schools.)

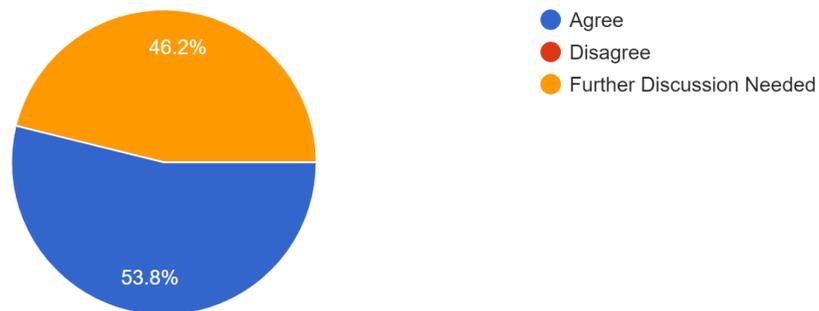
13 responses



- Maintaining a balanced curriculum at 6-8 - MSA's 6-12 curriculum should be the primary curriculum, but we are always adding to our curriculum, and so balancing it core knowledge should be possible. 6-8 needs to primarily be math and science for marketing purposes, and to maintain our success at higher levels. A collaboration should take place to merge the two.

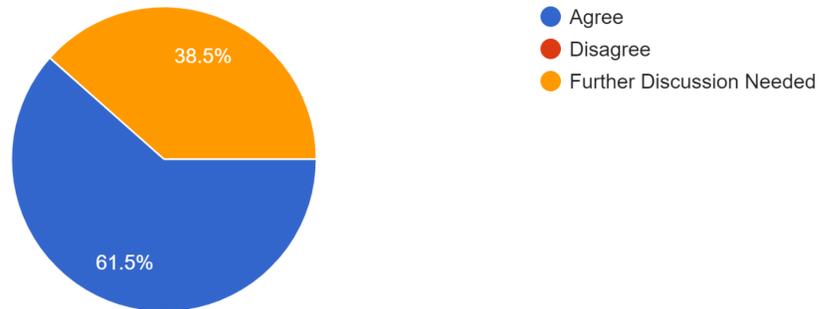
Maintaining a rigorous curriculum with homework expectations that are reasonable for active families

13 responses



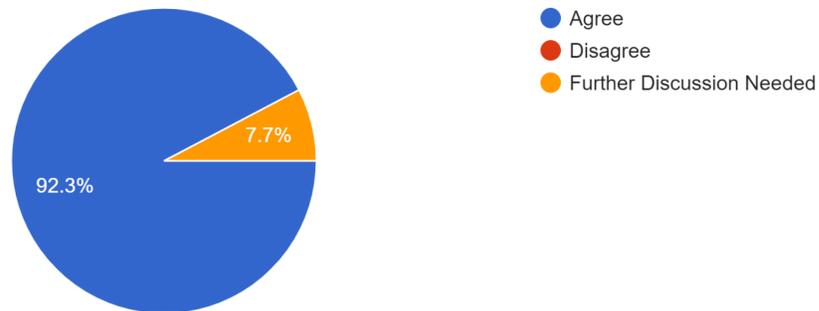
- Maintaining rigorous curriculum: Both parties will need to come together on what "reasonable" means for each grade level. Elementary vs. High school "reasonableness" is different. It's subjective and developmental at each grade. This will need to be quantified if they want limits as a non-negotiable. MSA has it's current expectations in the student handbook.

Maintaining our Leadership program, which includes aspects of service learning, in grades PK-12
13 responses



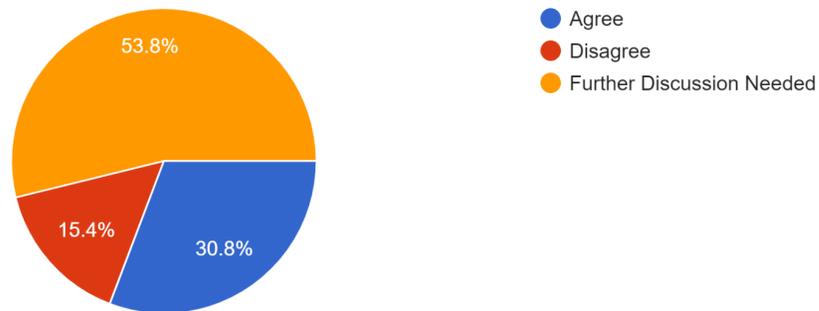
- Maintaining Leadership program: MSA does character strong in grades 6-12 which is the same as WLA. We would like to know more about what this would look like at the higher grades.

Maintaining small class sizes
13 responses



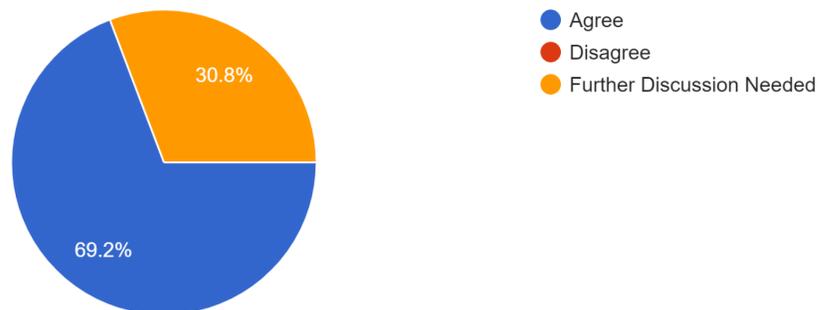
- Maintaining small class sizes: We are in agreement.

Continued campus for grades PK-8 at the 8089 Globe Drive location, with a high facility built or remodeled for a high school campus at a second location. High quality facilities for students in grades PK-12
13 responses



- Continued PK-8 at 8089: Concerns about the size of the 8089 campus for PK to 8. Middle school and high school should be kept close together if possible. Would be easier to maintain the curriculum if the middle school is in the same location as the high school. Split middle school campuses also introduce other problems with staffing and curriculum. Scheduling may also be a concern. Leaving K-5 at WLA long term is not an immediate concern. We need a joint facilities task force to figure out what would be best for a merged school. This would be a further discussion on what makes the most sense for all students. This may take phases as the schools grow and renovate.

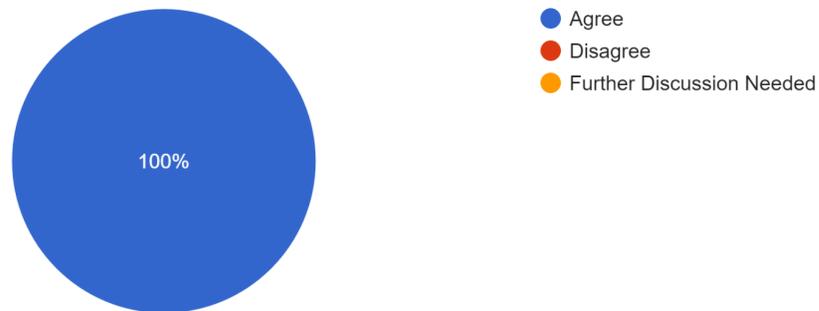
Continued employment agreements with our current staff members, which are not cut due to a merger
13 responses



- Employment Agreements: We agree that no one should have to lose their job as a result of the merger. Some jobs may need to take adjusted roles as we grow. Questions about the compatibility of the employment agreements may also be a question.

Continued celebration of our diverse learners, with curriculum, programs, and activities that actively promote the inclusion of all learners

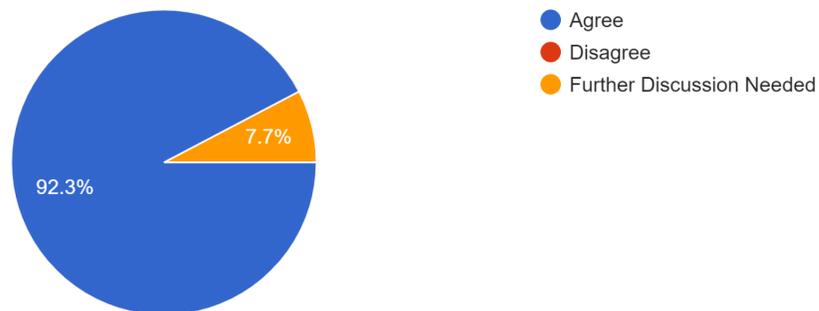
13 responses



- Continued Celebration: All agree

Quality and comprehensive programming for our special education, 504, remedial, and English Learner students in order that every student will have the support they need to thrive

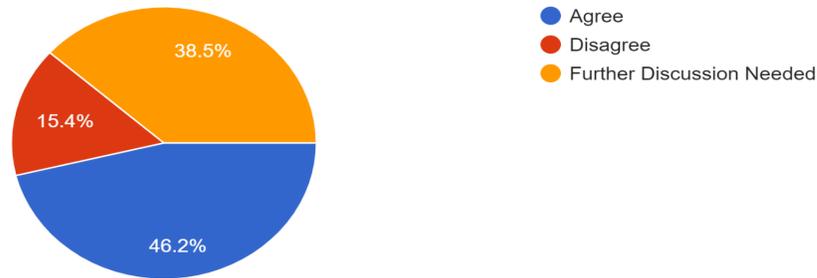
13 responses



- Quality and comprehensive programming is in agreement. We need to work together to ensure a discussion happens because the perceptions may not be inline.

Maintaining the WLA identity and school culture by celebrating families from diverse backgrounds and ensuring that all our learners thrive. Furthermore...e all work together to build well-rounded graduates

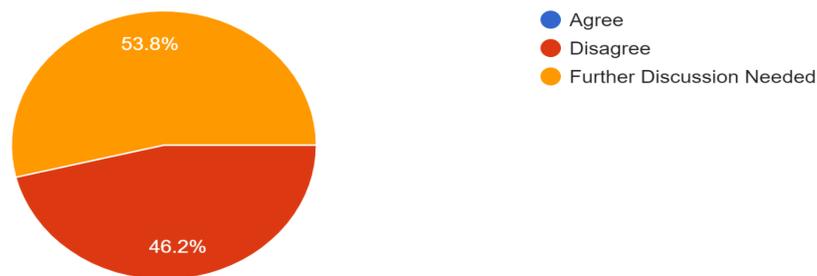
13 responses



- What does maintaining the identity mean? K-5 identity makes WLA unique, and 6-12 identity makes MSA unique. We are not opposed to adding service learning to the high school, but we would hope you would be willing to add math and science to K-5. Though, if you are one school, you are one school. What that culture looks like in the Elementary is different than Secondary. Some students may need to adjust based on being housed in a K-8 building as opposed to a 6-12 building. What a difference a name can make. Changes to culture can be difficult. Identity and culture includes accreditations and mascots. If each individual school were to expand they can keep individual identities. A merge means you create a new identity.

PK-8 students remain in uniforms, with considerations for up to grade 10 (modified uniforms for grades 6 and above)

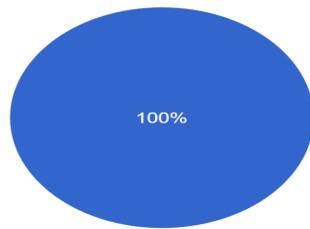
13 responses



- Uniforms K-5 is fine. We would need to look at marketability if we begin to require uniforms. How many families would we lose? If our location is 6-12, how would that affect 6-8? Students at MSA have their own unique identities. What would happen in a mixed grade class. We would want to survey our families and students on this issue.

No current or pending litigation

13 responses

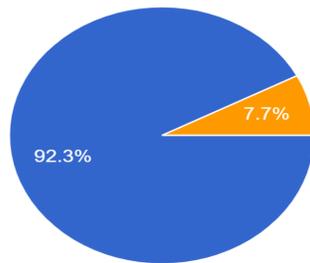


- Agree
- Disagree
- Further Discussion Needed

- Agreement no litigation on both sides.

A combined "transition" board that includes members from both MSA and WLA

13 responses

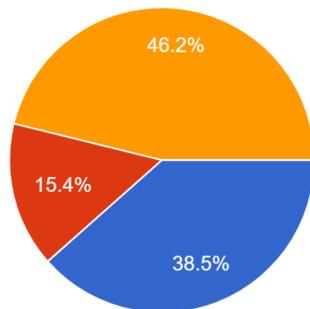


- Agree
- Disagree
- Further Discussion Needed

- How does a transition BOD look? What are those numbers? Would the authorizer have input on this as well? Both schools should have equal representation.

Be willing (just as WLA is willing) to be absorbed by the other school if the bondholders and/or lawyer(s) determine such to be the best course of... the bondholders and/or lawyer(s) recommend such

13 responses



- Agree
- Disagree
- Further Discussion Needed

- There are a lot of factors to consider: MSHSL, accreditation, school rankings, and marketability, too.

Ran out of time to discuss b and c.

TABLED:

- b. Recommendations for MSA Non-Negotiables
 - c. **(If time-or-schedule a new meeting time)**
 - Merger Brief Discussion
 - Merger Brief
 - Assumptions (see attachment)
4. Next Meeting (TBD)
Maggie will send out a Doodle to schedule the next meeting.
5. Adjournment 6:05 p.m.