

Exchange Summary

Peter Smith, Jamesville-Dewitt Central School District
November 28, 2022

What is going well in terms of our district communication and where are our opportunities to improve?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



195
Participants



125
Thoughts



3,922
Ratings



PARTICIPATION


Breakdown of Participation



What best describes your role in our school community?



185
Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
6%	(12)	Community member (non-parent or guardian)
71%	(133)	Parent/Guardian of a Jamesville-DeWitt student
3%	(7)	Current Jamesville-DeWitt High School student
21%	(40)	Jamesville-DeWitt staff member
0%	(1)	Administrator/Other



PARTICIPATION


Breakdown of Participation



What J-D school building are you associated with?



184
Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i>
45%	(84)	J-D High School
36%	(67)	J-D Middle School
11%	(21)	Jamesville Elementary School
14%	(27)	Moses DeWitt Elementary School
12%	(23)	Tecumseh Elementary School
7%	(13)	I am not associated with a J-D school building (community member)



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Where do you go to find information about the district and its schools?



%		Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i>
11%	(20)	Local news media
25%	(45)	Board of Education meetings
73%	(133)	District website (jamesvilledewitt.org)
32%	(59)	District newsletters/publications
27%	(49)	District social media (facebook.com/jamesvilledewittschools)
12%	(22)	Non-district social media
60%	(108)	ParentSquare
43%	(79)	Friends and acquaintances



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



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THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Instead of Thought Exchange, district leaders should create surveys with specific questions to which families can respond. Results could then be shared with the community with information in response. This platform allows people to vent, but does it change anything?

4.2  (50 )
Ranked #1 of 125

The new website is not user friendly for finding teacher info You no longer can see which teachers work at which buildings and cannot find contact information for any teachers

4.1  (49 )
Ranked #2 of 125

This Thought Exchange platform has been used multiple times and it does not seem that JD shares any insights after "thoughts" are collected The platform itself is limiting due to character counts, and it is not clear what algorithms make certain "thoughts" appear more than others.

4.1  (48 )
Ranked #3 of 125

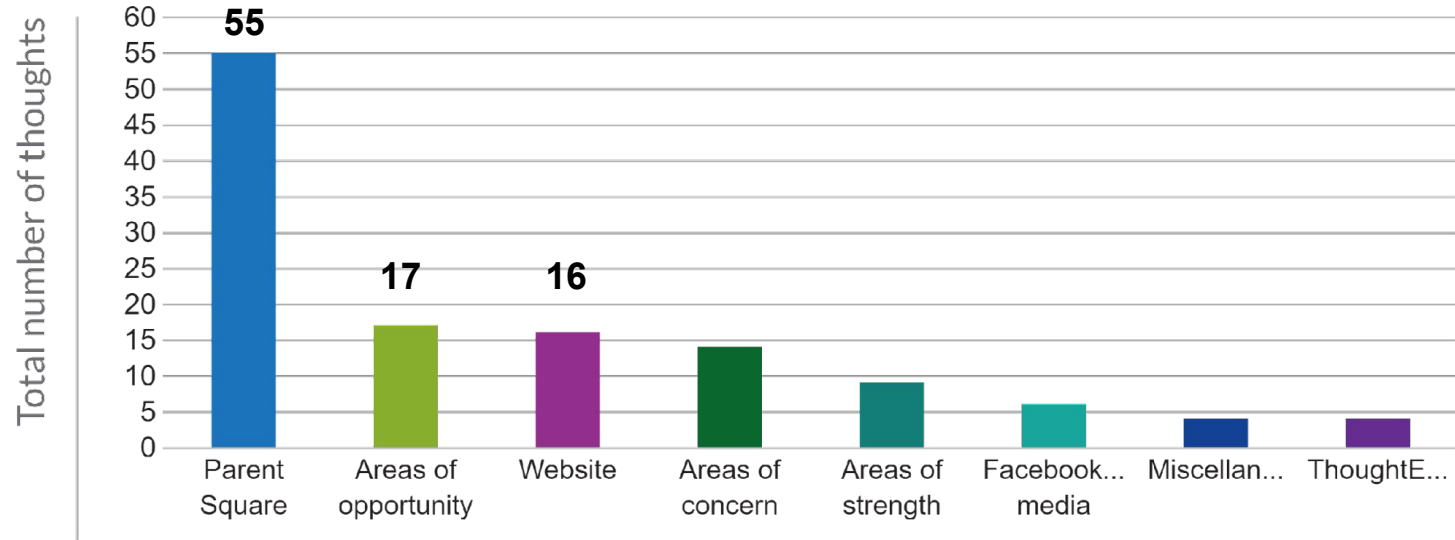
Board recordings essential. JD refused to do them for so long. Board needs to make sure recordings continue.

4.1  (23 )
Ranked #4 of 125



J-D THEMES

Top Themes by total thoughts





THOUGHTS ThoughtExchange



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4.2  (50 )

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4.1  (48 )

ThoughtExchange needs a way to respond to comment with "not applicable" or "skip". Else, a person has to give a star rating that skews results.

3.7  (24 )







We need to stop using ThoughtExchanges. Every single ThoughtExchange results in parents sharing hateful and harmful comments, which is not productive at all.

3.4  (50 )



THOUGHTS Website









- The new website is not user friendly for finding teacher info** You no longer can see which teachers work at which buildings and cannot find contact information for any teachers 4.1  (49 )
- Our website needs work— go look at another districts (Marcellus, for example)... ours is not intuitive** You have to hunt for things... 4.0  (50 )
- The new website is not very easy to navigate** Maybe you can list staff under each school so people can email them directly instead of having to search their name 4.0  (22 )



THOUGHTS

Areas of concern



- Athletic communications are nonexistent. I found out about the "Dr. Sleep" presentation bc I was on an old softball email list. No announcement from** the district until the day of the event. We could not attend. 4.0  (37 )
- Need more communication at the middle school level.** At the middle school there is not as much communication with events and after school. I have to rely on my child to tell me anything when she knows. 3.9  (15 )
- The district is often unresponsive to serious concerns.** Parents and staff have shared significant safety concerns with admin & board members and have been ignored. 3.8  (45 )



THOUGHTS

Areas of opportunity



District communication goes well when it's from one perspective. Not a lot of support to those who are free thinkers and question decisions. All voices should be heard, from both sides of any decision or discussion.

4.0  (46 )

Coaches need communication skills and tools

4.0  (19 )

Please include congrats in periodic school/district msgs to parents. Nice to hear about student/staff accolades (i.e. Boys varsity vball won States -- a HUGE accomplishment for JD/section 3).

3.8  (27 )

More emphasis on music and arts program. Hard to find information on concert dates. Very delayed communication. Music and arts is just as important as sports program.

3.7  (19 )



THOUGHTS

Facebook/Social media



The district recognizes the importance of frequent and timely communication. It is important for the district to communicate its message in advance of other non-district communication outlets (eg social media, the news)

3.7  (19 )

I do not feel like I know where to find information. I just learned that there was a facebook page. Often feel out of the loop

3.7  (13 )

Facebook pages are often very useful for parents like me who love both updates and pictures/videos It's important for me to be directly involved in my child's school life, even if I don't have the ability to volunteer or be a class helper.

3.3  (49 )



THOUGHTS

Parent Square



I really like parent square and also like when teachers communicate with us via email

Communication is a key to solve any issues so it's so important to have a good and fast way for communication

3.8  (48 )

Parent square is great for urgent messages, but I would prefer to get non-urgent communications in a different manner, like email. Currently being bombarded with text, email, parent square, and Schooltool notifications for three children. It's overwhelming.

3.8  (46 )

I appreciate parent square. It's nice to have a space to directly communicate with teachers.

3.8  (19 )

Positive experience with ParentSquare Current timely information available









3.8  (19 )



THOUGHTS

Areas of strength



- Board recordings essential. JD refused to do them for so long.** Board needs to make sure recordings continue. 4.1  (23 )
- We are new to the district. So far, we appreciate the amount of communication.** Communication is important to pass along important information. 3.5  (41 )
- taking opportunities to improve and try new things** shows you care 3.5  (27 )
- Parents and teachers relationships and their communication** 3.5  (14 )



WRAP UP Next Steps



Thanks for participating

We'll be carefully considering what we learned and sharing our actions back with you.