Schoolwide Information Sharing

The school leadership team can use these questions in a conversation with students, teachers, and families. These questions bring opportunities for more collaboration, clearer communication, and improved outcomes, such as teacher retention and student outcomes. The questions can identify focus areas where a root cause analysis can identify an action plan. The leader should choose or adjust questions as they see fit for their community.

Address these questions in dialogue with teachers, families, and students.

Decision Making: How involved are teachers in making decisions about curricula, school policies, or budget allocation?

Teacher Morale: In your experience, what factors contribute most to high or low teacher morale at this school? What data or evidence do you have to support this?

Family Involvement: How would you describe the typical level of family involvement at this school? Include any established structures for parent-teacher communication beyond individual conferences. How do families want to be involved? How do you know?

Unions and Advocacy: Is there a strong teachers' union presence at this school, and how does it advocate for teachers' rights and interests? What opportunities are there for partnership and collaboration?

Budget Priorities: Based on your observations of the budget, where does the school seem to prioritize its spending? Are there any ongoing debates about resource allocation? If the budget was public, what would the public perceive the school's priorities to be? Does that align with the priorities?

Student Voice: In what ways, if any, do students have a voice in shaping school policies or activities? At what level of involvement are these ways, for example, participatory (just gathering insights from a survey) or through collaboration structures (like design meetings with students present)?

Extracurricular Dynamics: Are there any rivalries or power struggles between different departments or extracurricular activities? Do all extracurriculars get the same level of support and resources? If not, why?

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Testing and Accountability: Are standardized tests the only form of accountability? What other forms of accountability are present at the school? If standardized tests are the only form of accountability, what does that communicate to the school community? What kinds of stress does this bring?

Community Relationships: How does the school administration or staff cultivate relationships with the surrounding community and local businesses? What community organizations are involved at the school? How or why are they involved?

Controversial Issues: Can you share an example of a recent controversial issue that arose within the school and how it was handled by the administration or school staff? Who was involved? Ideally, how would controversial issues be handled by the school community? What resources or supports are needed to make that happen?

Source: Adapted from Google. (2024, January 26). School stakeholder dialogue questions *[Generative AI chat]. Gemini Model. https://gemini.google.com /share/1793683ac2d6*