

Topics of Concern  
(collected from small group discussions)

Academic Programs:

Many thought we should restore some of the programs that have been cut back by budget tightening/RSU's budgeting system

- Compare what we used to have with what we have now (lost Library and PE and Health and ???)
- Prioritize: which is most urgent to restore? (some thought PE/Health and Library)
- Use volunteers?

High School Choice:

Widespread if not unanimous support for the right to choose where to send our high school students.

- Specific interest in continuing to support MDIHS as a choice. Pursue a longer term contract? Ask them to ensure they will keep any student through the full four years.
- RSU administration and Board have not supported any choice that will cost more than the EHS/SMHS tuition; some may not want ANY RSU students to be tuitioned out. How do we sell our needs to them? Seek legal advice?

Four-Year-Old Program

Mixed reactions to this idea.

- "If we do it, we really need to do it well!" A program for four-year-olds is not just a mini-kindergarten or mini-first grade.
- Is it necessary? Would we duplicate HeadStart and preschools?
- It would be "free" and convenient for Lamoine parents
- Would the RSU pay for it?
- Agreed we should explore this.

Control/Responsibility for our Own School

General concern that we have lost a lot of this. And that it's important for citizens and our educators to make choices that are most appropriate for our students and town. The RSU has written a lot of one-size-fits-all policies; with budget cutbacks, Lamoine has less flexibility and fewer resources to "do what we consider is best for our kids and town".

- Some think we should explore options to leave the RSU; where and how would we obtain Central Office services?

- Withdrawal from an RSU will be difficult (J. Morren says it takes a 2/3 vote of the town)
- Some see “a lot of advantages” in the RSU from “economies of scale”; Others wondered where these were.
- It’s too early to tell if RSU is helping or hurting the quality of education at LCS.

#### Paying for our Schools

School-related taxation is a growing burden on many of our citizens. The property tax system “is killing us”.

#### Kudos for LCS!

“This school is doing a great job!”

- Some saw the RSU contributing to this.
- Others saw it as an obstacle
- Having Ann as principal – and present “and smiling” every day – has been a big plus !