

Joint School Board/Board of Aldermen Meeting

November 2, 2020

6:00 pm – City Hall Meeting Room

***This meeting will also be available via ZOOM – for invitation, contact Linda Drummond at 816.532.3897.**

****Please note, per Clay County recommendations, social distancing will be observed and masks will be required of all attendees.**

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. School District Update**
 - a. Bond Issue Project Update
 - b. COVID Update
 - 3. City Update**
 - a. Marketplace
 - b. Main Street Trail
 - c. Downtown Streetscape
 - d. Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - 4. MCC Discussions**
 - 5. City of Smithville Comprehensive Plan Update - Education Pillar**

(A draft of the plan may be found at the link below. Items specifically relating to education may be found in sections 3.5 and 7.5, which are attached to this agenda.)

<https://lab.future-iq.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Smithville-Comprehensive-Planning-2030-DRAFT.pdf>

Create educational cluster

 - a. Forge strong partnership between school and city
 - b. Create industry responsive educational pathways
 - c. Build a lifelong learning culture
 - d.
 - 6. Next Steps**
 - 7. Adjourn**

3.5 PILLAR: CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

3.5.1 IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

The quality of education is a defining feature of Smithville as a destination community. During the visioning process, the Benchmark Study highlighted how Smithville schools outperform on educational quality. Smithville ranks high as the 531st best high school in America among 17,245 high schools. (Source: U.S. News Best High School National Ranking) . Smithville R-II School District also holds the position of the 2nd best high school among others in Missouri. This ranking considers factors such as curriculum, academic proficiency, academic performance, and graduation rate. This is an outstanding performance and is reflected in the priority that residents place on the schools and education. In addition, community residents have repeatedly expressed an appetite for life-long learning and skill building.

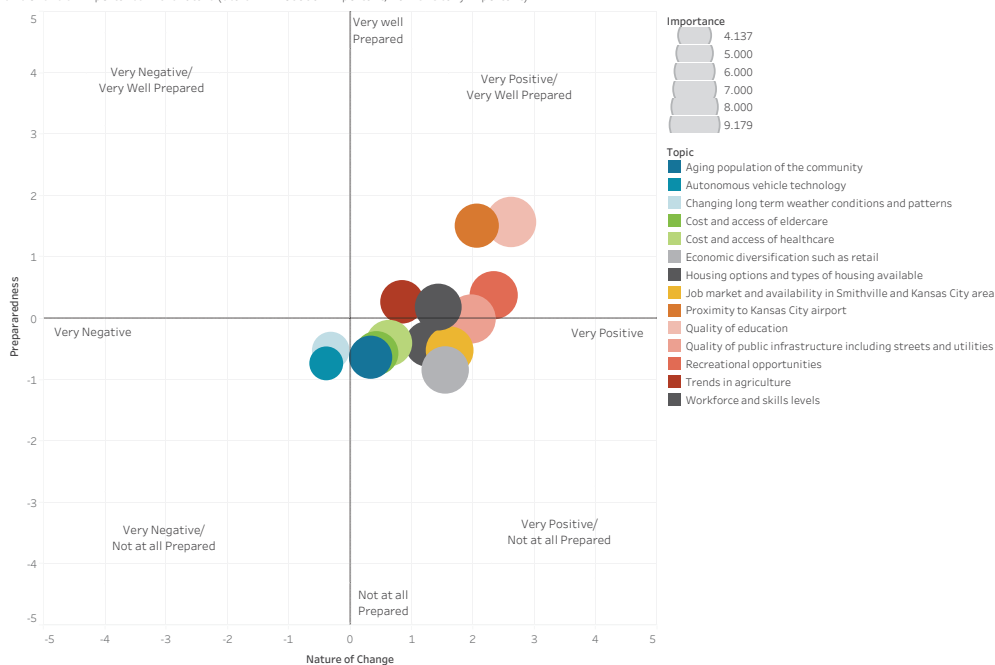
Increased early childhood and adult continuing education emerged during the comprehensive planning process as important missing elements in Smithville's educational offerings. This supports the community's desire to become one that supports a life-long learning culture.

Key Factors - Average Data

X-axis - Nature of change (Scale: -5 = Very negative; +5 = Very positive)

Y-axis - Preparedness for change (Scale: -5 = Not at all prepared; +5 = Very well prepared)

Size of circle - Importance in the future (Scale: 1 = Not at all important; 10 = Critically important)



"Taking care of early childhood development centers and educational opportunities are very important. This is because these are the future generations that will be living in Smithville. We need to prioritize them because they will be leading our town and people in the future."

- Comprehensive Plan Survey Respondent



DataInsight

DATA INSIGHTS:

- Over 80% of community vision survey respondents said that Quality of Education was very or critically important to the future of Smithville.
- The vast majority of survey participants considered that Smithville would benefit from future changes in education and was very well positioned to take advantage of such changes.

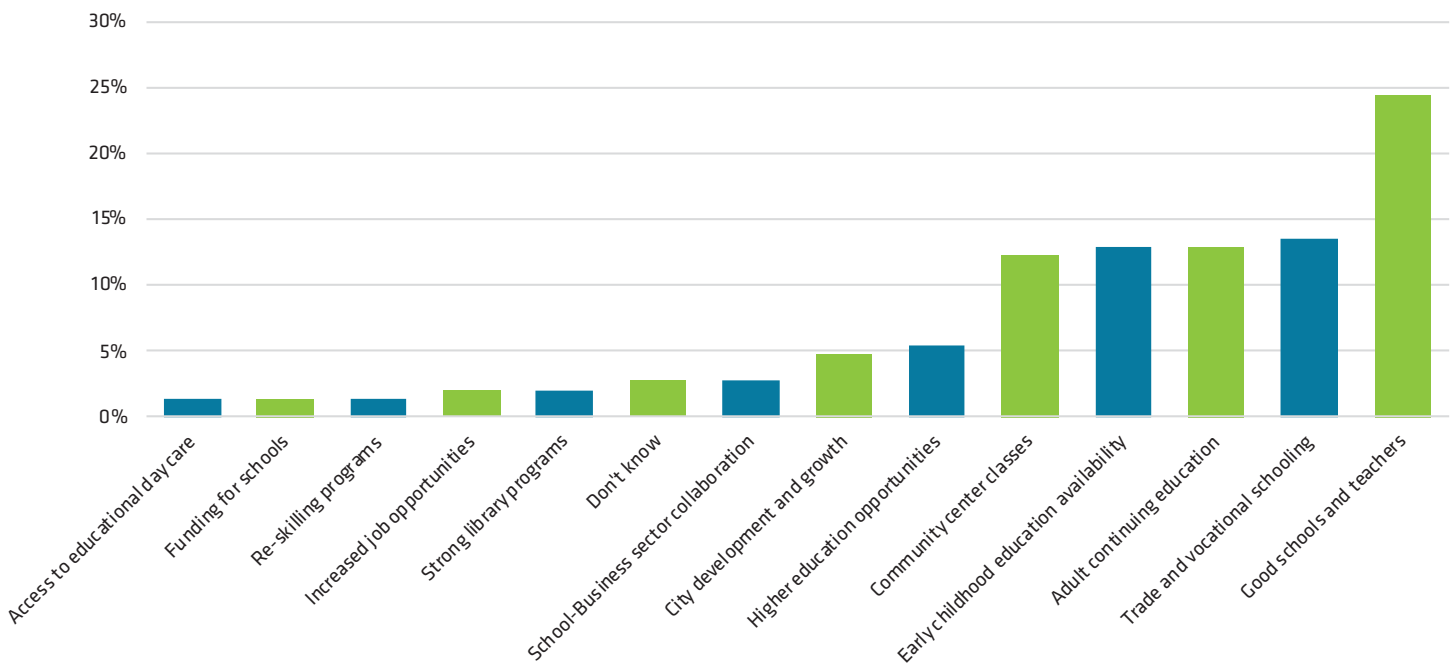
3.5.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

During the visioning process, Smithville community stakeholders identified the following key strategic aspirational goals for Continued Commitment to Education:

- Create educational cluster
- Forge strong partnership between School and City
- Create industry responsive educational pathways
- Build a lifelong learning culture

The partnership between the schools and the City is already strong and has been enhanced by now regular joint Board meetings. These two entities are significant custodians and influencers of the community's future, and their aligned efforts have the potential to amplify positive outcomes for the community.

What do you consider to be important elements to building out a lifelong learning culture in Smithville?



Increased early childhood and adult continuing education emerged during the comprehensive planning process as important missing elements in Smithville's educational offerings. This supports the community's desire to become a one that supports a life-long learning culture.



DataInsight

DATA INSIGHTS:

- Nearly 70% of community survey respondents felt it was very or critically important to have educational opportunities of all levels and types offered in Smithville locations.
- Access to quality day care emerged through the comprehensive planning process as a need not only to support adult education, but also adult health and wellbeing.

3.5.3 EMERGING TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Advancements in technology and changing demographics are macro trends that present both challenges and opportunities for education in Smithville. Exponential changes in technology provide new options for learning including online, remote and virtual learning. This has been especially important with the advent of COVID-19, exposing disparities in adequate broadband access across the nation for students and employees alike as they work from home.

Changes in technology also pose challenges to businesses and industry as they race to keep skilled workers up to speed. This has taken on a greater focus during the pandemic due to employment losses and the need for career changes. The school district, business community and other regional entities (Cities, Chambers, and school districts from northland communities) are currently in discussions with MCC to explore options such as internships, and classwork. Smithville's strong educational system and a tradition of collaborative public-private relationships provide opportunities for the community to develop innovative solutions to regional educational needs, from early childhood to reskilling programs for career development.

The strong partnership between the School District and the City provides a unique leadership opportunity for Smithville to expand its educational programming to provide lifetime learning options for its residents and the surrounding region.



"It's critical to provide as many types and outlets for education as possible. People need alternatives to normal channels of education. Different people learn in different ways and need different types of educational opportunities."

- Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Respondent



FutureInsight

FUTURE INSIGHTS:

- Many communities across the U.S. are moving to make city-wide broadband a utility available to all residents, public and private institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, accessibility to broadband became a necessary element to providing equity and inclusion for all students nationwide.
- A national trend is to expand school use to provide multipurpose functions within the community. Launch participants were supportive of using the high school after hours to accommodate lifelong learning training needs within the community.

3.5.4 PLANNING GOALS AND IMPLICATIONS

Education is a key part of the overall value proposition that Smithville offers. Building on the extraordinary success of the School District, the community now has the opportunity to expand the educational offering to a broader range of community members. This will be especially relevant for vocational training and adult learning.

In addition, the community should focus on connecting economic development to the emerging skills in students. In particular this makes the community attractive to technology-based companies, which have been identified as the ideal industrial type for parts of Smithville.

Smithville has the potential to increase its appeal to a wider range of people by expanding its educational offerings to include adult and life-long learning options.

Recommended Planning Goals for the next 10 years



"I say get the employers involved. Many employers say that students aren't prepared for the workforce, but don't do anything about it. I say have them invest time in the school programming to better fit their needs. Have teachers reward that effort by adjusting curriculum to include those skills."

- Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Respondent



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PLANNING IMPLICATIONS AND NEEDS:

- Identify suitable locations for additional education facilities such as a technical or vocational institution within the Hospital Bluff character area. Aim to link such facilities with existing schools and libraries.
- Identify potential tools to help attract and develop this type of career development facility.
- Explore community spaces that could be learning hubs for the community.
- Continue to include youth in planning work across the community.



7.5 CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Through the Comprehensive Planning Process, the educational pillar was addressed by a working group at the launch event in January 2020. As the Board of Alderman and the School Board have been engaged in regular joint meetings, it was considered unnecessary to establish a dedicated Task Force.

The education topic is a fascinating one in the context of Smithville, which has a successful and high performing school district. The broader interpretation of education can extend to lifelong learning and potentially tertiary educational opportunities. In the Comprehensive Plan this is addressed by the inclusion of a 169 South Employment Center Overlay, that could be attractive for facilities for higher education that provide substantial workforce development and training opportunities.

The Downtown Community Oasis area was identified as a possible site for future environmental education initiatives.

"Education is the foundation that will provide an individual the best chance at becoming a happy, contributing member of society."

- Comprehensive Plan Survey Respondent

Focus areas for education

The Smithville School District is focused on major facilities in the Hospital Bluff Character Area, and elementary school in the Northern Residential Character Area. Taking a broader view of education, and thinking of vocation opportunities and lifelong learning, then focus areas could extend to the Downtown Community Oasis and the 169 South Character Area.



Planning**Insight**









PLANNING INSIGHTS

- The continued collaboration and alignment between the School Board and the City Board of Aldermen is essential to ensure community funding and resources can be managed in an efficient manner.
- The broader view of education will help open the community to new opportunities such as employer-based training, community college opportunities and lifelong learning initiatives.









CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION PILLAR

NOTE: IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED AND REFINED AT THE NOVEMBER 2, JOINT MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN. DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST ARE ONGOING.









EU.1 Work with College system to bring higher education opportunity to Smithville

Action	Priority	Time Frame
EU.5.1 Work with Community College network  {MO College}  [Insert relevant resources and/tools.]	  	  



EU.2 Co-ordinate funding and planning activities between School and City

Action	Priority	Time Frame
EU.5.2 Boards continue to convene and align efforts  {Insert relevant players}  [Insert relevant resources and/tools.]	  	  

ED. 3 Developing strong connection between employers and educational institutions

Action	Priority	Time Frame
EU.5.1 Establish employer / educational partnership .  {Insert relevant players}  [Insert relevant resources and/tools.]	  	  

ED.4 Enhance community spaces as adult learning hubs

Action	Priority	Time Frame
EU.5.1 Build educational social infrastructure at library and key nodes  {Insert relevant players}  [Insert relevant resources and/tools.]	