



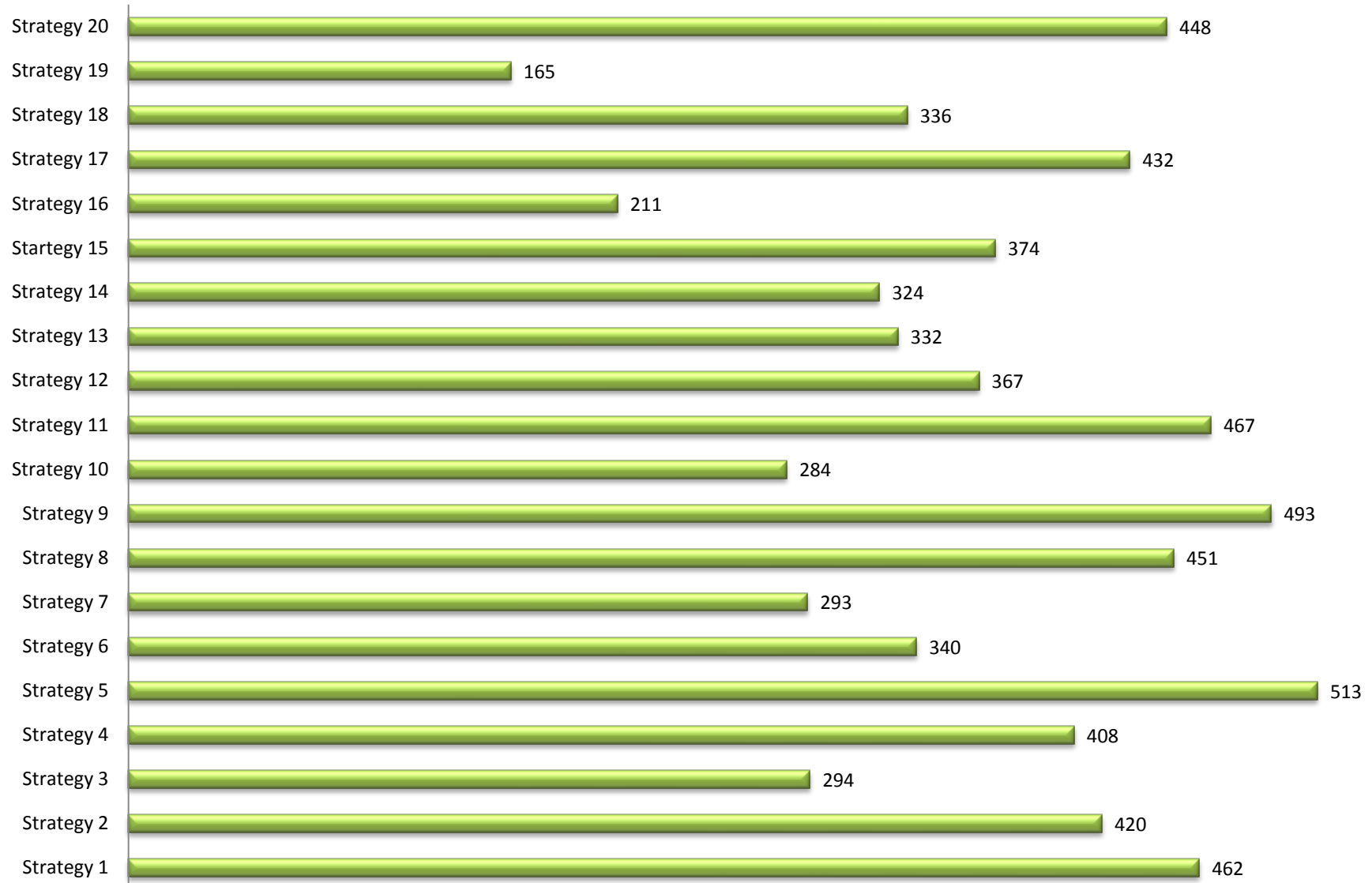
Wild Rose Public Schools

"Creating Powerful Learning Environments"

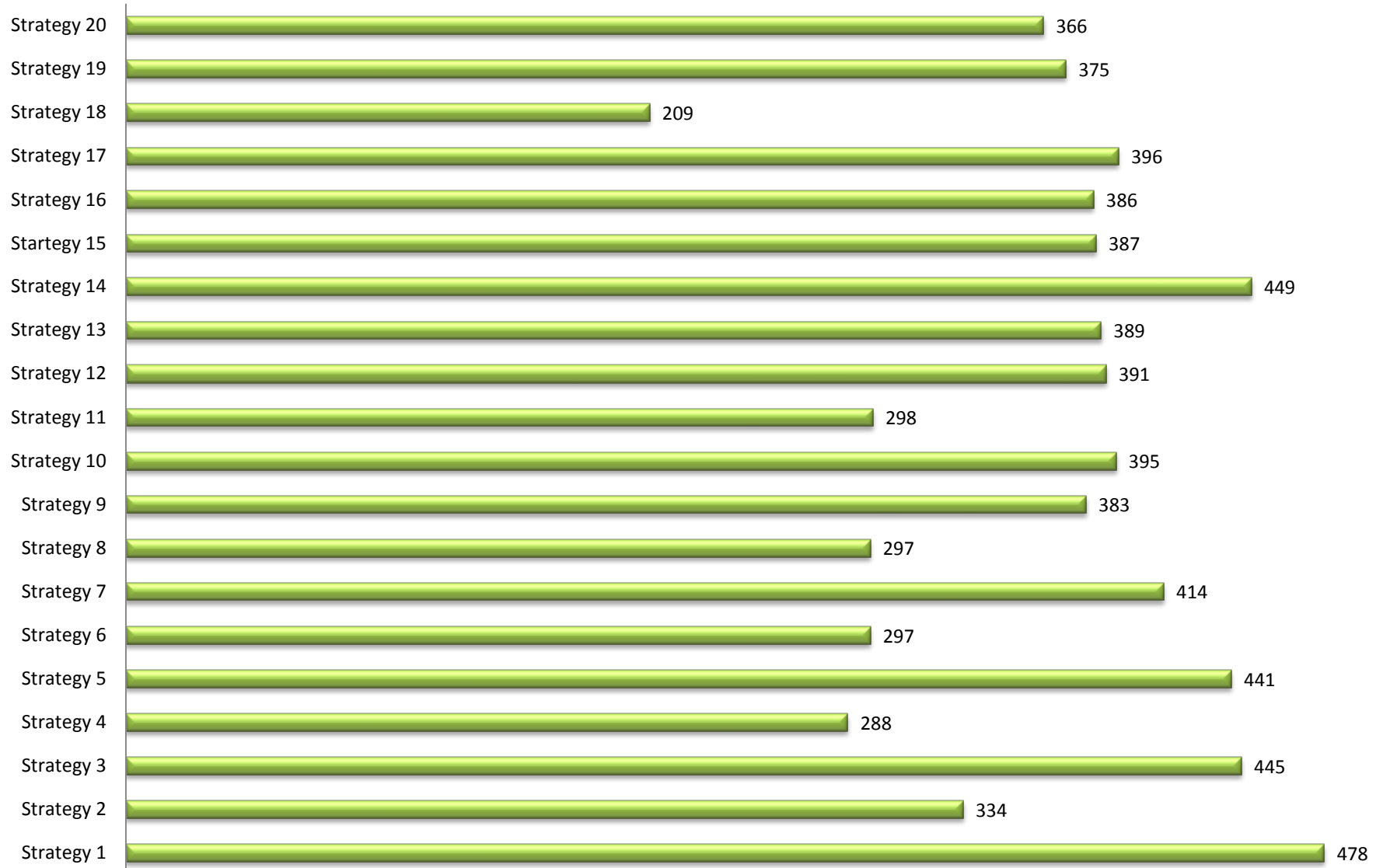
*1st Annual Inaugural
Wild Rose Public
Schools Town Hall
Meetings*



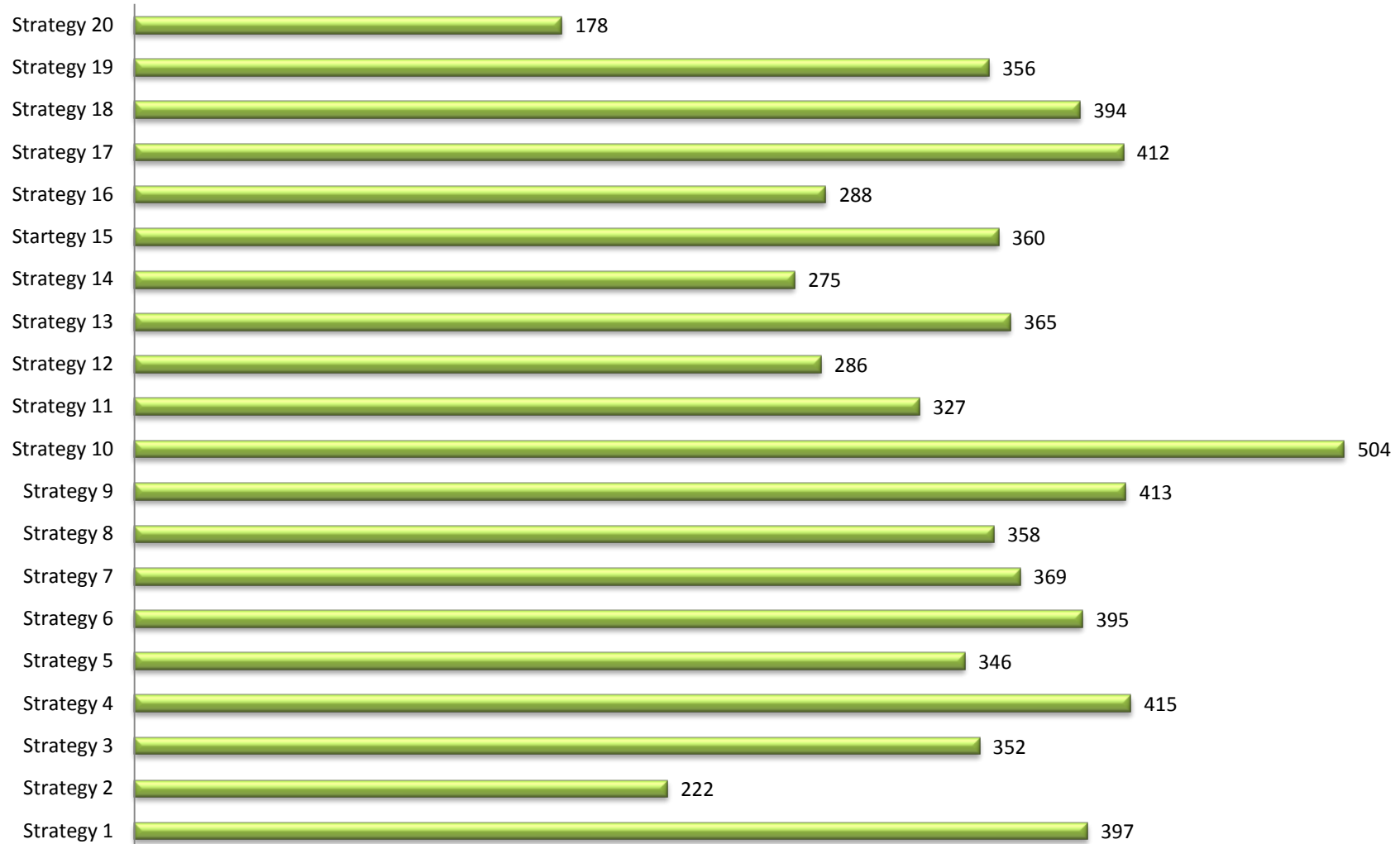
How do we build a climate of trust and effective communication? Rocky Mountain House



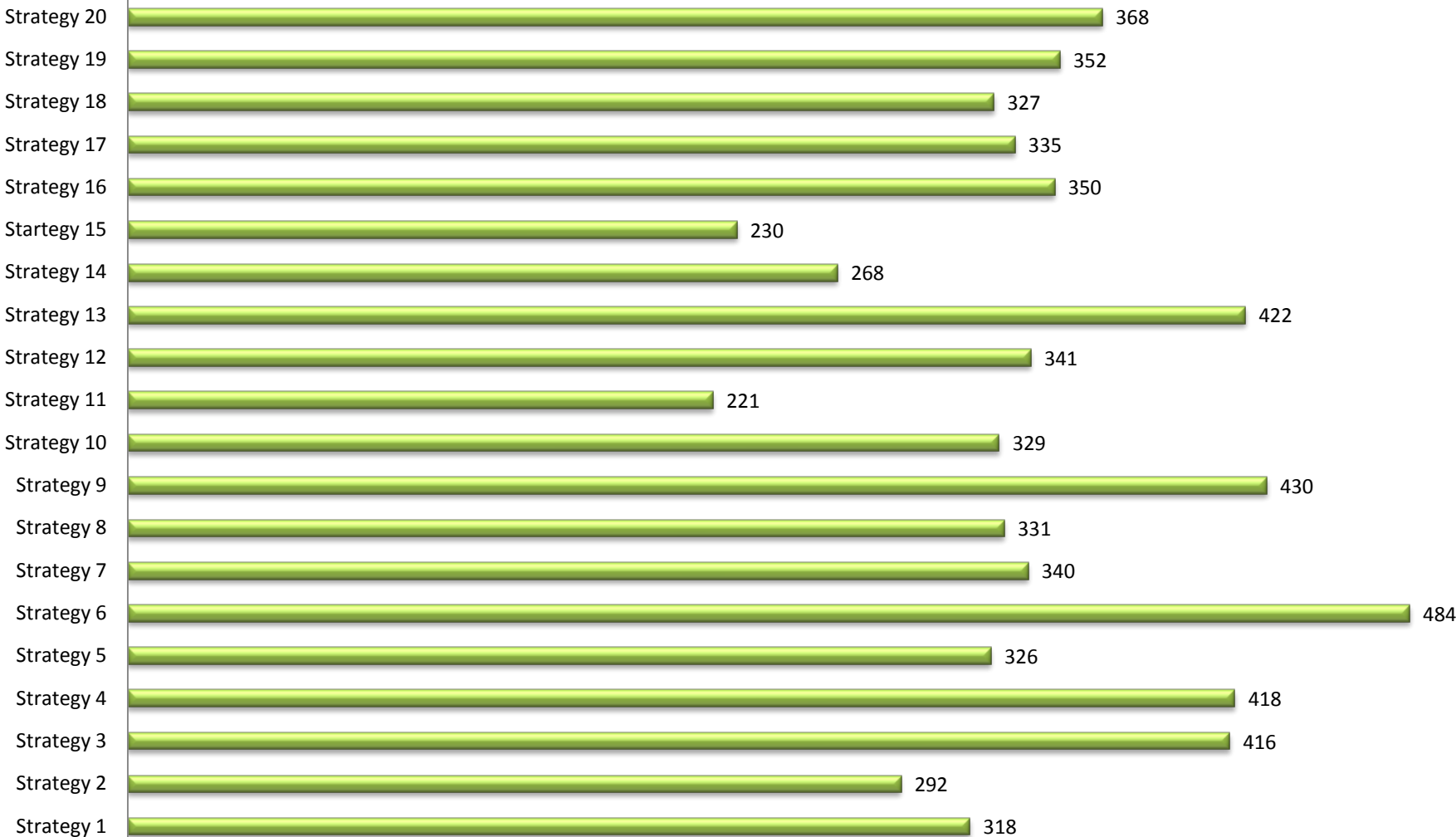
How do we build and support great teaching and excellent learning? Rocky Mountain House



How do we build a climate of trust and effective communication? Drayton Valley



How do we build and support great teaching and excellent learning? Drayton Valley



Town Hall Strategies

Topic 1 - How do we build and support great teaching and excellent learning?

Drayton Valley

1. Working with community - using facilities, involving community members - partnerships
2. Teacher collaboration across the division, using Professional Learning Community time between grade groups
3. Improve communication between home & school. Homework communication (web pages, email notification).
4. Maintaining smaller class sizes & use technology to reduce and maintain smaller class sizes.
5. Look at developmental readiness - realize that kids start to read at different ages
6. Create an effective mentorship program for new staff to attract and retain high quality teachers and support staff.
7. Career counseling starting throughout grades, rather than waiting until grade 12.
8. Community is the key. Job fairs and career prep to help community understand the importance of education, motivating students to keep their doors open.
9. Create a positive environment to attract, maintain and nurture quality employees. Be open to change and cooperation. Provide mentorship to new staff as well as continuing Professional Learning Communities.
10. Employ high quality teachers which include biannual evaluations, focussing on teacher growth.
11. Alter the school day to provide longer breaks for students: a minimum of 20 minutes for students to eat, balanced school year.
12. Parents, students, and other stakeholders realize their input into the education system is important. We are all involved in student learning. Awareness of the accountability pillar. Get this message out.
13. Hiring excellent staff (all areas): base hiring on student needs, provide those who are hiring with the skills to do that job.
14. Work between division and community on after-school programs to help improve student learning / achievement - should be a paid position.

15. Track all students (successful) to bring them back to act as mentors for other students.
Need not be University graduates.
16. Community and school awareness of nutrition and its effect on student learning.
17. Providing school-based leadership with the time and resources to lead.
18. Maximizing student and teacher time-on-task in a school day.
19. Allow more time and opportunity in core subjects to prepare students for transition to higher grades. Communicate changes in curriculum and programs effectively to parents (math).
20. Enhance programs and flexibility for at-risk students.

Rocky Mountain House

1. Reduce class sizes and address class composition.
2. Mentoring new teachers and balance number of students between newer and experienced teachers.
3. Ensuring that the needs of students who are not academically inclined are met – ie? RAP/ fine arts/ K & E etc.
4. Implement a two year mentoring program for teachers.
5. Student first objectives – administration serving students first.
6. Diversify learning routines, schedules and use more video conferencing.
7. Greater focus on issues surrounding attendance, taking a full course load in high school, address chronic lateness. Address this as a community – to have students take school seriously.
8. Offer programs to encourage communication – teacher webpages, marks available online.
9. Create a division wide direction for comprehensive school health; positive culture, active living, social supports, etc.
10. Group students flexibly within their grades, keeping class sizes small.
11. Broadening teaching concepts – have different ways for students to meet learning outcomes – peer teaching, video conferencing between schools.
12. Support goal setting for students at a young age in the hopes of increasing DIP participation rates and link to future life goals.
13. Encourage and promote professional development opportunities and increase funding for such.

14. Set a clear focus and stick with it for longer to make it culturally ingrained.
15. Increased evaluation of TAs and teachers and both level of administration for accountability.
16. Ensure that principals remain as educational leaders by spending time in classrooms rather than purely management.
17. Encourage and support greater involvement by the parents, add extra money for TAs and provide more support for teachers.
18. Limiting the criteria on international students so they are fully prepared to meet the needs of the English curriculum.
19. Improve the respect for education. More open involvement of parents in the educational process, student lead conferences, helping community understand the language of education.
20. More funding and support for differentiated instruction.

Topic 2 - How do we build a climate of trust and effective communication?

Drayton Valley

1. Improve two-way communication - find a variety of ways to dialogue with various stakeholders.
2. Lobby the province to review the process of election or appointment of board members to rebuild trust in the community.
3. Community to provide feedback after the plan is drafted.
4. Community as well as individual community members would like feedback from school division to show that they have been listened to. Feedback from the board about what issues are being addressed. Maintain website with ongoing / emergent issues: "Bobbi's Blog".
5. Have a Wild Rose section in the Drayton Valley paper in the School Notebook section.
6. Show genuine concern to current issues through action and follow-up.
7. Solidify and project cohesiveness and leadership within the board and the division.
8. Listening and responding to expressed needs by providing processes for this to happen.
9. Open process to include stakeholder input. School & community input on budget committee, hiring (Superintendent), town hall meetings.

10. Hire a Superintendent that sets the climate and builds bridges (strong communication and relationship building skills).
11. More open board meetings. Web cams, held in different locations, video conferencing.
12. Updates on admin hirings and large expenditures.
13. Open and transparent with information on all decisions - timely, open and transparent.
14. Newspaper ad of issues, happenings, input from all community areas, simplified formatting (accountability pillar results).
15. Increase visibility and accessibility of division staff and board members. More user friendly website to improve communication and increase visibility in the community.
16. Program of respect in place that involves all staff, parents and trustees. Accountability program to go along with it.
17. School board, division office staff, and superintendent in tune with community needs; building relationships within the community by being visible and interactive with community members.
18. Schools need accurate, up to date budget information, in order to make sound financial decisions.
19. Address inequality between schools in resource allocation. Communicate how this is being done to clear up misconceptions.
20. Schedule annual meetings between the Chambers of Commerce and the board.

Rocky Mountain House

1. Values of school division must be lived, even in error. Admit to mistakes and be patient. Collaborative accountability focused on solutions not on blame.
2. Clarify the roll of the new superintendent as accountable to the board.
3. Web-based communication from teachers to home – post outcomes fro the week, upcoming events / tests, contact parents about student achievement using the internet and email.
4. Increase transparency of division office and all parties in the educational system roles and responsibilities towards servicing students; not just the ivory tower.
5. The board being honest and upfront, let the public know what is really going on, keep closed sessions to a minimum, have a board member present at school events –

introduce themselves there, have a page on the website where trustees can report what they are doing, have the children's interests at heart.

6. School councils compile a top five concerns list for trustees, report back in a timely fashion.
7. Have division office personnel spend more time in schools, perhaps in the roles of some of the people in the schools.
8. Hire and elect people that are trust worthy, have a strong moral imperative, and are committed to public education, the division and the community.
9. Be guided the principle, "Is this in the best interest of our students?"
10. Create a weekly newspaper article that can report good news, meaningful input and solicit feedback from the community.
11. Hire a superintendent who will mend fences, build relationships and bring it all together.
12. Communicate to those who do not have internet access.
13. Promote the fact that board meetings are open to the public.
14. Increase the positive communication that goes out to the public.
15. Direct public consultation by the board regarding large non-educational expenditures, and the creation of new central office positions.
16. Anonymous suggestion boxes in each school and at division office.
17. Follow- through on input given and then show progress as it occurs.
18. The division having a better profile: school, parents, teachers, students are all important.
19. Explore the idea of a charter or alternative school within our school system, to develop trust with parents and allows them to be more involved within the school setting.
20. Ensure clear policies at school and division office levels as to whom to ask questions of and time sensitive responses as well as timely releases of information.