

Woodbury Leadership Academy

Below is the feedback from survey sent to stakeholders on 2/6/23. There were 89 respondents. The first three questions were required. The final "Other Comments?" question was not required.

What excites you most about the potential merger?

- Having teams for middle school grades
- Sending my child to an awesome school through 12th grade!
- Having a high school so the kids don't have to move schools.
- great education for kids
- Potential for a well developed high school curriculum.
- I don't see an advantage to the merger. We lose our unique personality, and seem to lose the ability to house our students in one consolidated campus.
- Charter High school opportunities in Woodbury
- K-12 education under one administration
- Nothing
- My student continuing on with students he's grown up with over the years.
- K-12
- Not really sure. Rushing seems to be setting up for a merger that isn't well thought out.
- Adding 9-12 grades
- Watching WLA grow.
- May provide a second option for my younger children then switch at middle school age
- K-12, combined leadership and STEM focus, growth for both schools
- Full K-12 program
- Continuous education thru 12th grade
- Two excellent schools coming together to provide full k-12 programming. Not having to switch schools for high school
- Knowing the kids have a planned curriculum from K through 12. MSA is obviously top notch in terms of rankings.
- It's going to be wonderful when two big schools will merge.
- Having a complete k-12 program.
- A high school option for our children
- Absolutely nothing, this merger should not take place, this is not in the best interest of our school or our students
- Potential opportunities it can bring
- If MSA became like WLA, that would be great.
- Brings the best out of the two great schools.

- I like that there is 9-12 available for WLA students but again, not if it's going to be as rigorous as MSA standards are. I think families chose WLA for it's smaller class sizes, more 1 on 1 attention, smaller school in terms of overall students, Core knowledge curriculum and that we have time to still have our kids in other activities and they are not doing homework for hours overnight. If we wanted a prep school, we would go to St Croix Prep and MSA. WLA had something unique.
- I like that there is 9-12 available for WLA students but again, not if it's going to be as rigorous as MSA standards are. I think families chose WLA for it's smaller class sizes, more 1 on 1 attention, smaller school in terms of overall students, Core knowledge
- MSA helping WLA middle school, continued and seamless education
- A K-12 school
- At this point, nothing about the merger excites me
- Building a quality k-12 educational experience for our families, that will be a destination school for decades to come.
- Nothing, it's a terrible idea, MSA does not care about our students, they are doing this to benefit them only.
- I think it is a great move to merge to great institute.
- There will be more knowledge transformation
- That kids can get be friends from kindergarten to high school.
- Excited about a K-12 education system. Believe the continuity is valuable.
- High school!
- more opportunity. k-12 education
- Becoming K-12
- Nothing
- Nothing.
- Kids will be in same school to till collage
- Seamless transition and high level academic
- Pretty much everything
- More opportunities for children to have enhanced learning
- K-12 program with smaller class sizes than public school.
- My daughter able to stay with WLA until graduation.
- Nothing at this point. We haven't really been giving any information as how this will positively impact WLA other than adding a high school. WLA is approved as a k-12 school. I feel like we could be putting just as much energy into what it would look like adding a grade per year to WLA.
- Nothing, I cannot at this moment see one aspect that would be beneficial to merge schools
- If MSA was able to move towards being a better, more inclusive and holistic school with an improved focus on humanities, a K-12 education option would be really nice
- Having my child at WLA for high school
- The addition of high school so we don't have to switch after 8th grade

- I feel aggressively neutral.
- Gaining a high school
- Able to keep my kids in the same school system
- nothing.

- Not one thing. These are kids, and we are already expecting a lot in terms of giving up their individuality to follow the herd. Making this bigger will make it less responsive. We all moved our kids from public schools to a charter school in search of smaller environments that listen to parents and respond to individual kids. This is not a good idea. I can't think of one advantage.
- It would be nice to have the option of staying through high school.
- I love the idea of having specialist focus of math and science.
- New curriculum for WLA middle school
- For WLA to have a K-12 education at one school
- The chance for enrollment at MSA, which is one of our goals.
- Nothing.
- I think it will bring more people to WLA who are looking for rigor in their education.
- The education for my kids
- Nothing
- The opportunity for our students to have a K-12 experience in one setting. I'm also excited to see the possibilities with extra curricular activities, theatre, choir, band, sports teams. The things I remember about middle school and high school.
- I'm not seeing many things that excite me about this.
- Nothing
- Nothing at the moment
- I have no interest in my child attending MSA at all, so nothing really excites me about this potential.
- I'm not sure
- I will be applying to have my children start there from 6th grade. If we merge and acceptance is almost guaranteed, that will be one less thing I need to worry about.
- Continual education.
- Not much. I would much rather see WLA grow its own high school.
- Access to Math and science academy
- Nothing
- Possibility of 1st to 12th grade
- Nothing
- Nothing. I used to be for it but after several board meetings at MSA and their we went their building and space and not their curriculum, uniforms etc. it has just left a bad feeling that they continually don't seem to want to try to work on anything else.
- Potentially having a high academic standard school for 9-12th grade. Not having to join the traditional public school system. We're proud to be a charter family!

- WLA has high quality education that is already preparing students for the MSA curriculum.
- Kids having same school through high school.
- Nothing. I believe WLA should look to the future by building our own high school.
- Nothing - the merger shouldn't happen.
- Nothing. I am completely against this merger
- having an onsite high school

What concerns you most about the potential merger?

- Support of staff and students
- I don't want to lose what makes WLA so awesome - teachers, admin, parents, students. It's a nice community.
- Giving up our school building and values. Also the rigorous curriculum at MSA.
- Changing the school curriculum
- No concerns
- My elementary students going to the current MSA building.
- The impression I've gotten is that the merger isn't a mutually desired exercise. Its being pushed to essentially gain access to our improved, more desirable facility. The negativity expressed by some in the initial processes is very troubling.
- The possibility of having 2 campuses
- Culture fit, MSA's financial situation, the possibility of having to move elementary to MSA's building
- Losing our campus, losing our values and especially teachers and SPED Dept. Basically, everything.
- I am concerned about the supports for students needing help filling the educational gaps (if any) and for my student to maintain support with his 504. And the presence/maintenance of DEI programming
- Culture change, building and facilities changing, tethering ourselves to another school may weigh us down too much, the curriculum and teaching are too different
- MSA doesn't seem to align with WLA's variety of academics. There seems to be A LOT of homework at MSA, not supported by research (IE a lot more busy work or work assigned just for the sake of homework). I, am not convinced the two schools align with their objectives
- MSA's history of discrimination against SPED students and the level of academic rigor not matching current expectations of WLA elementary students
- Needs at WLA should be met before adding another school into the mix. The potential of moving into an environment that was built with elementary students in mind makes no sense.
- Moving too fast based on MSA timelines, not being strategically aligned, difference in academic rigor/expectation hindering my kids

- Building change for elementary school not ideal, MSA elitism, culture , MSA having overvalued their weight in the merger and undervalued WLA
- The unnecessarily rigorous curriculum at MSA. There is more to a well rounded child than academics.
- The idea that WLA students might not stay at their current location, concerns about strategic alignment between the two schools, and whether this is a good financial decision
- What will happen to the sending WLA staff, which buildings for which grades, uniforms, difference in academic rigor
- Nothing that would prevent a merger, just logistics when things change over. Having children span both schools, knowing if kids would then have to go to two different locations. Also understanding what happens with the overlap of school years both schools cover.
- I'm concerned about the teaching methodology.
- Losing the WLA building for elementary.
- The attitude that MSA only wants the facilities and not the WLA culture
- Complete loss of school curriculum, culture, as well as our new building
- There won't be growth in the school and conflicts will arise within the board
- I've had 3 kids at MSA in the past and they all transferred out. The math department was awful teachers were not able to teach to the levels they expected the students to be at. The help for any kid that wasn't a genius was minimal and they felt like the stupid kid for being normal. The English and Social Studies teachers were great. I would say if they want to merge, they become like WLA, not the other way.
- Nothing. I heard great things about MSA.
- What concerns me are the comments made by MSA board and families. WLA would "dilute" MSA. There is already friction, for good reason, how do you plan to mitigate the concerns that have already boiled up? So far, neither Board or Principals have come out with good reasons why this merger would be a good thing. Is it really a good fit? We have 2 strongly established schools, with different philosophies, especially regarding homework. How do you "merge" schools like this? Someone already said this, but if you look at the outcome of 2 companies merging, it typically is one takes over the other rather than an actual merger. Is that what EITHER school wants? If WLA started to veer towards the philosophies of MSA, I would take my kids out. I don't agree with the school first/lots of homework philosophy. I like the structure of WLA. We follow CORE knowledge and learning is very important and there will be homework but it's not the only thing in a Childs life. I personally think there are too many variables; philosophies, locations, principles that are vastly different between the school to make it work. If either Board/Governance has a different view, I encourage them to come forth with those ideas, otherwise you are losing stakeholders fast.
- MSA just wants the WLA building. I do not see any benefit to moving K-5 over to the current MSA building. There would be too much to add when WLA has already added 2 playgrounds and a new gym. The timeline stills seems a bit rushed.

- The difference in styles of education
- Unalignment of goals and purpose of merger
- We should take our time and do it right.
- Curriculum, facilities, values and culture, finances
- NO concern
- I don't have any concerns
- Switching k-5 curriculum will be the same.
- I think the benefits outweigh the concerns.
- Loss of current curriculum. Loss of our campus. School being too rigorous for child. Not sure vision/mission align.
- Not knowing about the financial details.
- Subjecting my kids to a curriculum that I do not agree with. We chose WLA because of its high focus on school work but also the focus on raising leaders who are out in the community. We do not agree with MSA's policies on homework, their lack of working with kids who need more assistance than others and their focus on test scores not on the kids. Also the fact that they ONLY want our building it has been stated too many times in their board meetings that their ONLY goal is to get our building.
- MSA doesn't want the WLA kids, they only want the facility.
- No concerns
- No concerns
- Nothing
- Primary concern is related to the changes in curriculum and how WLA and MSA can combine forces to ensure the various leadership programs and daily education remains the same.
- My biggest concern is that MSA's curriculum is very time consuming - to the point where they require families to SIGN each year stating school comes first. This is concerning because I want my kids to be able to participate in extracurriculars, volunteer, join us for family dinners (SUPER important to us), and get adequate amounts of sleep to be healthy. Those 2 do not jive together. Second, I am concerned that WLA's leadership curriculum will go by the wayside. Excelling at academics is great - but learning to be good humans is critical, and this is why our family chose WLA.
- Nothing
- How different MSA and WLA are. Not all kids will thrive at MSA. It's going to fast without gathering proper information.
- Rushing the timeline, not addressing the elephant in the room; basis for strategic planning where this would benefit any of WLA students; the success of the students; what kind of culture will be bred between two very different communities;
- Long history of discrimination/ unwillingness to meet the educational needs of all learners at MSA; MSA leadership clearly stating they were only interested in the merger for the building; profound lack of transparency on the part of both boards (for example, holding a joint task force meeting without letting the public know/ attend;

willingness of WLA board to move quickly towards a decision before adequate fact finding; significant mismatch between school cultures; cultural idea at MSA that massive volumes of homework = rigor, WLA's lack of interest in the Core Knowledge Curriculum; WLA board wasted a ton of public time talking about petty issues like logos and has not yet discussed how a merger fits with the school's mission!

- If it will be done in time to keep my child at WLA for high school
- keep hearing about bullying being an issue with MSA
- Will our pre-k program be put on the back burner?
- Academic alignment. Math and science seems to have a more rigorous academic expectation. Example, homework over breaks.
- I'm assuming the school will remain public not private correct?
- giving up our school and everything we have built and developed.
- WLA is already so large. The current trend is toward de-centralization in schools, so that educators and the school can be more responsive to individual students and parents. I think making WLA bigger will make it less responsive, as we will need more policies that benefit a huge school over the individual.
- It seems like the merger has already been decided on and these merger committees are just a formality. It seems like the process has been kept secret. 2. Is this what's truly best for WLA students and families? 3. We've worked hard/waited a long time for our beautiful buildings and now the younger grades won't even get to enjoy them. 4. We may lose valuable staff and students.
- Unsure, I am fairly new to public education and being a part of the merger committee.
- Timing; Are our values and long-term goals aligned?
- My main concern is that this merger is due to a convenience for MSA and not out of genuine desire to combine with WLA. WLA has spent 9 years creating our identity and building our program, and I am concerned we will lose that in this merger since our school has existed for less time.
- I'm concerned bussing will only get worse.
- We are moving too fast and not providing support to the current staff at WLA that need it. We need to create more classrooms, provide more support for students and staff before we think about expanding with another school.
- I do not want to switch buildings or locations.
- Schools are going to continue independent or a combination to be one?
- Not getting small class sizes, finances
- Our identity being lost and forgotten about. We are smaller and don't have as much credit in Woodbury yet because we are young. I worry about moving buildings. Are just getting known here and people are finding us. I also worry about adding that many staff and students. How many more will fall through the cracks so to speak. Communication is already a bit of a challenge. How will that be with 2 different sites and more bodies.
- Elementary school moving to MSA building would be a concern. WLA is set up nicely and has a nice outdoor play area for the kids. Switching the curriculum away from

core knowledge would be a concern as well. It seems MSA is only in this for the building which is not something I or many parents would support.

- Loss of identities, loss of importance of student centered education,
- Losing the community and losing families and staff that have been through WLA from the beginning?
- The loss of the WLA facility, and the loss of the curriculum in middle school and into high school.
- The culture of MSA will present itself as one of superiority. It has already started. The petitions they have going around are condescending, with even a hint of cultural intolerance, depending how you interpret the wording.
- I think there are many vocal parents online who oppose the merger and will do anything it takes to see this fail, including stating that they will serve on the merger committee. I don't believe there will be a good faith effort to vet out a merger.
- MSA's urgency and need. Losing WLA's facility to MSA after all the patience, work, and money that was put into it by WLA stakeholders. Different mission/visions.
- The curriculums not aligning.
- Student to teacher ratio
- There is no benefit for WLA. Why should we give up our building because they need more space? MSA stated they are only interested in our building not anything else WLA has to offer. Why are the parents not Being listened to and kept up to date. There has been too much secrecy around everything it's not shining a good light on this merger. So far I haven't seen anything positive about this merger and the fact that the administration and board are ignoring that sends huge red flags up. This is about the kids and that's ALL it should be about. So far no benefits for WLA students have been presented.
- Nothing
- MSA and WLA don't follow the same curriculum, don't have the same vision or mission. Why would they merge? Who is it serving?
- Everything. Absolutely everything. The attitudes around the merger between the staff at WLA and the comments and petition made by MSA students against the merger. I feel like the attitudes of MSA are not aligning with the views and educational goals of WLA.
- Not having a say as a parent. Losing our new building. Taking on MSA major debt. Having less freedom to choose how the school manages big topics like bringing politics into the classroom.
- I heard MSA wants to take the WLA buildings: bad idea.
- Losing the smaller community of WLA. Changes in curriculum and having too many people involved in what's pulled into WLA.
- MSA only wanting our building. Values do not align. Moving WAY too fast to make a sound decision. MSA's financial situation.
- That MSA doesn't care about WLA curriculum, students, or values.
- Loss of WLA culture. Change to WLA curriculum. MSA is not a good fit they only want our building

- the amount of homework the middle and high school supposedly have, and the loss of core knowledge curriculum

Regarding the merger, what is the single biggest question that you have right now?

- What's the timeline looking like?
- How quickly can this be done?
- When?
- The biggest question I have right now is will my child education change in anyway?
- none
- Will the schools swap school buildings.
- Someone needs to provide definitive answers as to who initiated this process. What is the motivation and who benefits, directly and indirectly. Will there be a study of unintended consequences and impacts to our students from the merger?
- Time lines of when this will happen or the end goal date
- If this is the right fit for WLA, my perception is MSA is doing this out of desperation for WLA/finances and not because they want to grow their school to be k-12
- How do we make sure it doesn't happen?
- is it happening and what curriculum changes/gaps can be anticipated considering the differences in standardized test scores.
- What benefit would this truly be for WLA?
- Timeline. How would MS be handled?
- What upsides are there to merging, and does the upside outweigh the potential harm to our students?
- Would elementary move over to MSA's building?
- How the two schools are strategically aligned. Timeline and clear articulation of financial story for both schools and if this is a merger of equals or needs based.
- Growth and guaranteed matriculation from WLA to MSA
- Will my 6th grade child be kicked out if we do not agree to do hours of homework per night per MSA's academics first agreement?
- Is MSA doing this for the right reasons - do they actually want to collaborate with WLA?
- How to positively promote the idea to ease the anxiety around the possibilities
- What will each of the buildings be used for (which classes which grades which students, etc)?
- I wish to know, as to when the merger will finalize ?
- What is the advantage or what does WLA stand to gain in a merger?
- Is this the best thing for our children at WLA?
- Why are we even considering this and what is the real motivation? Seriously? Are we out of money? Will WLA fail if we don't? Unless that that's the case, this should not have gotten as far as it has.
- How will the curriculum change.

- Why, what's the benefit? It seems MSA wants the benefits and isn't willing to change to give any benefits to WLA.
- How long would it take to finalize it once the merger has been decided?
- Since I believe a "merge" is unlikely and it will be more that one entity will "take over" the other, which entity will win out? Which schools philosophy will it be?
- Does MSA just want WLA's building and why does it seem like this is the case every meeting they have and continue to have? Will MSA's budget effect WLA's budget and plan. It seems like they have some budgeting kinks they need to work out when WLA has been stable in their budget.
- Why does WLA need this merger?
- What is broken about the current situation that needs to be fixed in the form of a merger?
- Transitioning will be an important component.
- Why? What is the need? The MSA curriculum is not what I want for my children.
- Timeline and how we can help.
- For merging schools why it takes so much time?
- How those little kids will fit in MSA building
- How soon can the merger take effect?
- How will facilities work? If the current MSA site is elementary, how will their site be renovated to suit elementary kids.
- How will this affect students.
- Will the cultures fit?
- Why is this still on the table? It has been proven that MSA only wants our building and nothing about this merger is a benefit for WLA current student body.
- When would this happen? Doesn't MSA need to figure out a solution by next school year?
- Want to know the time lines
- Timeline
- When? Will sites stay separate?
- What is the curriculum going to be? School hours etc.
- Will my kids get kicked out of the school prior to entering 6th grade if they want to play a competitive sport (and/or join other extra-curricular activities) and we refuse to sign MSA's commitment to school coming first?
- How soon can we get this done ?
- What is best for OUR school and kids. Not what's best for administration or MSA
- Why is leadership being so deceptive and secretive as if there is more already in the works than what is actually being communicated to the general public?
- Transparency. I would like to be able to view all taskforce meetings. I would like WLA's board to hire an external consultant to run financial numbers.
- Will the merger be complete within the next 1.5 years?
- How will this impact my student?
- Will we be moving?

- Would WLA be elementary and Msa highschool?
- The timeline of the transaction and if there is capacity at the current school for the merger
- What is the driving force benefit for WLA?
- What would be the advantage to my child? How does the individual child benefit from a merger? MSA is focused on science, which is fine to focus on STEM, but an elementary school should be focused on more - music, theater, dance, art.
- Is the merger truly what's best for WLA students and staff, and are the administrators being completely honest about why they're pushing for the merger?
- Will this expand into a K-12 opportunity for the families?
- Which positions will be retained? Which will change?
- My biggest question is what is the timeline if the merger is approved?
- What is the timing?
- How will we handle having enough staff to support every classroom?
- How will it affect our salary schedule and benefits.
- What is the challenge for both schools to accomplish?
- Many please reach out
- The timing and why does it feel so rushed. Who benefits from a quick decision? From my perspective, MSA benefits more than we do.
- What are the benefits for WLA? Possible high school? Isn't that a possibility on its own anyway? I'd rather go that route than merge.
- Why?
- Why do we need to take on a burden of a school that is not able to survive without WLA?
- What is the benefit to WLA?
- What does the staff of each school think about this?
- I'd like clarification on the bussing situation. It already is not ideal just handling WLA students. I worry it will get much worse if we also include MSA students.
- What are the pros and cons of joining with MSA over building WLA's own highschool?
- No questions.
- Will it happen or not
- I have a lot of questions all below in comments section-- one more. Why aren't we considering our own expansion instead of this merger? I thought the goal was to add one grade a year till we have 9-12?
- None
- Why did WLA and MSA make a choice to merge when an in depth mergers and acquisitions plan has not been conducted?
- Please don't go forward with the merger. Spend time and energy pursuing other options. Like buy the building across the parking lot and expand that.
- Why are you moving so fast? I feel very uninformed as a parent.
- Will the buildings stay the same.

- How will this impact the current school curriculum and how will the grade levels be separated.
- Why are you trying to push it for the 23/24 school year. Very suspicious to me.
- Why did the MSA board chairperson say they only cared about our building?
- Why are we even considering it after what was said by the MSA board about not wanting , “those kids” and they only want our building
- I thought that WLA was looking at expanding to add high school grades before any talk of a merger. Is that still an idea to pursue if the merger does not go through?

Other comments?

- Elementary students should NOT be in the MSA building, and it very much concerns me this seems to be a want from MSA and an unaddressed issue from WLA.
- We were rather insulted by the recruitment process for the merger committee. The language that was included in the notice seemed to be directed in such a way to deliberately recruit like minded, merger favorable individuals. This would seem therefore to be less than transparent in motivation.
- Why was this merger proposed in the first place? With MSA struggling to find a facility that fits their needs why would we give them our brand new one?
- I’ve heard that with MSA being in SOWASHCO boundaries, many think transportation problems would be solved. FYI- SoWashco has a ton of transportation problems and periodically cancels bus routes due to lack of drivers. That may not be a perk many think it is.
- Please do not trade WLA’s curriculum, building, or inclusive culture for high test scores and a pre-built 9-12 curriculum.
- Facilities issues. Younger children should not be moved from existing building. Provide value proposition with what else this provides current WLA students not already in the story/mission statement/school highlights.
- WLA should grow to 12th grade, regardless of the merger.
- This merger needs a lot of thought and research before moving forward. Please take the time to listen to all parents, staff, and students before making any decisions.
- I feel like many of the people opposed to a merger are short-sighted. In the long term a merger would benefit both schools, the community and the students attending.
- I am not able to be on the committee, but after watching MSA's board meetings I have great concern about their motives for this merge.
- It has been very disappointing to watch the MSA board meetings. They are quite unprofessional and negative towards WLA other than wanting our facilities. It also sounds like MSA is not financially in a good spot so we need to also be aware of this as we consider this merger.
- Until I watched the MSA meetings, I was indifferent to the merger. But after watching their discussions, there is no compelling reason to merge with MSA. If we intend to keep WLA in any way shape or form, then there are no benefits to our current students to merge with a school that is wholly misaligned with our curriculum and mission. This feels like a hostile takeover and if I wanted my kids to attend MSA, I

would have sent them to that school. There are other ways to grow a school's grade offerings that doesn't sell it's soul. Our schools are not aligned in too many aspects and it does not seem beneficial to merge, change everything about our school culture and then move our children to a sub par building which is the clear the intention of MSA. Unless they're just playing "hard to get", they only want WLA's buildings and what are they offering us is not something that we can't be achieved on our own with time and perseverance. There are times and places for short cuts to an end goal and this is not one of them.

- WLA has a special and unique system. Don't bend over for MSA principles and systems. You'll end up losing students because most people don't actually graduate for MSA, it's just a pass through school. Community isn't there, racism is prevalent, kids don't thrive in that environment. Only if they are the top 10% of kids, which is great for them, but not anyone else.
- Would there be a change in locations?
- I don't believe either school has done this any justice. Neither has talked about the good that this could be or given reasons why. Then unfortunately MSA has only talked about the need and want for our building. This has not built any trust or admiration for MSA. I appreciate that you are developing task force(s) to deep dive into this. I believe it's worthy of a look and many conversations to truly discover if this merger can be done. I look forward to hearing more about it.
- Could we maybe just talk about keeping WLA and MSA separate but WLA students get a "grandfather in" if they choose to go to MSA?
- It has been made more clear MSA needs help but why WLA? I'm very worried that the younger grades could be housed at the MSA campus that is not set up or adequate for them and would only be a backwards movement for WLA.
- I appreciate the hard work that many are investing to see if this is a win-win for our schools.
- Keep WLA separate from MSA, this is not going to go well. Continue to grow the great school WLA is on our own. We don't need to combine and give away everything WLA has built in the last 9 years. They are not looking out for our school or our students. This is a very one sided approach with no benefit to WLA.
- Before take a discussion about switching building .let's think about it twice.
- Thank you for your ongoing transparency.
- What does wla gain?
- I have mentioned on several occasions that I am willing to serve on a committee to assist in this matter. I am told that help is needed but for some reason I am not being called to help. Is there anything I can do on my end to be assigned to one of these committees?
- If WLA moves forward with this merger we will have no choice but to remove our children. I urge the Board to really stop looking at what some may be sugar coating to them directly and watch the meeting recordings and think of you could really vote Yes and feel that you are making the best choice for our kids.
- It will be very good move of both schools merge together

- If we merge, what would happen to the students who cannot meet MSA's high academic standards? I know there is a boy in my daughter's class who has an aide with him all the time. What happens to him? Does he get the support he needs as he gets into MSA's middle school curriculum? Or does he have to transfer to a different school?
- I truly hope we are taking our time to research and do our due diligence. There are a lot of kids and family counting on our administrators to do their due diligence and to not be hiding anything.
- I sure hope someone steps back and reevaluates the potential gains and losses. I wholeheartedly believe that the way things are right now will cause both schools to dissolve within 5-7 years
- WLA board needs to publicly discuss and answer parent questions.
- will we get a hot lunch program out of the deal?
- n/a
- Are there plans to still add a cafeteria to the school soon?
- I do not agree with this merger. I do not feel there is a benefit to WLA in this merger. We are already a feeder school to MSA and I don't believe we need to pigeon hole our students to that curriculum. I would like to see WLA stay the course of their mission, vision, values. The teacher and staff retention is unheard of at WLA and that is one the best showings of the kind of school it is.
- WLA is big enough. Mergers make organizations prioritize the organization over the individual. We brought our kids here because it was responsive. No merger, please. We'll have to move our kids to a different school, and that is hard on kids.
- Will this change the current iReady curriculum? Any thoughts of becoming more classical oriented? We don't have a classical charter between St. Paul and Stillwater.
- There is a vocal contingent online that is against merging. I want to say there are parents who are excited about the possibility.
- I think it will be a huge benefit to both schools, I just don't want WLA to lose it's "forever home".
- It's a great idea the potential merger. My vote is YES
- We are going for Core Knowledge School of Distinction. Where does that fall into place? What about our other strategic goals? I think we've done just fine building up WLA. It hasn't been easy but look where we are now. I don't want that to be forgotten.
- Why?
- This is very concerning in general. WLA has worked so very hard to get where we are today, we need to keep growing independently.
- I know MSA has a great reputation but that alone does not seem worth giving up the values, principle and approach of WLA and the Core Knowledge curriculum. I would consider keeping my student there if you created a high school. But I do not want the MSA experience for my child. If you move forward with this, you are giving up what made WLA successful and unique. It's obvious they need a new building and better financial planning. They don't want any part of our curriculum. And I have concerns

about how they have weeded out students with 504s and IEPs previously. I like the current standard of rigor that WLA. It's better than other public elementary schools but not to the stressful standard that MSA is where they want you to lower your involvement in co-curriculars and faith activities during the week to focus on homework. WLA has a good thing going. Let's not turn into something we are not, just to gain a top ranking on some orgs state wide list. Let's create something of worth here that is meaningful for the community we have already built. We don't need anything they are offering us.

- MSA wants your building they do not want your students.
- I know several families that have transitioned from WLA to MSA or have children in both schools. I think it would be a great disservice not to ask some of those parents to share their experiences because of the ones I know, they are all extremely happy with how their kids made the transition and are very happy at MSA.
- N/A
- If this goes through, I foresee pulling my kids to go to middle school elsewhere.
- 1. What are the benefits to WLA students? 2. Why are we entertaining this when all they want is our building? 3. They don't have an interest in our curriculum 4. They don't have an interest in uniforms 5. Our mission statements and school environment don't align why are we ignoring that? 7. It has clearly been stated by MSA that financially they need us that's the only reason they're considering this? 8. Has the decline in enrollment been taken into consideration if this merger happens? 9. Why are there no transparency? Why are we having closed meetings? Why are we hiding information? If this is so great then this should be an open book to everyone to show us ALL the benefits first for the kids 2nd for the school.
- N/A
- I think both schools need to have an outside consulting firm perform a mergers an acquisitions study and figure out why this is being discussed at all
- Drop the idea of the merger. Kathy has stated she doesn't have a pony in this race, msa's attitudes. No clear good reasons why this merger should go forward. End it. WLA can be better than trying to , "save" MSA who appear to be sinking due to their own poor planning etc.
- I wish the school would allow more time. It comes if as giant red flags and sneaky right now which is heart breaking.
- Please don't let MSA take the WLA building.
- I am not excited about the idea of this merger. I'm worried it will change the feel of the school and the education my kids will receive. We like the current curriculum.
- I am 100% against the merger for the 23/24 school year!
- This merger should not happen. It's obvious MSA doesn't care about our students.
- Please vote no to this merger. We would pull out of the school if the merger happens
- Please know that there are a lot of parents who are pulling for this merger to happen but we don't have the courage to speak up because of the large contingency of intimidating parents who are against the merger. Please keep doing the hard work despite their negative resistance. Don't cave to their pressure.

- I am not super excited about merging. At first I thought it was a neat idea, but learning about the intensity of MSA's academics, I don't believe that would be a good fit for my ADHD and autistic kids.

End of survey results

