Identifying the “New Basics”

“When new topics need to be added to a curriculum, (and that SHOULD happen), one cannot simply add to the topic list already taught. Our days are filled! If new topics are chosen to be introduced, then it is of equal importance that some of the currently taught topics are removed to make room!”

“If there is a way to improve Science Education, most teachers would be more than willing to take part. But considering we have only a 2-year science requirement in high school, according to latest reports, there is no way all that needs to be learned can be learned by an average student. Since students should be educated in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Astronomy, how can you expect 2 years to suffice in high school? We are not even considering the integrating of science with math.”

“I would like to see more incorporation of vocational training classes to increase our students’ ability to solve problems and apply math and science in real-world-of-work situations. The improvement in their overall skills will better prepare them for the world of work after high school and better prepare them for college and the advanced training that everyone will eventually need.”

“We need a discussion of what can be or should be taught at the primary grade and middle grade levels to better prepare students for high school and college.”

“Take a stand on including geology and environmental science in high school curriculums as a valid science for acceptance into state universities as are chemistry, physics, and biology!”

*Selected Quotations from Open-Ended Response Item