KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

Dear Sears Community,

As part of our ongoing pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement, the Kenilworth School District No. 38 Board of Education annually solicits community feedback in the form of a parent survey. We collected 281 responses from families of the 500 children enrolled during the 2014-2015 school year. The information we collected is a highly valued tool we use to monitor community feedback with regard to our school's educational performance, culture, communication, finances and facilities.

We used the percentage of affirmative responses (strongly agree, agree, excellent and good) to calculate general satisfaction with regard to a specific question. Below are the District's top four areas of satisfaction based on parent feedback:

- About 93% of surveyed parents rate the Joseph Sears School as good or excellent.
- About 90% of surveyed parents are satisfied with the Sears to Home newsletter.
- At least 88% of surveyed parents at each grade level feel academic progress had been adequately discussed during parent/teacher conferences.
- At least 81% of surveyed parents feel their child was sufficiently challenged this year.

In addition, surveyed parents indicated that teachers, small class sizes, technology integration and the school's community traditions are all district strengths.

While the survey indicated satisfaction in some areas, parents identified the following as areas in need of improvement:

- Only 78% of surveyed parents feel the board communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner.
- Only 73% of surveyed parents feel the administration communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner.
- Only 65% of surveyed parents feel the school website is easy to navigate.
- Only 65% of surveyed parents feel the playground and lunch rules are fair and appropriate.

In addition, surveyed parents indicated that the renovation of the park district's village house, the installation of air conditioning throughout buildings and discipline administered at the junior high level could be improved.

We would like to thank all of our parents for taking the time to respond to the survey. Your feedback is extremely important as we continue improving our school and our performance. We are committed to making Sears the best school for the children of Kenilworth.

Sincerely,

Kenilworth School District No. 38 Board of Education

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Survey Question Data

Improving the culture within The Joseph Sears School has been a key component of our Strategic Plan. The following questions focus on the students. Please rate your agreement with each statement:

My child(ren) understands and practices the four Cornerstone Behaviors

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	53%	41%	4%	1%	1%	1%	281
All Parents (2014)	47%	45%	7%	1%	0%		245
Change	+6%	-4%	-3%	0%	+1%	+1%	+36

Summary: Parent comments generally indicate their children understand the Four Cornerstones and that the Four Cornerstones need to be reinforced among younger children.

My child(ren) practices age appropriate self-assessment, goal-setting and self-advocacy.

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No	Responses
	Agree				Disagree	Opinion	
All Parents (2015)	37%	50%	10%	2%	0%	0%	281
All Parents (2014)	40%	47%	12%	2%	0%		243
Change	-3%	+3%	-2%	0%	0%	0%	+38

Summary: Parent comments indicate children are still developing these skills, especially with regard to goal setting.

My child(ren) understands the definition of bullying and procedures for how to handle it.

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No Opinion	Responses
	Agree				Disagree		
All Parents	42%	42%	9%	4%	1%	0%	281
(2015)							
All Parents	42%	47%	10%	1%	0%		245
(2014)							
Change	0%	-5%	-1%	+3%	+1%	0%	+36

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Summary: Parent comments indicate most children understand bullying, though younger children understand bullying less than older children.

The playground and lunch rules are fair and appropriate.

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No Opinion	Responses
	Agree				Disagree		
All Parents (2015)	21%	44%	17%	7%	4%	6%	281
All Parents (2014)	25%	43%	21%	10%	1%		244
Change	-4%	+1%	-4%	-3%	+3%	+6%	+37

Summary: Parent comments indicate a need for closer supervision of playground behavior by teachers/staff as well as more consistent enforcement of discipline.

(Junior High Only) Discipline is delivered in a fair and consistent manner for Junior High Students

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No Opinion	Responses
	Agree				Disagree		
All Parents (2015)	18%	34%	12%	5%	4%	27%	176
All Parents (2014)	18%	32%	33%	12%	5%		147
Change	0%	+2%	-21%	-7%	-1%	+27%	+29

Summary: Several parents cited the dress code as an example of discipline applied inconsistently. Parents also expressed concern about the lack of communication from the school in the event of a discipline scenario.

The Board of Education envisions a culture whereby there is transparency in decision-making after careful consideration of alternatives.

Please indicate your satisfaction with the transparency of deliberations and decision making.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	22%	43%	16%	12%	8%	279
All Parents (2014)	18%	47%	20%	9%	7%	245
Change	+4%	-4%	-4%	+3%	+1%	+34

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Summary: Several parents expressed dissatisfaction with the Board's decision making regarding the master schedule and lunchtime changes. Other parents raised concerns about the timeliness and accuracy of communications and minutes.

The following questions continue to focus on the culture at Sears with an emphasis on parents and community members. Please rate your agreement with the following statements.

The Board of Education communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	26%	52%	11%	6%	3%	2%	281
All Parents (2014)	27%	49%	17%	3%	1%	4%	245
Change	-1%	+3%	-6%	+3%	+2%	-2%	+36

Summary: Some parents expressed concern with the timeliness of board communications such as Board Briefs and minutes. Others expressed frustration with the public comment portion of board meetings.

The Administration communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community.

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No Opinion	Responses
	Agree				Disagree		
All Parents (2015)	22%	51%	14%	8%	5%	1%	281
All Parents (2014)	13%	46%	22%	12%	4%	3%	245
Change	+9%	+5%	-8%	-4%	+1%	-2%	+36

Summary: Many parents noted that communication from the Administration has greatly improved over the past calendar year. Parents expressed frustration with the communication that occurred during the school lockout incident.

I understand and practice the appropriate way to communicate with Faculty and Administration.

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No Opinion	Responses
	Agree				Disagree		
All Parents (2015)	41%	51%	5%	1%	0%	1%	279

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All Parents	32%	48%	14%	2%	0%	2%	244
(2014)							
Change	+9%	+3%	-9%	-1%	0%	-1%	+35

Summary: Most parents expressed understanding of how to communicate with faculty and staff.

I believe that I communicate with all stakeholders in the Sears' community in a fair and respectful manner.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	48%	44%	5%	1%	0%	2%	279
All Parents (2014)	40%	45%	12%	1%	0%	2%	243
Change	+8%	-1%	-7%	0%	0%	0%	+36

Summary: Most parents responded by saying they communicate well with others in the Sears community.

The Sears to Home and our website are two of the School District's ways to communicate with parents, students, faculty and staff. Please rate your satisfaction with these methods of communication.

Sears to Home

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	41%	49%	7%	2%	1%	276
All Parents (2014)	47%	45%	5%	2%	1%	242
Change	-6%	+4%	+2%	0%	0%	+34

Summary: Most parents expressed the need for a more concise Sears to Home. Parents also indicated they would like to see more advanced notice of special events in Sears to Home.

Usefulness of Information on the Website

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents	29%	54%	13%	1%	3%	277
(2015)						
All Parents*	27%	52%	14%	4%	2%	246
(2014)						
Change	+2%	+2%	-1%	-3%	+1%	+31

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Summary: Some parents commented that events are sometimes missing from the website calendar. Others commented they could not find information on the website.

Ease of Navigation of Website

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	17%	48%	25%	7%	3%	276
All Parents* (2014)	27%	52%	14%	4%	2%	246
Change	-10%	-4%	+11%	+3%	+1%	+30

Summary: Many parents expressed confusion over the district's website layout and navigation. Parents cited the separation between the district and school as particularly confusing. Parents also commented that some areas of the website have not been regularly updated.

The Parent/Student Handbook and Directory is a comprehensive District publication inclusive of key District policies and procedures. Are you familiar with the contents of the Parent/Student Handbook and Directory?

	Yes	No	Partially	Responses
All Parents (2015)	89%	2%	9%	278

Please indicate how often you use each of the following Board of Education communications and provide comments as to their effectiveness:

Board Meeting Agendas

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents	19%	57%	20%	4%	278
(2015)					
All Parents	22%	50%	21%	7%	256
(2014)					
Change	-3%	+7%	-1%	-3%	+22

Board Meeting Minutes

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	23%	48%	25%	4%	277
All Parents	29%	44%	20%	7%	256

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(2014)					
Change	-6%	+4%	+5%	-3%	+21

Monthly Board Briefs

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	44%	38%	14%	3%	278
All Parents (2014)	49%	31%	14%	6%	256
Change	-5%	+7%	0%	-3%	+22

Board Meeting Videotape

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	9%	29%	58%	5%	276
All Parents (2014)	7%	25%	59%	8%	256
Change	+2%	+4%	-1%	-3%	+20

Board Meeting Live Streaming

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	7%	22%	65%	5%	277
All Parents (2014)	7%	19%	65%	9%	256
Change	0%	+3%	0%	-4%	21

Board Annual Report

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	30%	43%	22%	5%	276
All Parents (2014)	25%	42%	26%	7%	256
Change	+5%	+1%	-4%	-2%	20

listen@kenilworth38.org

Often Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
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All Parents	8%	24%	58%	10%	274
(2015)					
All Parents (2014)	2%	23%	59%	16%	256
Change	+6%	+1%	-1%	-6%	18

Community Forums

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents	16%	42%	35%	7%	275
(2015)					

Summary: Parents indicated that while they may not use every form of board communication, they are pleased to have these communications available should they decide they need additional information on a subject. A number of parents commented they were not aware of community forums or the listen@kenilworth38.org email address.

For the 12th year in a row, the State Board of Education has awarded Kenilworth School District with the highest financial rating. Do you think that the District has been fiscally responsible this past year?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
All Parents (2015)	66%	5%	29%	276
All Parents (2014)	63%	5%	32%	242
Change	3%	0%	-3%	34

Summary: Parents commented on different concerns with regard to school fees, but the data suggests that overall, parents believed the district has been fiscally responsible.

Are there any facility or grounds-related needs that should be a priority?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
All Parents (2015)	38%	23%	39%	276

Summary: The majority of parents cited the need to install air conditioning throughout the building, find a better cafeteria solution aside from the Park District's Village House and renovate the bathrooms as top district grounds priorities.

Our Student Services Department consists of our Special Education Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Math Coach, School Social Workers, School Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist and School Nurse.

Please rate the effectiveness of their services.

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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Other Position Not Listed	Responses
All Parents (2015)	48%	29%	9%	1%	11%	1%	276
All Parents (2014)	43%	37%	6%	2%	12%		242
Change	+5%	-8%	+3%	-1%	-1%	+1%	+34

Summary: Many parents expressed satisfaction with personnel in the student services department.

How would you rate the Joseph Sears School Overall?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
All Parents (2015)	59%	34%	6%	1%	0%	276
All Parents (2014)	52%	40%	7%	0%	1%	242
Change	+7%	-6%	-1%	+1%	-1%	+34

Summary: Many parents remarked they are pleased with the school as a whole.

What do you think is especially good about Sears School?

Summary: The majority of parents indicated the teachers are what is especially good about Sears. Parents also remarked the small class sizes, the community atmosphere and the traditions are all great parts of the school.

What would you like to see changed or improved?

Summary: Parents commented an improved curriculum, improved communication from teachers and school leaders as well as more focus on the transition to high school are the three areas in which the school can improve.

Category specific questions

Overall, how would you rate your child's school year?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	52%	45%	2%	0%	1%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	60%	36%	0%	3%	1%	163
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses

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Grades 3-5 (2015)	50%	41%	7%	1%	1%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	56%	36%	4%	3%	1%	113
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades 6-8 (2015)	Excellent 28%	Good 59%	Fair 9%	Poor 3%	No Opinion 0%	Responses 174

Summary: Parents generally remarked their children have had good or excellent school years due to the classroom teachers. A number of teachers were singled out as particularly outstanding.

Was your child sufficiently challenged this year?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	89%	7%	5%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	85%	7%	8%	163
	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades 3-5 (2015)	85%	9%	6%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	87%	9%	4%	114
				•
	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades 6-8 (2015)	81%	13%	6%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	83%	10%	7%	124

Summary: Many parents commented that middle school math and junior high science are two areas in which students can be challenged more thoroughly. Parents also mentioned student grouping by academic ability can be improved.

Are you satisfied with the integration of technology in your child's classroom and assignments?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	80%	2%	17%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	86%	4%	10%	163
	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades 3-5 (2015)	87%	6%	7%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	86%	5%	9%	114
	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades 6-8 (2015)	82%	6%	13%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	85%	6%	9%	124

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Summary: Parents offered varying levels of satisfaction with the use of technology in the school in the comments section. Generally parents were pleased with school technology.

Does the quality of your child's homework emphasize real learning and reinforcement?

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No	Responses
	Agree				Disagree	Opinion	
Grades JK-2 (2015)	18%	46%	20%	9%	0%	7%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	32%	40%	22%	4%	1%		163
	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No	Responses
	Agree				Disagree	Opinion	
Grades 3-5 (2015)	29%	55%	10%	4%	1%	0%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	25%	55%	13%	7%	0%		114
	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly	No	Responses
	Agree				Disagree	Opinion	
Grades 6-8 (2015)	18%	49%	18%	8%	3%	3%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	20%	48%	26%	4%	2%		124

Summary: Parent satisfaction with homework remained consistent among all three grade levels. Some parents expressed concern that homework in the lower graders was not relevant to subject matter.

Our Homework Policy has a recommended amount of time for students to spend studying at home for each grade level.

Is your child's quantity of homework in line with these guidelines?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Responses
Grades 6-8 (2015)	67%	29%	4%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	67%	27%	6%	124

Summary: Many junior high parent comments indicate they believe their children receive too much homework.

Has your child's teacher effectively communicated with you this year?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	61%	32%	6%	1%	1%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	69%	20%	7%	2%	1%	163
Grades 3-5 (2015)	60%	28%	9%	2%	0%	163

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Grades 3-5 (2014)	64%	25%	8%	2%	2%	114
Grades 6-8 (2015)	26%	43%	26%	5%	0%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	27%	35%	27%	7%	3%	124

Summary: A majority of the elementary school parents are pleased with the level of communication from teachers. Parents indicated they would like more communication from junior high teachers.

During Parent/Teacher conferences, please rate the discussion of the following topics for your child regarding:

	Acade	mic Progress		
	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	94%	5%	1%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	93%	6%	2%	163
Grades 3-5 (2015)	92%	7%	1%	162
Grades 3-5 (2014)	95%	2%	3%	114
Grades 6-8 (2015)	88%	11%	1%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	91%	7%	2%	124
	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Responses
	Adequate	_	•	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	92%	7%	1%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	94%	4%	2%	163
Grades 3-5 (2015)	92%	7%	1%	162
Grades 3-5 (2014)	92%	4%	4%	113
Grades 6-8 (2015)	70%	20%	10%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	70%	15%	15%	124
	Standa	ardized Tests		
	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Responses

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Grades JK-2 (2015)	61%	9%	29%	173
Grades JK-2 (2014)	64%	9%	28%	160
Grades 3-5 (2015)	83%	12%	6%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	85%	11%	4%	114
Grades 6-8 (2015)	61%	21%	18%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	67%	18%	15%	124
	Enrichme	nt Opportunities		
			Not	Responses
	Enrichme: Adequate	nt Opportunities Not enough info		Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)		Not enough	Not	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015) Grades JK-2 (2014)	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	
, ,	Adequate 60%	Not enough info 21%	Not Discussed 20%	174
, ,	Adequate 60%	Not enough info 21%	Not Discussed 20%	174
Grades JK-2 (2014)	Adequate 60% 71%	Not enough info 21% 14%	Not Discussed 20% 15%	174 161
Grades JK-2 (2014) Grades 3-5 (2015)	Adequate 60% 71%	Not enough info 21% 14%	Not Discussed 20% 15%	174 161 163
Grades JK-2 (2014) Grades 3-5 (2015)	Adequate 60% 71%	Not enough info 21% 14%	Not Discussed 20% 15%	174 161 163
Grades JK-2 (2014) Grades 3-5 (2015) Grades 3-5 (2014)	Adequate 60% 71% 73% 68%	Not enough info 21% 14% 21% 20%	Not Discussed 20% 15% 6% 12%	174 161 163 114

Summary: Many parents expressed the desire to have more information about PARCC testing incorporated into parent/teacher conferences. Surveyed parents indicated they were unsure what was meant by enrichment opportunities and parents generally expressed the desire for longer parent/teacher conferences.

The following areas were identified as action items in the Strategic Plan. Please note your general satisfaction with regards to:

Response to Intervention									
	Excellent Good Fair Poor No Opinion Responses								
Grades JK-2	26%	28%	10%	4%	31%	173			
Grades 3-5	26%	35%	12%	2%	24%	162			
Grades 6-8	15%	26%	10%	5%	43%	172			
		Gifte	ed Interventi	ion					

	TF	HE JOSE	PH SEA	IRS SCI	HOOL	
	KEN	NILWORTH	SCHOOL !	DISTRICT	No. 38	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	10%	10%	9%	10%	61%	174
Grades 3-5	11%	23%	9%	6%	50%	163
Grades 6-8	8%	16%	6%	10%	60%	174
		Englis	h/Language	Arts		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	29%	42%	13%	1%	15%	173
Grades 3-5	26%	55%	8%	1%	11%	160
Grades 6-8	25%	48%	15%	1%	12%	172
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
	Evcellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	19%	42%	9%	4%	26%	170
Grades 3-5	25%	45%	14%	2%	13%	161
Grades 6-8	19%	51%	14%	2%	15%	173
			Math			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	32%	47%	14%	1%	6%	172
Grades 3-5	35%	50%	8%	2%	5%	163
Grades 6-8	34%	52%	7%	1%	6%	174
Grades 3-5	35%	50%	8%	2%	5%	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Response
Grades JK-2	20%	56%	12%	2%	10%	173
Grades 3-5	23%	51%	12%	3%	10%	162
Grades 6-8	25%	44%	12%	9%	11%	174

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	20%	56%	12%	2%	10%	173
Grades 3-5	23%	51%	12%	3%	10%	162
Grades 6-8	25%	44%	12%	9%	11%	174
		So	cial Science	e		
	Excellent	So	cial Science Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Response
Grades JK-2	Excellent 26%				No Opinion 13%	Response
Grades JK-2 Grades 3-5		Good	Fair	Poor	·	

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			Science			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	27%	43%	16%	2%	12%	173
Grades 3-5	22%	59%	11%	1%	7%	162
Grades 6-8	32%	53%	7%	2%	7%	174
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
		****	rld Languaş	50		
Grades JK-2	35%	43%	8%	2%	12%	173
Grades 3-5	35%	43%	8%	4%	10%	163
Grades 6-8	25%	55%	11%	1%	9%	174
			Emotional			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2	26%	44%	13%	3%	15%	172
Grades 3-5	22%	53%	7%	3%	14%	161
Grades 6-8	15%	43%	11%	4%	28%	170

Summary: Parents expressed concern for the upcoming decrease in world language curriculum instruction. A number of parents commented they would like to see a more fun, relaxed physical education curriculum.

This year, the Board of Education implemented Year 2 of its Strategic Plan. Are you satisfied with the progress that has been made in the four goal areas: Curriculum, Communication, Culture and Finance/Facilities?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Grades JK-2	55%	11%	34%
Grades 3-5	60%	9%	31%
Grades 6-8	51%	11%	39%

Summary: Parents specifically referenced the communication section in the comments and indicated that Board communication has improved. Some parents referenced the school culture as an area of focus.

Math in Focus and Everyday Count Calendar Math is the foundation of our math curriculum which is implemented for grades K-5. Please rate your satisfaction with these curricular materials.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades JK-2 (2015)	34%	42%	16%	2%	7%	174

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Grades JK-2 (2014)	42%	36%	6%	5%	12%	163
Grades 3-5 (2015)	26%	45%	22%	5%	2%	163
Grades 3-5 (2014)	25%	38%	19%	8%	11%	114

Summary: Parent comments were split on the merits of the Math in Focus curriculum. Some parents believed the curriculum to be outstanding while others criticized the program for being too fast-paced.

During the past school year, the Junior High has been piloting a new science program called IQWST or Investigating and Questioning Our World through Science. Please rate your satisfaction with the pilot program.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Responses
Grades 6-8 (2015)	20%	45%	13%	5%	17%	174
Grades 6-8 (2014)	18%	32%	21%	11%	18%	124

Summary: Parents were generally satisfied with the IQWST curriculum. Many parents specifically mentioned the teachers as the reason for their satisfaction.