

# **Executive Summary 2009 Parent/Guardian Survey**

## **Introduction**

*“The purpose of the Accountability Committee (“AC”) is to provide information and analysis to the Peak to Peak Community and use that data to assess the school’s progress towards its mission”* - Stated Objective of the Accountability Committee, approved by Board of Directors, December 2005.

In response to the need to find and evaluate data to measure progress towards the mission of Peak to Peak, the Accountability Committee created a parent/guardian survey in 2007 to collect numerical and descriptive data directly related to particular objectives within the Strategic Plan. This survey, with very few changes, was again administered to parents and guardians of Peak to Peak students in January 2008 and January 2009. The results of this third annual survey are the subject of this report.

The Peak to Peak Strategic Plan was approved by the Peak to Peak Board in October, 2007. The specific themes and initiatives will be used by the entire school community in making decisions and formulating directives and policies for the operations of the school. Four specific themes tie directly to the school’s mission statement:

- 1. Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.**
- 2. Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.**
- 3. Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.**
- 4. Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.**

In the normal processes of school business, some measurements exist that can determine how well the school is doing in fulfilling its mission and satisfying the goals set by the above themes. CSAP scores, AP grades, ACT scores and acceptances into colleges can all help to measure success towards academic goals while the annual climate survey conducted by the Boulder Valley School District can identify progress made towards school culture and school climate goals, to name a few.

The annual parent/guardian survey serves as a valuable measurement tool, especially for various aspects of the Strategic Plan. The survey, developed by the AC, contains the following statements (listed here with the same letter used in the actual parent/guardian survey), which correlate to the above themes as shown in the following table:

## Table of Strategic Themes to Survey Statements

<b>1. Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.</b>
C. “My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework”
D. “Peak to Peak has prepared my student well for his or her current level of coursework.”
F. “The School’s available technology (computers and audio-visual equipment) is adequate for learning.”
M. “Peak to Peak prepares my student so he or she scores to the best of his or her ability on State tests (CSAPs), college entrance exams and/or Advanced Placement tests”
P. “My student is receiving adequate guidance through the School to choose a college that best fits him or her.”
<b>2. Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.</b>
N. “My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the School.”
O. “The community service participation by my student had (or is having) a positive impact on my student and on the community.”
<b>3. Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.</b>
E. “The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning”
G. “I provide financial support directly to the School at a level which is significant for my family”
H. “I am involved in meaningful ways in terms of volunteering at the School.”
J. “I am familiar with and understand the School’s Communication Pathways process.”
K. “When I have used the School’s Communication Pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns.”
L. “I am well informed about School events and activities.
<b>4. Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.</b>
I. “I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak”

Since much can be learned by requesting open-ended responses to issues facing Peak to Peak, the 2009 Parent/Guardian Survey included three additional questions; one very general, one specifically addressing financial support and volunteer time contributed to the school, and one asking for Vision/Focus areas for the second decade of the School. For the general question, the AC then placed the written comments into one of 16 different categories with the following frequencies:

### Summary Table of Comments

<u>Comment Category</u>	<u>Strategic Theme Number</u>	<u>Number of Comments 2009</u>	<u>Number of Comments 2008</u>	<u>Number of Comments Received 2007</u>
Calendar	1	3	5	19
Facilities / Cleanliness	3	18	18	41
Communication Pathways	3	8	38	54
Administration / Staff / Board	1	16	36	41
Academic Challenge/ Expectations/ Curricula / Character Ed	1	42	42	87
Technology	1	11	17	33
Community Service	2	5	9	15
Teachers (Either Specific or General)	1	35	50	80
Counseling Department	1	19	13	29
Extra-Curricular / Athletics	2	26	37	32
Traffic / Parking	3	3	11	8
Schedule / Course Offerings	1	17	18	18
Discipline	2	2	6	10
Communications	3	27	n/a	n/a
Kudos	N/A	21	25	29
Other / Miscellaneous	N/A	33	37	36
Total		286	362	532

The Accountability Committee recorded all comments and summarized only the lengthy ones, assuring that the gist of the comment remained intact. In addition, the committee also attempted to remove any details that could possibly connect the comment with the author when the comment was recorded.

This record of all comments has been given to the President of the Board of Directors along with the qualitative analysis to provide a full summary of the survey results. These will aid in setting priorities, determining areas of focus, and distribution of resources.

For the open-ended question concerning the reason that parents/guardians are not contributing with either time (volunteering) or direct financial support, the AC placed the written comments into one of 5 different categories for both volunteering and giving financially with the following frequencies:

### Reasons for Not Volunteering

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency 2009</u>	<u>Frequency 2008</u>	<u>Frequency 2007</u>
Time Limitations (job, kids, distance, timing)	99	85	80
No follow-up, poor coordination, never asked	18	13	40
Upset or Angry with School	6	4	13
Burned Out	1	3	5
Other	46	16	4
Total	170	121	142
Percent of All Survey Respondents	26 %	21 %	23%

### Reasons for Not Contributing Financially

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Frequency</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Frequency</u> <u>2007</u>
Personal financial Limitations	65	31	54
Upset with the School	7	8	28
Don't know use of money	3	3	17
No follow up, no one asked	1	1	1
Other	22	12	4
Total	98	55	104
Percent of All Survey Respondents	15 %	9.6%	17%

The 2009 Parent/Guardian Survey included a question soliciting input about the vision/direction for the School in the next decade. Fifteen possible categories were offered as choices. The top four choices are included in the table below. There were an additional 206 comments related to these categories. This information has already been forwarded to the Board for future planning purposes.

### Vision/Direction for 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Staff Compensation	268
Athletics/Activities	191
Secondary Course Offerings	189
Improve Process for Meeting Student Needs	174

### Strategic Themes and Related Survey Responses

The following discussion relates the specific survey results to their Strategic Themes as determined by the Strategic Plan. As this is the third year of the survey, the data can be compared to the 2008 and 2007 responses. For most statements the average (mean) increased from 2008 to 2009. The participation of the parent/guardian community at Peak to Peak in this annual survey gives invaluable data that is used to focus resources, energy and policies within the framework of the Strategic Plan and measurements taken in their entirety.

The survey responses are presented here with their average (mean on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) response and the total percentages of responses that agreed (plus strongly agreed) or disagreed (plus strongly disagreed), and the numerical tabulation of comments as they pertain to the Theme. The percentage of responses in the 'uncertain' category was omitted here, which results in the total not equaling 100%. This summary can be used to identify those areas that may require more / less attention in the future from administration, the board and the financial resources of Peak to Peak.

***Strategic Theme 1: Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.***

My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework. (2007 Mean = 4.24) (2008 Mean = 4.31)	Mean= <b>4.32</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      90.6% Strongly Disagree/Disagree      3.8%
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Peak to Peak has prepared by student well for his or her current level of coursework (2007 Mean = 4.26) (2008 Mean = 4.38)	Mean = <b>4.34</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      91.0% Strongly Disagree/Disagree      2.4%
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The School's available technology (computers and audio-visual equipment) is adequate for learning. (2007 Mean = 3.65) (2008 Mean = 3.74)	Mean = <b>4.16</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      84.1% Strongly Disagree/Disagree      3.1%
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Peak to Peak prepares my student so he or she scores to the best of his or her ability on State tests (CSAPs), college entrance exams and/or Advanced Placement tests. (2007 Mean = 4.02) (2008 Mean = 4.16)	Mean = <b>4.15</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      84.5 % Strongly Disagree/Disagree      2.2 %
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My student is receiving adequate guidance through the School to choose a college that best fits him or her. (2007 Mean = 3.67) (2008 Mean = 3.95)	Mean = <b>4.04</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      73.0 % Strongly Disagree/Disagree      6.2%
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<b>Comments:</b>	School Calendar	3
	Board/Admin/Staff	16
	Academic Challenge	42
	Technology	11
	Teachers	35
	Counseling	19
	Schedule/Courses	<u>17</u>
	Total	143

***Strategic Theme 2: Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.***

The community service participation by my student had (or is having) a positive impact on my student and on the community. (2007 Mean = 3.89) (2008 Mean = 4.07)	Mean = <b>4.02</b> Strongly Agree/Agree      77.4% Strongly Disagree/Disagree      9.0%
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My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the School.  
 (2007 Mean = 3.87)  
 (2008 Mean = 4.01)

Mean = **4.08**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 82.2 %  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.9%

<b>Comments:</b>	Community Svs	5
	ExtraCur/Athletics	26
	Discipline	<u>2</u>
	Total	33

***Strategic Theme 3: Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.***

The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning.  
 (2007 Mean = 4.18)  
 (2008 Mean = 4.25)

Mean = **4.40**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 95.8%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 0.8%

I provide financial support directly to the School at a level which is significant for my family.  
 (2007 Mean = 4.04)  
 (2008 Mean = 4.18)

Mean = **4.03**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 81.3%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 8.9%

I am involved in meaningful ways in terms of volunteering at the School.  
 (2007 Mean = 3.90)  
 (2008 Mean = 3.76)

Mean = **3.76**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 70.1%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 20.3%

I am familiar with and understand the School's Communication Pathways process.  
 (2007 Mean = 4.16)  
 (2008 Mean = 4.13)

Mean = **4.31**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 87.3%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 3.6%

When I have used the School's Communication Pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns.  
 (2007 Mean = 3.84)  
 (2008 Mean = 3.89)

Mean = **4.04**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 78.8%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.4%

I am well informed about School events and activities.  
 (2007 Mean = 4.24)  
 (2008 Mean = 4.28)

Mean = **4.32**  
 Strongly Agree/Agree 91.3%  
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 5.4%

<b>Comments:</b>	Facilities/Clean	18
	Comm. Pathways.	8
	Communication	27
	Traffic/Parking	<u>3</u>
	Total	56

***Strategic Theme 4: Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.***

I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak (2007 Mean = 4.43) (2008 Mean = 4.57)	Mean = <b>4.65</b>	
	Strongly Agree/Agree	94.9%
	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	0.2%

**Celebrations and Opportunities**

From the results of the 2009 survey, the Peak to Peak community remains very positive about its school. It is very open to encouraging others to join the school, well informed about what is happening at the school, pleased with the campus facilities, and confident that students are receiving the teaching and tutoring necessary to succeed. The strongest area of increase from 2008 to 2009 was in the positive responses for statement F, ‘The School’s available technology (computers and audio-visual equipment) is adequate for learning.’

At the same time, the school has some areas that need improvement and focus, mainly the impact of community service, meaningful volunteer involvement at the middle and high school levels, and ensuring that the students are well-prepared for both coursework and CSAP/AP testing. The area of providing financial support also dropped from the 2008 survey; this is assumed to be in response to a difficult economy.

All of these opportunities must be addressed and assessed within the framework of the total school and within the boundaries and constraints identified by the Strategic Plan. The Accountability Committee will continue to monitor and communicate progress made against these and other benchmarks set for Peak to Peak Charter School.

As was done this year, in the fall of the 2009-10 school year, the AC will provide the community with the responses to the results of this year’s survey. This assures the entire community that its input is valued and does impact the school.