

Peak to Peak Response to 2009 Parent/Guardian Survey Results

The results of the 2009 Peak to Peak Parent/Guardian Survey were provided to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors and administration in the spring of 2009. At the annual meeting in April 2009, a summary of the results was presented to the Peak to Peak community. In general, the responses to the survey statements were very positive with responses averaging 3.76 – 4.65 on a scale of 1 - 5. The survey showed some major improvements. The statement about Adequate Technology improved by 11.2%, our largest single increase. The score for Encouraging Others to Attend P2P was our highest result, at 4.65, and was also higher than the previous year's score. The score for the two statements about understanding the Communications Pathways and its effectiveness also increased. The results can be viewed on the Peak to Peak website, www.peaktopeak.org. Simply click on 'About Us' and then 'Committees' and 'Accountability' to access all survey results.

In response to the 2009 Survey, the Accountability committee has gathered information regarding what has been and is being done at the school to address the concerns that were reflected in the survey and written comments. The three lowest scoring areas from the survey dealt with volunteering, student community service, and financial support.

Volunteering – 'I am involved in meaningful ways in terms of volunteering' (3.76)

This statement about volunteering had the lowest average response rating and had similar results on the prior year's survey. Survey comments showed that some individuals simply feel they do not have the available time to volunteer. Others who were interested in volunteering had difficulty identifying ways in which their skills and interests could be utilized. There are many meaningful volunteer opportunities available with varied levels of required commitment.

- Peak to Peak has implemented a new volunteer database that helps organize volunteer needs. The database can be accessed from the school website.
- Emails frequently go out with specific administrative/school volunteer opportunities.
- Our volunteer coordinator, Sandy Ray, can help volunteers match their needs with the needs of the school. She can also assist those who need help registering for the new database. Her email address is sandyray320-p2p@yahoo.com.
- There are additional ways to support the school that require minimal time. These include voting in the April election, attending the annual meeting in April, and attending the Business Expo that also occurs in April.

Involvement is crucial to the success of our school. For more information about being involved at Peak to Peak please see the message from Tony Fontana, the executive principal, in the February 2010 Speak to Peak, accessible on the home page of www.peaktopeak.org

Community Service – ‘The community service participation by my student had (or is having) a positive impact on my student and on the community’ (4.02)

This statement about community service was our second lowest score, and dropped a little from the previous year. Input from counseling and administration shows the following changes:

- Students can now get all their community service hours at Peak to Peak; this should help to reduce stress and help the students see the impact of their time and service.
- A secondary service council has been formed to help promote activities and opportunities and focus more energy on major events.
- Counselors are teaching in 9th and 10th grade classes about the larger purpose of community service: becoming an active member of the community and finding a passion for service that will continue.

Financial Support – I provide financial support directly to the School at a level which is significant for my family (4.03)

According to survey results most families said they give financial support directly to the school at a meaningful level. Survey comments indicate that the 3.5% decline in the average response was due to the difficult economy. As a charter school, support from the Peak to Peak community is important to the success of our students and every contribution is greatly appreciated.

Due to the current economy and decreases in the state budget, Peak to Peak will face cuts in funding for the 2010-2011 school year with even more cuts expected in the 2011-2012 school year. Peak to Peak is fiscally strong and financially conservative with its funds and reserves and has a financial plan in place to manage these budget cuts as it continues with its goal of providing superior education. For more information on how Peak to Peak’s Board of Directors and administration will manage the budget shortfall see the letter from the board in the February 2010 Peak to Peak newsletter at www.peaktopeak.org.

VISION/DIRECTION for the Next Decade

The 2009 survey listed fifteen areas for possible emphasis during the next decade of the school. Respondents were asked to choose the three they thought were most important. The scores for the second, third and fourth choices were so close, however, that we’ve included the top four items.

The top category, chosen by 43.2%, was **staff compensation**. This is and will continue to be a focus of the BOD and administration.

- There was incorrect teacher salary information on the BVSD school report card last year. That should be correct on this year’s report card. Average Peak to Peak teacher salaries are approximately five percent less than other BVSD schools.
- There have been big improvements in salaries in the past two years and Peak to Peak was one of the few charters to give raises last year.
- Peak to Peak is very careful with its funds and no teachers have had to be laid off or are expected to be laid off due to finances.

At 30.8%, **Athletics and Activities** was the second highest category chosen. Peak to Peak continues to develop the athletics and activities offerings and these are prioritized based on our financial and facility constraints.

- There are many opportunities for students to participate and over 75% of our population is involved in our activities and athletics. For a complete listing of what is available by school level please check out the school website www.peaktopeak.org and click on 'Athletics and Activities'.
- Given the number of athletic opportunities currently available, the goal is to add depth to the existing programs (adding JV and C teams) rather than adding new programs. The priority for facility enhancement is to develop the field space for sports we currently offer such as baseball and softball.
- Football is an extremely expensive sport and there are no plans at this time to offer that. Lacrosse, swimming, wrestling, and tennis are available for our students at other BVSD high schools. These are sports that are not offered at every high school in the district.
- There have been new sport opportunities added at the middle school level such as interscholastic 7th grade soccer and basketball as well as intramural basketball.
- Based on student interest, Peak to Peak activity offerings continue to grow. Recent high school additions include DECA (40 students already participate in business and marketing activities and competitions), Christian Fellowship, and Model United Nations.
- Through Athletics and Activities fairs, student surveys, and individual meetings with students, Peak to Peak continues to look for ways to increase student involvement and participation.
- Several survey comments were made about wanting better communication to everyone about school sports events and activities. Work continues on informing people without overloading them with emails. Changes to the athletics and activities section on the new school website should help with this communication.

The third priority (30.5%) for the next decade was **Secondary Course Offerings**. This was a focus question on the 2008 survey, and several courses have been added or changed since that time.

- Tech 10 is now offered as a middle school elective.
- Mandarin was added as a new world language class for MS and HS last year. Next year a level 30 class will be added and in following years level 40 and AP will be added.
- Post-AP level conversation courses in both French and Spanish were added this year so students can continue their studies in current international events and hone their speaking and communication skills prior to college entrance.
- The social studies curriculum pathway is being realigned for grades 6-12. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year middle school level American history will move to 6th grade. World history is shifting from 9th grade and will be split into 7th and 8th grade courses that include geography.
- Both micro and macro-economics are being formally integrated into the 6-12 courses, with the primary coverage taking place in grades 9 and 10.
- Human Geography (standard and AP) will be offered in 9th grade as a full year course. US Government and Politics (standard and AP) will be a full year course for 10th grade. American History will continue as an 11th grade course.

- A new one semester course called Roots of Conflict was added this year to complete the senior offerings and build out full four year AP and non-AP options for HS social studies. 2010-2011 will be a transition year to accommodate the pathway for those currently in 6th and 9th grade.

The fourth priority (28.1%) was **Improve the Process for Meeting Student Needs**. This area was so close in score to the third vision choice that it is included here. There were many comments about academic challenge in general for the survey; pretty equally divided between ones about too much challenge and ones about not enough challenge. The following are the responses to this area:

- A full-time Think Tank tutoring center is staffed with paraprofessionals and student aides and has been an incredible support.
- With use of the Response to Intervention model and the integration of Problem-Solving team meetings, Peak to Peak is able to identify what is and isn't working for students and make appropriate recommendations to support students and families.
- Early Release times are used for grade levels to meet across K-12 to address student needs and explore what interventions are working for a range of students.
- Training and focus K-12 on identifying and supporting TAG students through differentiation, compacting curriculum, personalizing curriculum, and extension activities.
- At the middle school level there is a focused study hall elective for 6th grade students that comprises individual instructional support, study skills and stress management.