

Executive Summary

2012 Parent/Guardian Survey

Peak to Peak Charter School

The purpose of the Accountability Committee is to gather and analyze data to assess the school's progress toward its mission and to provide results of that analysis to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors, the administration and the rest of the Peak to Peak community.

Preface

This Executive Summary report summarizes the results of the Parent/Guardian survey developed by the Peak to Peak Accountability Committee and conducted from January 26 thru February 12, 2012. Additional detailed data is available in the full survey report titled *2012 Peak to Peak Annual Survey Results*. These reports and all the comments, which are anonymous, were forwarded to the Board of Directors, including the principals and the Executive Director of Operations. The Accountability Committee will provide a follow up report on what actions the school has taken in response to these survey results.

The Accountability Committee appreciates the time taken by Peak to Peak families to complete the survey and provide meaningful comments. This input helps Peak to Peak continue to improve.

Survey Overview

The annual Peak to Peak survey provides the school administration and the Board of Directors with an understanding of the parent/guardian view of how successfully Peak to Peak is achieving its mission. The results help drive improvements to Peak to Peak. Results from prior years have led to changes such as improvements in technology, in facilities, in management of volunteer needs, and have also indicated areas where improved communication was needed.

The Accountability Committee has used an annual parent/guardian survey since 2007 to collect feedback from the Peak to Peak community. The Peak to Peak mission and strategic plan were the basis for the questions. The 2012 survey contained the original fourteen questions along with the three questions that were added on the 2011 survey.

The annual parent/guardian survey was administered as an online survey. Access to the survey was through an email sent to all families in the p2pfamilies email group. The survey was available online for eighteen days. Each family was asked to complete the survey questions once for each child they had enrolled at Peak to Peak.

The survey used a four-point scale (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree) rather than the five-point scale that was used prior to 2011. The old five-point scale included a neutral option. Along with the four-point scale there was an 'I am unsure' option for those who felt they did not have enough information to respond to the question. Respondents were given the opportunity to provide a comment after each group of questions within a quality area: Quality of Instruction, Quality of Relationships, and Quality of Learning Environment. There was also a place at the completion of the survey for final comments. All responses and comments are anonymous.

Results

Response Rates

The survey had a 33 percent response rate. 294 families completed the survey for 439 students (31% of students). This compares with 40 percent of families responding for 37 percent of the students last year. Of the 294 families that responded, 121 (41%) had more than one student, and 173 (59%) had one child. Below is a table detailing the response rates by school level.

	Responses	Number in School	Response Rate
Elementary	149	444	34%
Middle School	127	401	32%
High School	163	593	27%
Total Students	439	1438	31%
Families	294	~900	33%

Question Results

The table on the following page shows the percent of strongly agree and agree responses from the parent/guardian survey over the last six years. Note that there is no data reported for 2010 since different questions were asked that year. Please use some caution in comparing the results from 2011 and 2012 to prior years as the survey response scale was modified from five levels to four levels. Those who responded with the 'I am unsure' option were not included in the total count of responses used in calculating the percentage of strongly agree and agree.

The second table compares the percent of positive responses for 2012 and 2011 for each school level.

Year to Year Comparison of Positive Responses								
		2007	2008	2009	2011	2012		
Quality of Instruction								
1	My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework	87.1%	89.6%	90.6%	94.7%	92.3%	↓	
2	Peak to Peak has prepared my student well for his/her current level of coursework	87.2%	90.6%	91.0%	96.0%	93.9%	↓	
3	Peak to Peak prepares my student so he/she scores to the best of his/her ability on standardized assessments such as DRA2, state tests, college entrance exams and/or advanced placement tests. *	76.6%	83.6%	84.5%	93.6%	93.0%	→	
4	My Student is receiving adequate guidance through the school to choose a college that best fits him/her (HS only)	58.4%	69.4%	73.0%	85.6%	92.4%	↑	
Quality of Relationships								
5	I provide financial support directly to the school at a level which is significant to my family	82.6%	84.8%	81.3%	86.3%	86.0%	→	
6	I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering for the school	74.4%	68.5%	70.1%	75.1%	75.4%	→	
7	I am familiar with and understand the school's communication pathways process	83.1%	81.5%	87.3%	98.6%	97.9%	→	
8	When I have used the school's communication pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns	71.1%	70.9%	78.8%	88.9%	85.7%	↓	
9	I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak	89.6%	93.3%	94.9%	97.4%	96.3%	→	
10	My student has at least one adult at school whom she/he trusts and is comfortable approaching with issues and concerns				94.2%	95.6%	→	
11	The community service requirement for my HS student or the participation in character education projects by my ES or MS student has a positive impact on my student and the community. (HS data only) **	70.9%	80.3%	77.4%	93.4%	94.7%	→	
Quality of Learning Environment								
12	The school's available technology is adequate for learning.	64.6%	67.7%	84.1%	91.0%	91.0%	→	
13	The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning.	88.3%	91.9%	95.8%	96.9%	97.4%	→	
14	I am well informed about school events and activities.	87.9%	89.2%	91.3%	95.3%	94.9%	→	
15	My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the school. (MS & HS only)	72.7%	79.3%	82.2%	91.4%	87.2%	↓	
16	The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances.				96.4%	90.7%	↓	
17	Peak to Peak values each student and encourages students to develop their passions, talents and interests.				93.5%	92.0%	→	
Up and down arrows indicate change from prior year of more than two percentage points.								
* Statement #3 was not answered for K-2 students prior to 2011.								
** The wording of statement #11 was modified in 2012 to better gather data for ES and MS. The previous wording was: The community service participation by my student has/is having a positive impact on my student and the community.								
This survey was not conducted in 2010.								

Year to Year Comparison of Positive Responses by School Level								
		Elementary		Middle School		High School		
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
Quality of Instruction								
1	My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework	96.8%	93.9% ↓	96.0%	91.1% ↓	92.2%	91.8% →	
2	Peak to Peak has prepared my student well for his/her current level of coursework	96.8%	95.1% →	98.0%	91.1% ↓	94.1%	94.9% →	
3	Peak to Peak prepares my student so he/she scores to the best of his/her ability on standardized assessments such as DRA2, state tests, college entrance exams and/or advanced placement tests.	96.0%	94.5% →	96.0%	91.3% ↓	90.7%	93.1% ↑	
4	My Student is receiving adequate guidance through the school to choose a college that best fits him/her (HS only)	NA	NA	NA	NA	85.6%	92.4%	↑
Quality of Relationships								
5	I provide financial support directly to the school at a level which is significant to my family	91.9%	91.4% →	81.3%	84.5% ↑	85.6%	82.0%	↓
6	I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering for the school	93.4%	92.3% →	63.1%	64.7% →	69.8%	68.2%	→
7	I am familiar with and understand the school's communication pathways process	99.4%	97.9% →	98.0%	97.6% →	98.6%	98.1%	→
8	When I have used the school's communication pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns	88.9%	86.4% ↓	86.4%	79.5% ↓	90.5%	89.8%	→
9	I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak	98.7%	95.0% ↓	96.4%	96.5% →	97.2%	98.0%	→
10	My student has at least one adult at school whom she/he trusts and is comfortable approaching with issues and concerns	97.3%	94.8% ↓	90.4%	91.8% →	94.2%	99.3%	↑
11	The community service requirement for my HS student or the participation in character education projects by my ES or MS student has a positive impact on my student and the community.	92.3%	94.3% →	86.2%	97.7% ↑	93.4%	93.8%	→
Quality of Learning Environment								
12	The school's available technology is adequate for learning.	91.4%	88.1% ↓	89.1%	91.1% ↑	92.2%	93.7%	→
13	The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning.	98.0%	97.2% →	97.9%	95.0% ↓	95.2%	99.4%	↑
14	I am well informed about school events and activities.	94.2%	95.2% →	94.6%	91.1% ↓	96.7%	97.5%	→
15	My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the school. (MS & HS only)	NA	NA	86.3%	84.7% →	94.7%	89.0%	↓
16	The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances.	97.7%	91.2% ↓	97.6%	90.6% ↓	94.7%	90.5%	↓
17	Peak to Peak values each student and encourages students to develop their passions, talents and interests.	94.5%	89.1% ↓	92.1%	92.0% →	93.8%	94.6%	→
Up and down arrows indicate change from prior year of more than two percentage points.								

Overall the 2012 survey results continue to show that Peak to Peak families are very positive about the school with 13 of the 17 questions having positive response rates greater than 90 percent.

The data for the combined school levels shows a slight drop in the first two questions about **Quality of Instruction**, but that area continues to be rated highly. Middle School parents gave a 91 percent approval rating on each Instruction question. This was a drop from very high ratings (96-98%) last year. Elementary and Middle School parents had a fairly high unsure count when asked about preparation for standardized tests (25% for ES and 18% for MS). At the Middle School level this may be due to the number of new students in sixth grade that have not done standardized testing at the time the survey is administered. Ninety-two percent of high school parents think their student is receiving adequate college counseling. This is an increase from 85 percent last year and indicates the changes in counseling structure, communication, and curriculum are having a positive impact.

In the area of **Quality of Relationships** the results are fairly consistent with last year. With positive responses greater than 95 percent, families say they are familiar with the communication pathways process, would encourage others to enroll at Peak to Peak, and believe their student has an adult he/she trusts. The responses for providing financial support (86%) and for volunteering (75%) are similar to last year. As was seen in last year's data, there is a drop off in volunteering for parents of secondary students. This is not surprising, but Peak to Peak needs to continue to communicate volunteer opportunities and encourage volunteering. This remains an important means of building relationships and creating a feeling of community at the school.

The drop in the response to the communication pathways process being effective is a concern. Overall it is rated 86 percent versus 89 percent in 2011. There was a slight drop at the Elementary level (86% from 89%) and a more significant drop at the Middle School level (80% from 86%). There may always be some parents who are unhappy with the results of following the process, but Peak to Peak needs to be sure the process works well.

Ninety-four percent of parents of high school students say the community service requirement has a positive impact. The community service question was changed this year in hopes of providing more useful data for Elementary and Middle School students since there are character education projects at the Elementary level that are imbedded in the curriculum and there are opportunities for Middle Schoolers, although there is not a requirement in Middle School. This question was rated highly for these levels (94% for ES and 98% for MS), however responders were told to leave the question blank if their student did not participate. The question was left blank for 73 percent of Elementary students and for 61 percent of Middle School students so apparently many parents do not know about Elementary character

education projects or the question confused them. The wording of the question will be reevaluated again next year.

The first three questions under **Quality of Learning Environment** (technology, physical facilities and informed about school events) had responses pretty even with last year although there were minor ups and downs at the individual school levels. After a big increase in positive responses last year concerning adequate opportunities for extracurricular involvement, the percentage fell back down to 87 percent from 91 percent. The percentage dropped slightly to 85 percent for Middle School and fell from 95 percent to 89 percent for High School.

The question about school finances had an interesting response. The positive responses dropped from 96 percent to 91 percent. The number of families who said they were unsure was 30 percent for Elementary and Middle School and 20 percent for High School. Peak to Peak has greatly increased the financial transparency over the past year and perhaps parents are looking at these documents but are still unsure if the school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. In last year's survey the unsure percentages ranged from 12-16 percent.

The results for the final question about Peak to Peak valuing each student and encouraging students to develop their passions showed a decline at the Elementary level from 95 percent to 89 percent. While 89 percent is high the decline indicates it is an area to watch.

The Comments

In addition to rating the questions, parents/guardians had the opportunity to write comments. They were given the chance to enter a comment after each quality area as well as a final comment so they may have written anywhere from zero to four comments per student. The chart below summarizes the different types of comments that were given.

	Comment Category	Comment Count				
		Elem School	Middle School	High School	Final	Total
1	Academic Challenge/Expectations	1	2	2	2	7
2	Teachers	25	18	19	5	67
3	Administration/Staff/Board	9	12	7	11	39
4	Technology	7	4	1	1	13
5	Communication	2	11		1	14
6	Counseling		1	12	1	14
7	Community Service			3		3
8	Athletics/Extracurricular Activities	3	6	6	1	16
9	Climate	1		8	11	20
10	Facilities/Traffic	7	5	3	7	22
11	Discipline				1	1
12	Schedule/Calendar				4	4
13	Curriculum	8	5	4	3	20
14	General Kudos	2	1	3	22	28
15	Other	5	6	6	3	20
16	Fundraising/Finances	6	5	3	3	17
17	Volunteering		1	4		5
18	Developing Passions	6	1	4		11
		====	====	====	====	====
	Total	82	78	85	76	321

There were 305 comments entered on the survey. Those that contained multiple comments pertaining to different categories were split for analysis resulting in 321 comments. The General Kudos category contains comments that are favorable comments for the school in general. All the other categories may contain positive, negative, and/or neutral comments. There were many very positive comments, however there were some common concerns that are worth pointing out.

1. At all school levels some parents/guardians are concerned that the strong emphasis on academics and testing is no longer being balanced with the joy of learning causing a stressful environment.
2. There are concerns that fundraising costs are too high in relation to the amount of money raised. Families would like to see some fresh fundraising ideas.
3. Some parents mentioned their concern about the C grade that the Middle School received from ColoradoSchoolGrades.com. An explanation of this should be given to families.
4. Middle School and High School parents of Mandarin students are upset about how the Mandarin program has been handled.
5. Elementary parents have concerns about space in the cafeteria and for BAASC and would like to know what the plans are to address this.

6. Some parents, especially at the Elementary level, would like to see use of new technologies and would like to see more technology in the curriculum.
7. There's a perception that drama/theater is not supported by the administration and the board.
8. Some Elementary parents would like to see changes in what is taught in PE and how it's taught.

These concerns should be looked into. If nothing else there is at least a perception from some parents that these are issues. The school may find that some changes are necessary and in some instances better communication may be all that's needed.

Conclusion

The 2012 survey showed that families continue to have a very positive view of Peak to Peak, especially in the area of instruction. The school should continue to work on volunteer efforts, use of the communication pathways process, and extracurricular opportunities. The work done to report finances and to explain how financial decisions are made should continue so that Peak to Peak families can become better informed. The common concerns from the comments that are highlighted above should receive extra attention.

The Accountability Committee will continue to monitor and communicate progress made against these and other benchmarks set for Peak to Peak. In the fall of the 2012-2013 school year the committee will provide the community with the response to the results of this year's survey. This assures the entire community that its input is valued and does impact the school.

The 2011-2012 Accountability Committee
April 2012