

[Peak to Peak Response to 2015 Annual Family Survey Results](#)

Summary

The results of the 2015 Peak to Peak Annual Family Survey were provided to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors and administration in the spring of 2015. A report detailing the results of the survey was provided to the Peak to Peak community and is available on the school website ([link to survey results here](#)). In general, responses to the survey statements were very positive. However, there were areas where parents/guardians expressed concerns either through the rating of the question or in their comments. The Board of Directors, Executive Leadership, and principals take the survey results very seriously and have responded with many changes to address the concerns of the Peak to Peak community. The following report, prepared by the Accountability Committee, summarizes those activities. A brief summary of several topics is listed in this section. More details about the survey and the response can be found in the remainder of this report.

Communication with the Community

Parents specified they had trouble navigating the various communication channels (new website, fusion pages) and generally experienced information overload. Additionally, parents indicated middle and high school parent/teacher conferences were ineffective, yet they wanted more student specific communication.

Parent/teacher conferences have been redesigned (based on a model already in place at elementary level) and will take place in early October. Within Infinite campus, parents can view each student's grades and a comment indicating whether a conference is recommended for their child. The new structure will permit individually scheduled, 10-min conferences that families can sign up for online via www.acuityscheduling.com. This new structure should allow for more confidentiality and reduce lines for specific teachers and make the time more meaningful for students and parents.

Overall school communication has been streamlined and more mobile options are available. As of June 1st Fusion pages are no longer active and all information can be accessed through the website. Website login information was presented during registration which will hopefully reduce access issues.

Teacher communication - All teachers were trained on Edline usage and a template was provided for consistency in the framework of pages. Additionally, a mobile app is now available for parents and students. The new Edline app includes customizable links to blogs, newsfeeds, and a calendar which can even display the lunch menu!

Executive Leadership/Board of Directors

Parent comments in the survey expressed concern regarding communication among the board members and expressed a desire for more openness and collaboration.

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Board of Directors (BOD) have made a concerted effort to increase and improve communication. The BOD, ELT, and direct reports completed a 360 Degree Feedback survey designed to rate communication and collaboration between and among various members. Mountains States Executive Council (MSEC) reviewed the quantitative data and members of the Accountability committee performed a content analysis of the open ended comments. Results revealed a need to clarify the role and purpose of board members and increase collaboration to improve decision making. Additionally, these same individuals completed an Indigo assessment to discover strengths between members in order to maximize the board's efforts. Summer training for new and returning board members incorporated discussions and activities to facilitate these goals.

Teacher Specific Communication

Comments related to specific teachers, both positive and negative, were distributed (in their original form) to Executive Leadership and the Board of Directors. These comments, combined with student and other feedback, will be shared with the subject in an appropriate manner and built into overall evaluation and growth plans.

Facilities

Survey comments specific to school facilities and their maintenance included appreciation for the planned build-out as well as concerns around general cleanliness, particularly bathrooms, and repairs to aging facilities. Construction of new building additions is underway and on schedule for completion in late spring 2016. The new construction will address many areas of concern about overused and limited facilities. John Wilcox, *Facilities Director*, requests patience from the community as construction continues in parallel to regular school activity.

The administration is continually balancing the needs of maintaining 15-year-old campus buildings with other educational financial needs. Repairs have been made to improve damaged concrete, although permanent replacement of some sidewalks continue to be cost-prohibitive. Maintenance activities on heating and cooling systems are completed on a tight schedule to keep these critical systems performing. The Facilities Department is working to fill the part-time maintenance position that is currently open.

Janitorial services are provided by a combination of permanent staff and supplemental custodial services. To address ongoing concerns about bathroom cleanliness, the janitorial staff instituted an Inspection Log system in October of 2014. Each bathroom is inspected at least twice during school days and again overnight to identify and address cleaning and maintenance issues. Inspections and any related comments are maintained in a logbook. Mr. Wilcox recognizes that the bathrooms are a key priority in facility cleanliness and believes the logs aid in providing more consistent attention to these areas.

The school budget includes Replacement Reserves, which address the costs of replacing major equipment and facility structure. Whether these reserves are fully funded is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the school's Strategic Plan. Budget constraints led to the inactivation of this KPI, but it will be reactivated this year. This will ensure adequate funds are available to make repairs and/or replacements as necessary to maintain both the aging existing campus as well as the new facilities.

Food Services

Some parents are unhappy about the current food options. Some who expressed concerns want more organic/healthier options that still taste good. This issue was also raised in 2014 and the *Food Services Parent Advisory Committee* was created in response. This group continues to work with the food services department to act as advisors, assistants, and champions for food service.

Food Options

Peak to Peak is a designated School Food Authority (SFA) which means the school operates under strict regulations through the CDE and the USDA. Whenever possible, the cafeteria offers the healthiest, tastiest and most nutritious food option available. For example, through "Puma Patch" K-5 students can access a full range of fruits and vegetables, including lettuce, celery sticks, carrots, cucumbers, edamame, snap peas, apples, grapes, bananas, and pineapple. Grades 3-12 can have a full salad bar instead of the main entree.

Additionally, "tasting sessions" were held to sample many of the items offered. If kids aren't sure if they want an item they will be offered a sample so they can try it before they buy it. Food Services offers organic milk daily at an additional cost to lunch. Also, organic spinach and spring mix are available daily on the salad bar. All chicken products are all natural and not fried. The hamburger used is from Anderson Beef and is antibiotic, hormone free. The corn dogs are turkey dogs with whole grain breading. There is a full salad bar daily and fresh, natural homemade soups. Other organic items may be offered on the salad bar depending on price and product availability. After the build-out, there will be space to install bulk milk dispensers to affordably offer organic milk to all students.

This year veggie burgers were offered on days when hamburgers & cheeseburgers were served every other Friday. Peanut butter & jelly and/or cheese sandwich option is available daily in place of the main entree. Food Services will try to move some menu items around to make more vegetarian options available on Friday. On days when meat is listed on the menu, students do not have to take the meat with their meal. In addition, the salad bar is available every day for any student. The monthly menus are posted ahead of the month and have Gluten Free and Vegetarian items marked.

Serving Time

The serving time is always a concern for food services. Food Services works with the principals at each level to help manage the flow of students into the serving lines to improve serving time throughout the year. Typically, they strive for 7 minutes to largely complete serving for each lunch period.

Since the kitchen has been remodeled, a third serving line has been added for elementary students and a substation for secondary. The lines are faster and with the expansion of the cafeteria, Food Services look forward to creating a more enjoyable dining experience.

Cost

Peak to Peak is very conscientious about raising meal prices, and the increases have been few over the past several years. Meal prices are in line with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) pricing, and Peak to Peak Food Services operates at a breakeven profit margin. Weekly emails are sent to parents of children who overdraw their accounts. Food Services personnel strive to provide nourishment to the children, leaving cost conversations between parent and child.

Curriculum

There were a small number of comments focused on expanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) course options and further clarifying the role of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

In order to bolster the school's STEM curriculum the Science faculty has incorporated Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as outlined by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) across the Middle and High Schools. Additionally, since last year, all 6th through 12th grade science teachers are committed to including engineering projects in all of their classes and to supporting independent engineering projects. Independent projects are also a possible fit for the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone program, which is an option offered by the College Board that the Curriculum Committee is considering for the future. The school continues to offer Robotics at every level with both club and competitive Robotics at the High School level. The College Board is currently exploring the option of AP Engineering, and when that course becomes available Peak to Peak's Curriculum Committee

will consider adopting it. The Science and Technology faculty continue to work together from year to year to adjust the curriculum in order to avoid overlap as programs are added and evolve.

The Appropriate Learning Placement Services (ALPS) program, which supports Talented and Gifted (TAG) students, is in a period of strong expansion due to increased testing at all levels in the school. It was determined last year that students are under-identified at the Middle and High School levels and efforts are underway to identify those students. In addition to teacher recommendations, all first graders will now take a screener and all students will be tested in third grade. There are also future plans to look more at talent specific giftedness in order to determine how to best nurture students who fit that category. Plans are in place to increase the descriptive information on the web site to clarify the role of ALPS. New programs this year are “Battle of the Books” in grades 5th through 8th and Lunch Bunch for 6th and 7th grades modified slightly for that age group and number of students. Elementary optional project based learning that was piloted in 3rd grade last year will roll out in 2nd through 5th grades. Helena Hulse, the ALPS Coordinator, is also beginning to meet with High School counselors once a month to better coordinate supporting the TAG population at the High school level.

Safety and Security

Campus still feels very open and students and staff are vulnerable. Similar to the 2014 Survey results, parents are concerned about campus safety, specifically about security and access at school entrances and the openness of the campus. This is further clarified by comments suggesting that the current system (Raptor/DL scanning) is a good start, but inadequate.

Campus security:

Going forward, no changes are expected with the *Raptor* system as it is working well. It is an essential tool for our school to obtain quick sex offender checks for all visitors and guests, while still allowing volunteer hour tracking. In addition, all volunteers at Peak must complete a background check through Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is the most comprehensive background check available and it provides ongoing updates. Adding the new airlocks in both the north and south building main entrances will provide a new level of security that the campus has not had in the past. Doors are locked at all other entrances except during passing periods.

In recognition of the inconvenience the Raptor system causes for guests, the school has added a second system for special events. Given our multi-building campus our safety precautions are necessary. The BVSD Security Office commends Peak to Peak for implementing this and uses it as an exemplar for BVSD schools as a result.

Traffic safety issues:

Because Peak to Peak hosts many activities during non-school hours, the administration has opted to keep Puma Drive and Canterbury Drive two-way during non-school hours. Otherwise it is very confusing to people coming to the campus who are not familiar with the school. Since the vehicle volume on both of these access roads is limited after drop-off and pick-up, they feel it is safe to allow two-way traffic during those times.

Athletics

Several comments related to improving Athletics, both with the coaching personnel and training.

The athletic department operates at a deficit and depends upon fundraising. Through the Banner Program (started this year), athletics is raising more money for sports programs (e.g., new equipment/jerseys purchased this year for softball, and in 2015, the cross-country and track coach received a \$5,000 coach's award from Brooks which helped purchase almost 40 warm-ups).

In 2014-15, Peak to Peak was able to increase stipends for coaches which should help improve the quality of coaches (20% minimum increase and anticipates a 3% yearly increase). Although an Athletic Trainer would be a welcome addition, currently Peter Chandler, the Athletic Director, and the coaches handle these duties. All coaches are certified in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), concussions, and first-aid and their priority is to keep athletes safe.

Promoting Athletics – Starting last week, during Announcements, Mr. Chandler began including a listing of each sporting event scheduled for that day (for secondary schools) to encourage Pumas to come and participate in order to boost morale and school spirit.

Conclusion

There are always areas where Peak to Peak can improve, even given the very positive results of the survey. The Accountability Committee appreciates that families have participated in that improvement through their responses to the survey. The Committee also is grateful that the Board of Directors, the Executive Director of Education, the Executive Director of Operations, the principals, and supporting administration are open and responsive to the survey results and the comments made by parents.

The Accountability Committee
October 2015