

Executive Summary

2011 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 in February 2011. Additional detailed data is available in the full survey report titled *2011 Peak to Peak Annual Survey Results*. These reports and all the comments, which are anonymous, were forwarded to the President of the Board of Directors and to the Executive Principal. 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 original questions. Over the past year the Peak to Peak board and administration developed a new five year strategic plan that outlines three areas of quality necessary to provide superior student achievement: Quality of Instruction, Quality of Relationships, and Quality of Learning Environment. The original survey questions were reviewed to determine whether they would still provide valuable information, and if so which of the three quality areas they pertained to. The strategic plan, the vision, and the mission statement were then reviewed to determine if additional questions were needed. For the 2011 survey the original fourteen questions were used along with three new questions allowing the response data to be tracked from year to year.

The annual parent/guardian survey was administered as an online survey in mid February 2011. Access to the survey was through an email sent to all families in the p2pfamilies email group. The survey was available online for two weeks. Each family was asked to complete the survey questions once for each child they had enrolled at Peak to Peak.

This year the survey used a four point scale (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree) rather than the five point scale that had been used in the past. The old five point scale included a neutral option. On this year's survey an 'I am unsure' option was added 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. There was also a place at the completion of the survey for final comments. All responses and comments are anonymous.

Results

The survey had a 40 percent response rate. 378 families completed the survey for 533 students (37% of students). This compares with a 47 percent response rate in 2009 and 41 percent response rate in 2008. Of the 378 families that responded, 135 (36%) had more than one student, and 243 (64%) had one child. Below is a table detailing the response rates by school level.

| | Responses | Number in School | Response Rate |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| Elementary | 160 | 446 | 36% |
| Middle School | 152 | 404 | 38% |
| High School | 221 | 574 | 39% |
| Total Students | 533 | 1424 | 37% |
| Families | 378 | ~940 | 40% |

The following table shows the percent of strongly agree and agree responses from the parent/guardian survey over the last five years. Note that there is no data for 2010 in this yearly comparison since different questions were asked that year. Please use some caution in comparing the results from 2011 to prior years as the survey response scale was modified from five levels to four levels. Also 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. We believe these are positive changes that have provided accurate data.

| | Survey Question | % Agree and Strongly Agree* | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2011 |
| 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% |
| 2 | Peak to Peak has prepared my student well for his/her current level of coursework. | 87.2% | 90.6% | 91.0% | 96.0% |
| 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% |
| 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% |
| 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% |
| 6 | I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering at the school. | 74.4% | 68.5% | 70.1% | 75.1% |
| 7 | I am familiar with and understand the school's communication pathways process. | 83.1% | 81.5% | 87.3% | 98.6% |
| 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% |
| 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% |
| 10 | My student has at least one adult at school whom she/he trusts and is comfortable approaching with issues and concerns. | | | | 94.2% |
| 11 | The community service participation by my student has/is having a positive impact on my student and the community. **** | 70.9% | 80.3% | 77.4% | 93.4% |
| Quality of Learning Environment | | | | | |
| 12 | The school's available technology is adequate for learning. | 64.6% | 67.7% | 84.1% | 91.0% |
| 13 | The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning. | 88.3% | 91.9% | 95.8% | 96.9% |
| 14 | I am well informed about school events and activities. | 87.9% | 89.2% | 91.3% | 95.3% |
| 15 | My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the school. (MS & HS only) | 72.7% | 79.3% | 82.2% | 91.4% |
| 16 | The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. | | | | 96.4% |
| 17 | Peak to Peak values each student and encourages students to develop their passions, talents and interests. | | | | 93.5% |

*No data from 2010 is available for comparison since different questions were asked that year.

** #3 was asked only of 4th-12th grade students in prior years.

*** #8 The unsure count is respondents who said they have not needed to use the communications pathways.

**** #11 In prior years this question was only asked for HS students. In this chart only the HS data was used for 2011.

Overall the 2011 survey results show that Peak to Peak families are very positive about the school. Ninety-seven percent would encourage their friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak. The first three questions on quality of instruction received very high responses (95%, 96%, and 94%). The effort to make sure families are familiar with the communication pathways has paid off. Ninety-nine percent of respondents strongly agree or agree that they are familiar with and understand the communication pathways process.

Ninety-seven percent said the campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning. It should be noted that the term adequate is used here and only one third of those responses strongly agreed. People believe they are well informed about school events and activities. Ninety-four percent said their student has an adult he/she trusts.

Ninety-six percent think the school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. On this question 14 percent were unsure which indicates that there is room for increased communication about school finances.

Ratings on community service and extracurricular involvement have improved over the years and were rated highly this year. Guidance to choose a college has shown tremendous improvement each year. At 86 percent it is rated well, but also is an area to remain focused on. College counseling has implemented many changes in the past few years and we would expect to see continued improvement in this score.

Parental perceptions regarding the adequacy of technology at Peak to Peak have improved over time. However, this might be an area to consider exploring further as the number of negative responses was just under ten percent and the unsure count was also close to ten percent.

The majority of parents (75%) responded that they are volunteering at Peak to Peak in meaningful ways. While this percentage could be considered high, Peak to Peak needs to continue to focus on ensuring that all parents feel they are meaningfully involved in supporting the school. Much work has been done to manage volunteers and inform people of opportunities to volunteer. The positive response is 93 percent for elementary school and drops to 63 percent for middle school and then goes to 70 percent for high school. Volunteering looks different for secondary parents and improved communication explaining that may be valuable. Volunteering not only helps get things done for Peak to Peak. It is also an important means of building relationships and creating a feeling of community at the school.

With so many positive responses at the combined school level it is important to examine the data at the individual school levels. Below are charts highlighting the questions that received a negative response (disagree and strongly disagree) greater than ten percent. These are areas to look at more closely. Additional charts

show the questions where more than ten percent responded they were unsure. These areas might benefit from increased communication.

Elementary School

| Disagree & Strongly Disagree Percentage > 10% | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent D & SD |
| 8 | When I have used the school's communication pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns. | 11.1% |

Middle School

| Disagree & Strongly Disagree Percentage > 10% | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent D & SD |
| 6 | I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering at the school. | 36.9% |
| 5 | I provide financial support directly to the school at a level which is significant to my family. | 18.7% |
| 11 | The community service participation by my student has/is having a positive impact on my student and the community. | 13.8% |
| 15 | My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the school. (MS & HS only) | 13.7% |
| 8 | When I have used the school's communication pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns. | 13.6% |
| 12 | The school's available technology is adequate for learning. | 10.9% |

High School

| Disagree & Strongly Disagree Percentage > 10% | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent D & SD |
| 6 | I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering at the school. | 30.2% |
| 5 | I provide financial support directly to the school at a level which is significant to my family. | 14.4% |
| 4 | My student is receiving adequate guidance through the school to choose a college that best fits him/her. (HS only) | 14.4% |

Elementary School

| Unsure Percentage > 10% | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent Unsure |
| 11 | The community service participation by my student has/is having a positive impact on my student and the community. | 42.0% |
| 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. | 21.9% |
| 16 | The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. | 14.3% |
| 12 | The school's available technology is adequate for learning. | 10.9% |

Middle School

| Unsure Percentage > 10% | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent Unsure |
| 11 | The community service participation by my student has/is having a positive impact on my student and the community. | 36.9% |
| 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. | 17.9% |
| 10 | My student has at least one adult at school whom she/he trusts and is comfortable approaching with issues and concerns. | 14.3% |
| 16 | The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. | 10.9% |

High School

| Unsure Percentage > 10% | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Question # | Question | Percent Unsure |
| 4 | My student is receiving adequate guidance through the school to choose a college that best fits him/her. (HS only) | 14.5% |
| 16 | The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances. | 11.8% |
| 10 | My student has at least one adult at school whom she/he trusts and is comfortable approaching with issues and concerns. | 10.7% |

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.

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. The Other category contains comments that covered multiple topics. The Teachers category, the largest one, had 58 favorable comments and 51 negative comments. There were no clear common themes to the comments.

| | Comment Category | Comment Count | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | | Elem School | Middle School | High School | Final | Total |
| 1 | Academic Challenge/Expectations | 1 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 23 |
| 2 | Teachers | 19 | 36 | 43 | 11 | 109 |
| 3 | Administration/Staff/Board | | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 |
| 4 | Technology | 4 | 5 | 3 | | 12 |
| 5 | Communication | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 23 |
| 6 | Counseling | | 3 | 12 | 2 | 17 |
| 7 | Community Service | 5 | 11 | 6 | | 22 |
| 8 | Athletics/Extracurricular Activities | | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| 9 | Climate | 8 | 8 | 17 | 9 | 42 |
| 10 | Facilities/Traffic | 4 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 22 |
| 11 | Discipline | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 12 | Schedule/Calendar | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| 13 | Curriculum | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 17 |
| 14 | General Kudos | 8 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 49 |
| 15 | Other | 9 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 30 |
| 16 | Fundraising/Finances | | 2 | 5 | | 7 |
| 17 | Volunteering | | 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| | | ==== | ==== | ==== | ==== | ==== |
| | Total | 72 | 114 | 149 | 79 | 414 |

Conclusion

The 2011 survey showed an extremely positive view of Peak to Peak, especially in the area of instruction. The school should continue to work on volunteer efforts, encouraging financial support, and continuing the positive efforts and changes in college counseling.

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 2011-2012 school year the committee 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.

The 2010-2011 Accountability Committee
April 2011