

**PEAK TO PEAK RESPONSE TO THE 2019-2020 FAMILY SURVEY:**  
**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE:**

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.

The results of the 2020 Peak to Peak Annual Family Survey were provided to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors and administration in the spring of 2020. A report detailing the results of the survey was provided to the Peak to Peak community and is available on the school website (available [here](#)) After compiling both the ratings that families reported and their comments, specific strengths and areas of improvement were identified in each area. The Executive Leadership Team and the Board 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 as reported by school leadership.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

Parents indicated three areas of concern in Elementary School: Instruction meeting academic needs, supportive environment, and safety. In response to "instruction level meeting my child's academic needs", Mrs. Christensen shared that the Elementary School has invested vast resources in the last two years into certifying all their teachers in Orton Gillingham Training, including both current and any new teachers that are hired. They have improved systems with their Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Coordinator and Intervention Team, including improvements with screeners and analyzing data, in addition to hiring an additional Special Education teacher in Elementary. The goal is to target 6 sessions with literacy at each level, and overall, this robust response to instruction improvement continues to be a focus in the Elementary level.

In an effort to provide a more supportive environment for their students, Elementary scored the highest in this category out of all school levels. However, the introduction of new efforts to encourage teachers to foster individual relationships with each student, and focus more on building relationships with students, teachers, and families remains a priority. The introduction of specialized hosting clubs will also continue those efforts for connection and inclusion. Finally, the addition of the new Elementary Counselor, Mrs. Ball, has been very positively received.

In areas that need improvement, safety was a concern with specific references to the Elementary drop-off line and a facilities concern about lack of parking. While the drop-off line largely falls to the Elementary level, our Executive Director of Operations (and facilities), Sam Todd, informs us that an extension of the north parking lot is planned for next school year, which should provide enough spots to accommodate all staff, students,

and volunteers/visitors and would also alleviate some congestion in the drop-off line as more families who would like to park and walk in their elementary school children will be able to do so.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

In the discussion with Dr. Mosca, Middle School Principal, we covered three main opportunities for improvement that were raised in the 2019-2020 Family Survey: communications (both schoolwide and student specific), staffing (both the open counselor position and overall turnover) and mental health resources.

In response to the concern on schoolwide communications, Dr. Mosca mentioned several improvements made in the fall of 2020 including videos created by Jen Dausvardis and bulleted format of announcements in the Weekly Digest for improved clarity. In regards to student-specific communications, Dr. Mosca mentioned ongoing efforts as well as new initiatives including weekly Learning Plans published on Monday each week, clear guidance to staff to respond to parent inquiries within 24 hours, and on-going efforts to provide clear communications to parents and students on requirements and Communication Pathways for raising concerns. In addition to the Weekly Digest, a Weekly Bulletin from each level's principals to the entire K-12 staff is distributed each week by email, which appears to assist in better communication among staff and leadership on various subjects.

In response to the concerns raised about staffing, Dr. Mosca mentioned several accomplishments and on-going efforts, specifically the hiring of a new Middle School counselor in spring of 2020, the hiring of a new Special Education teacher in summer of 2020, and happy to report the Middle School is now fully staffed, including four additional Paraprofessionals. In regards to the general level of staff turnover, Dr. Mosca mentioned that she couldn't point to a specific cause. Most staff transitions were explained by normal course of personal decisions. She mentioned that we should keep in mind that staff with high levels of talent/performance also were very ambitious and often on the lookout for new opportunities.

In response to concerns raised about the need for additional mental health resources, Dr. Mosca mentioned several on-going efforts including having a full staff of middle school counselors and how that is a positive with regards to addressing student mental health needs. Moreover, the new Advisory effort is making strides to connect with every student and family and help identify needs. Dr. Mosca did raise the caution that schools are being asked to address mental health needs that really should be in the scope of community resources (public and private counseling, etc.). If a student is not under an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), as an example, Peak to Peak and BVSD, as a whole, is limited in the resources and support they can provide.

### **HIGH SCHOOL:**

In regards to quality of Instruction concerns, one of the themes from the survey indicated a desire to include more technology classes at the High School level. Principal Mathews informed the committee that the high school is currently evaluating a Technology and Art Departments collaborative upper level course to address this concern. Additionally, the technology team is evaluating more STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) -based courses.

The High School received the lowest positive response in the category of promoting a healthy balance between academic rigor and other pressures of high school. This has been a trend in prior years, but given the rigor at the school it has been a challenge that the high school continually works to address. To address this, the high school encourages students and families to directly reach out to the teacher when facing challenges or needing additional support. The committee would continue to encourage further dialogue with Counseling Department how to optimize and promote a healthy environment for the student community.

### **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS:**

In addition to the safety of elementary drop off and additional parking, facilities concerns raised by a smaller number of respondents on the survey will also be addressed. Respondents specifically wrote in about HVAC concerns and requested better theater facilities and a space in the Middle School for students to decompress. The HVAC concerns should be greatly addressed with 1) new controls added two years ago that allow control of blocks of rooms by mobile phone (each block serviced by one HVAC unit), 2) the adjustment of all units to maximum exchange of outside air that has already been made for current conditions, and 3) an upgrade to MERV 13 filters, which are on order. These improvements should make temperatures better controlled and spaces and more comfortable.

As a result of the 2018 Listening Campaign Survey, proposed buildout plans for the near future address general themes that emerged from the survey, including creating new programs, renovating existing spaces, and new construction -namely, creating a dedicated performing arts center and creating an innovation center as well as adding flexible gathering spaces for students for connecting, relaxing, and studying. These plans address comments in the Family Survey, providing for a vastly improved and expanded performing arts space with permanent seating and spacious atrium entries from the east and west. They also introduce the requested Middle School tranquility room located adjacent to relocated counselor's offices and a commons area for small groups to gather and decompress. Other significant improvements not raised in Family Survey comments are also in the plans.

Plans are completed through the design development phase and renderings provide a visual representation of the proposed building project. BVSD is likely to pursue another bond issue in the next two to four years, in which Peak to Peak will advocate for district funding for the bulk of this project. Renderings and plans will also be used in a capital campaign to raise additional funds towards the realization of this project. While we are excited about this campus development project, it will take several years before construction can begin.

### **FOOD SERVICES AND CLEANING:**

On the operations front, comments requesting more vegetarian/vegan food options from the cafeteria, and increased cleanliness, specifically of bathrooms, were submitted again

this year. While the cafeteria already offers a full salad bar, one vegetarian soup option, and one vegetarian entrée per week, Sam Todd thought our food services could add another vegetarian protein option to the salad bar and explore adding a vegetarian entrée additional days of the week, especially if a vegetarian/vegan version of a planned entrée could be readily prepared. Some examples from our Food Services Manager would be to offer a plain marinara option in lieu of spaghetti with meat sauce, offer veggie burgers when breaded or grilled chicken sandwiches are served, and offer a meat alternative like black beans or refried beans for their chicken burrito bowl or the fajita salad.

On the cleaning issue, those spaces are currently cleaned nightly by our contracted service provider, along with cleaning throughout the day by both the day porter from our service and our own employee. All cleaning has been increased in frequency and for more heightened sanitization, and we may be able to draw on COVID relief funds for an additional day porter when we are able bring more students back to campus. There was also discussion that it might be less that the spaces are not clean, and more of a maintenance need where grout could be deep cleaned/regROUTED or worn/marred surfaces repainted/replaced as needed. Mr. Todd noted stall dividers were replaced with taller ones starting at the floor for more privacy, and this helps with a newer, more maintained appearance. Additionally, the planned build out will include more bathrooms in most buildings, which will help reduce traffic to any one bathroom, and the spaces will stay cleaner between the cleanings throughout the day. In particular, the high school will gain bathrooms on the east end, where there currently are none, likely cutting use in half of the only current student bathrooms, located at the west end.

It should be noted that the vast majority of feedback states that our families are very satisfied with the school. 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. Survey reports and responses can be found for this year and previous years on the school website or by clicking [here](#).

Accountability Committee  
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