GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Weitlauf – Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Adrian Johnson, Matthew Shulman, Ian Thomas (remote), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Washington – Vice Chairperson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Lauren Casini, Denise Doolittle, Sam Kilpatrick

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Jay Weitlauf, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, MEETING MINUTE

MOTION: Ackerman, Johnson: To approve the minutes of September 9, 2024 meeting

Mr. Thomas commented that under the data presentation section, only Mr. Shulman's comments were paraphrased and other Board members' comments were not. He would like to see consistency in regard to the Board member's comments in the meeting minutes. Superintendent Austin said that the video of the meeting will be reviewed and additional discussion points will be added to the minutes.

Mr. Shulman asked if the revised minutes would come back to the Board for review. Mr. Weitlauf stated that the minutes would come back for review again.

III. REVIEW CLIMATE SURVEY (Attachment #1)

Mr. Weitlauf read the response from the GEA regarding the use of data from the Climate Survey (Attachment #2).

Denise Doolittle and Lauren Casini presented the Climate Survey. Mrs. Doolittle gave a review of the process used stating that the results will be used to establish individual school goals. Mrs. Doolittle noted that the State is using a collaborative going forward and that this may be the last year we will be using the climate survey.

IV. CIP UPDATE re: HVAC

Mr. Kilpatrick noted:

- This year the intent is to get the CIP in for HVACs for NEA and CK
- Fuss and O'Neil will be updating pricing on units for HVAC upgrades
- He is working with Mr. Engle on the RFP for NEA and CK HVAC upgrades

V. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Mr. Shulman added:

- Discussion of Dashboard by the COW
- Review of Financial Literacy by the Curriculum Committee

V. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET - cont.

Mr. Thomas noted the need for discussion of data details the Board would like to have and/or consistent trackers of presentation on Climate Surveys and review of surveys before they go out. He made the following referrals to the Curriculum Committee:

- Discussion of Honor classes beyond the tenth grade
- Discussion of the transplant map
- Non-lapsing fund – remove from list
- To have Board Committees and Sub Committees recorded and published – remove from list

Mr. Whitney requested discussion of special education offerings throughout the school system.

CHANGE

- R2024-10 to read: Discussion re: the Board's interest in drafting a policy regarding family and Board notification of testing data

REMOVED

- R2023-15 Update re: One Card Collaboration
- R2023-17 Discussion of Cursive Writing
- R2023-25 Discussion re: Not Charging Seniors ages 65 and Older to attend school events

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Shulman: To adjourn at 8:43 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Public Schools Climate Survey

2023-2024

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Climate Survey Overview

Elementary Surveys Provided	Elementary Surveys Completed
Students: Early (K-2)	744 (72%)
Students: Upper (3-5)	775 (84%)
Staff	282 (51%)

Secondary Surveys Provided	Secondary Surveys Completed
Students	1,119 (60%)
Staff	158 (31%)

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Climate Survey Overview

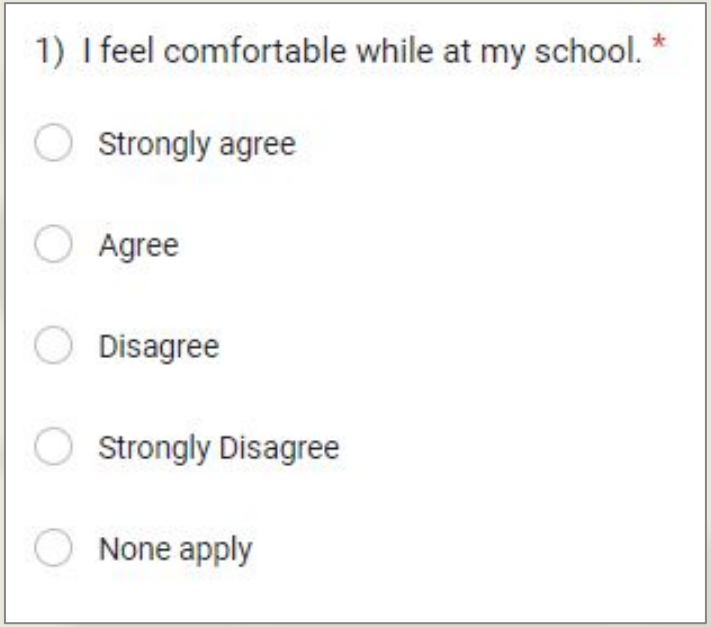
Surveys Provided	Surveys Completed
Elementary Parents	466
Secondary Parents	179

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A Glimpse at the Survey



Elementary Student Survey



Secondary Student And Adult Survey

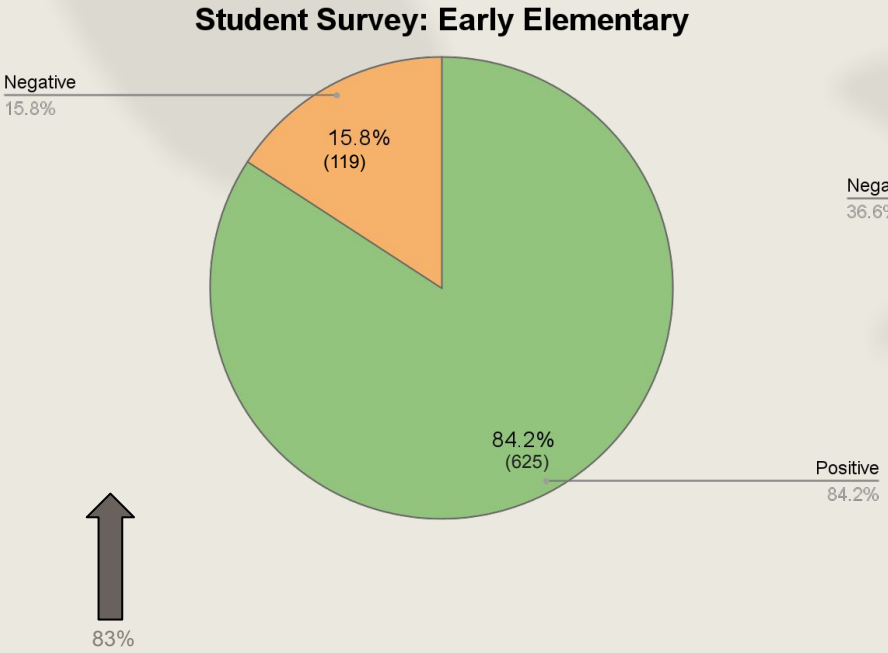
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Safety

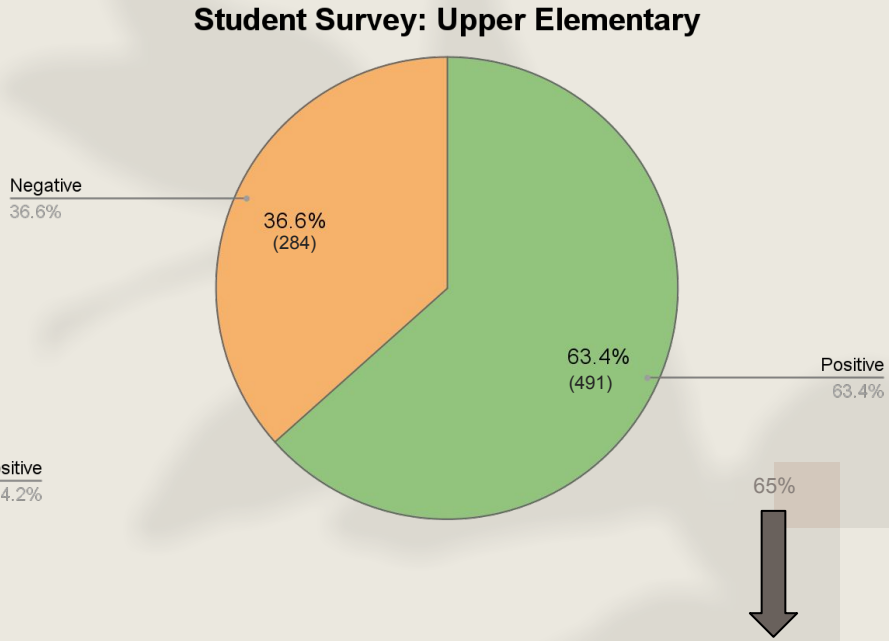
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Elementary School Students

I feel safe in my classroom at school



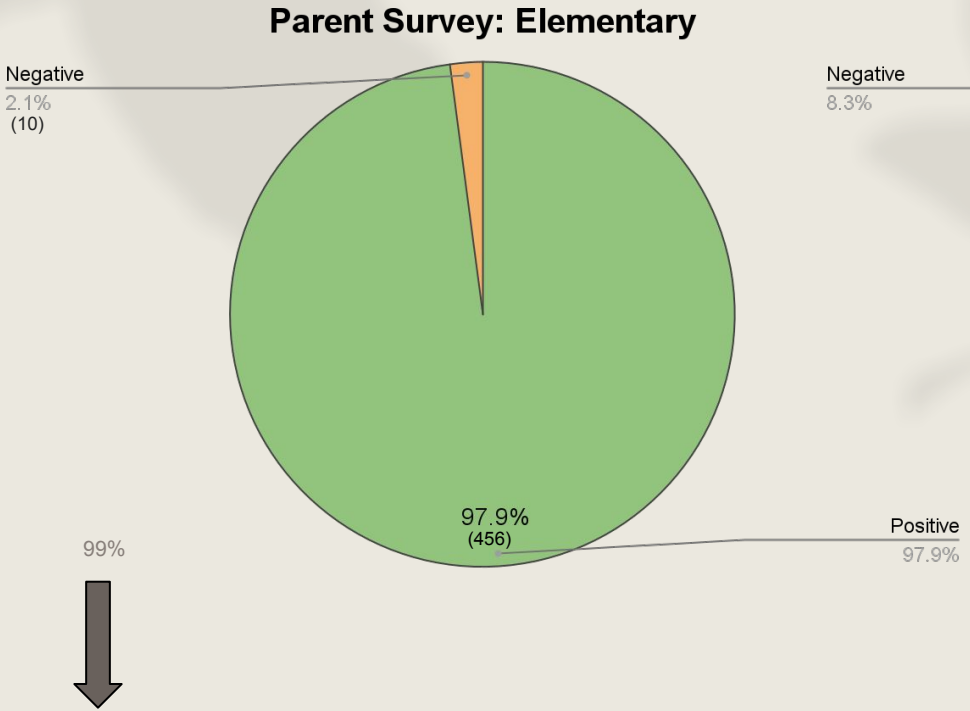
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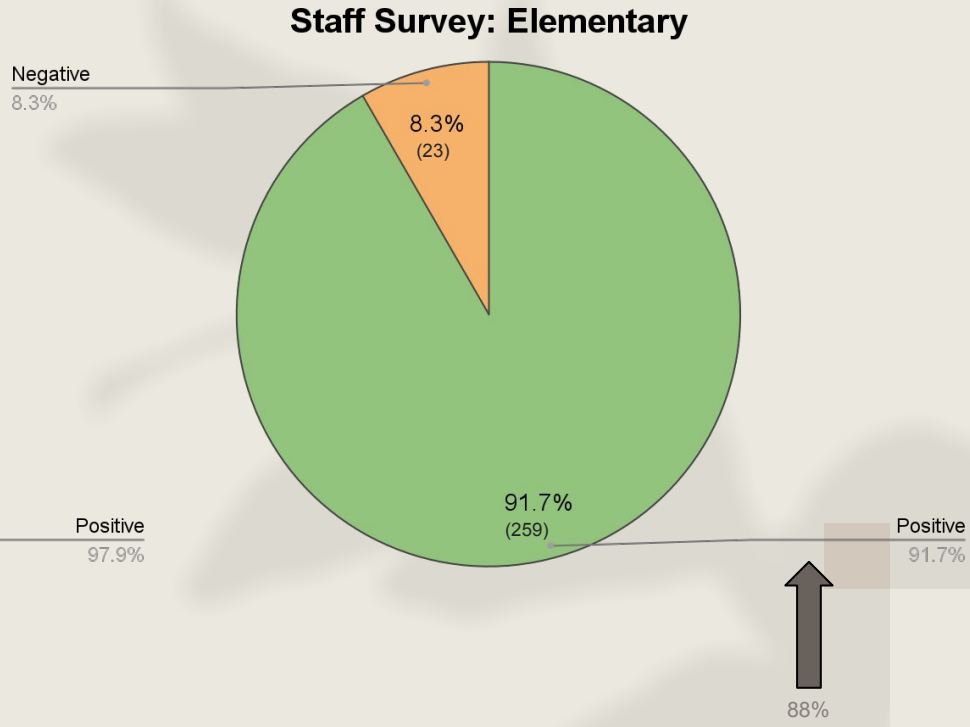
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Elementary School Adults

The school is a safe and secure place for my child to learn

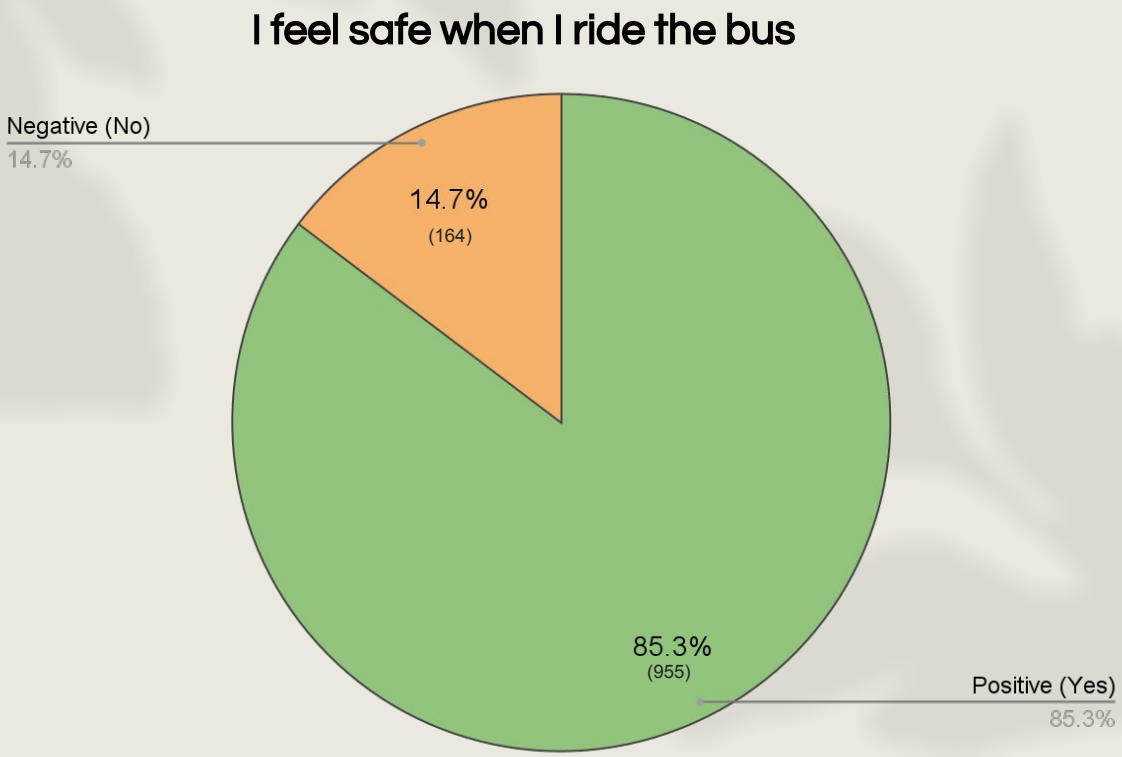


My building is safe and secure



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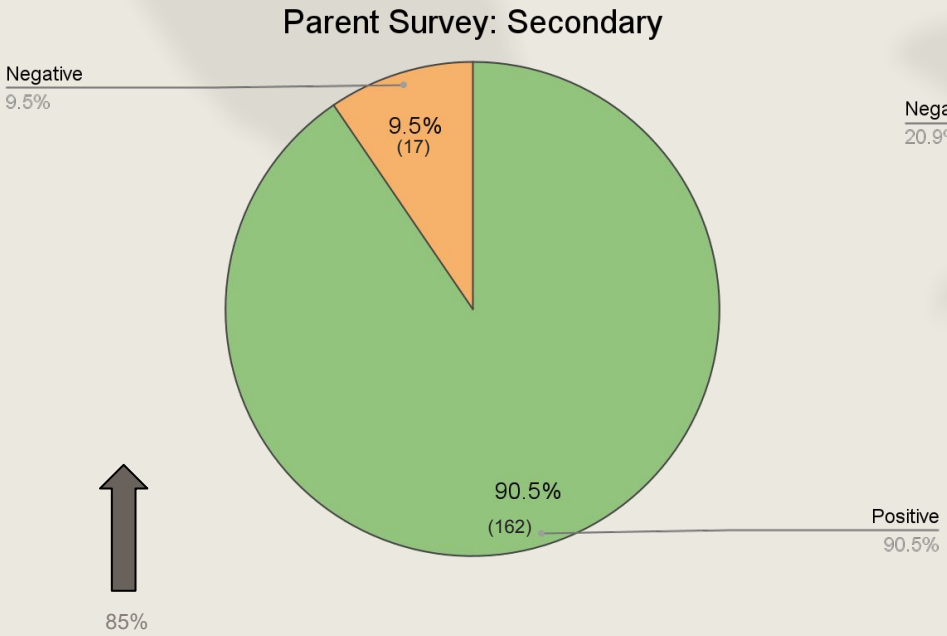
Secondary School Students



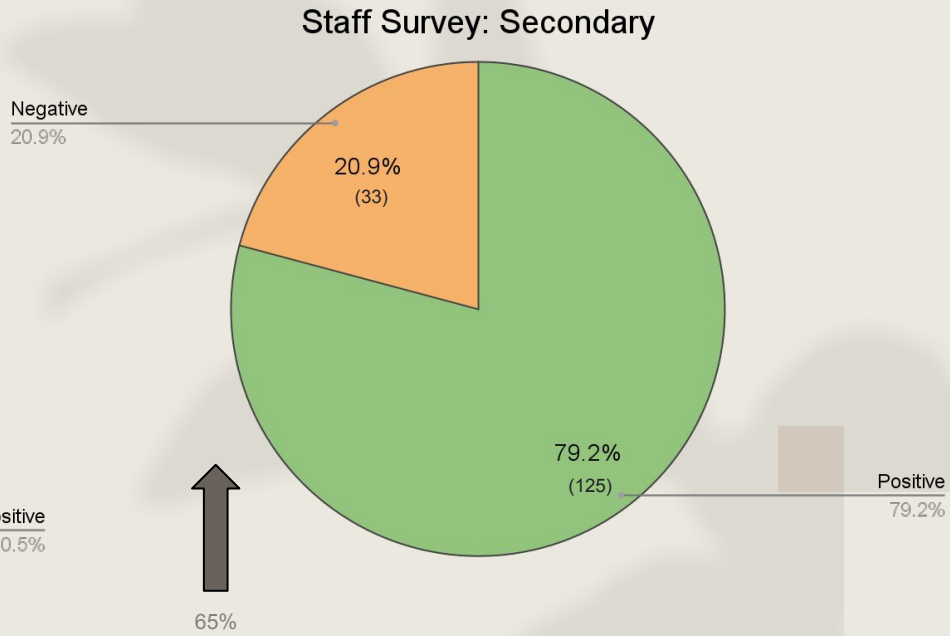
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Secondary School Adults

The school is a safe and secure place for my child to learn



My building is safe and secure



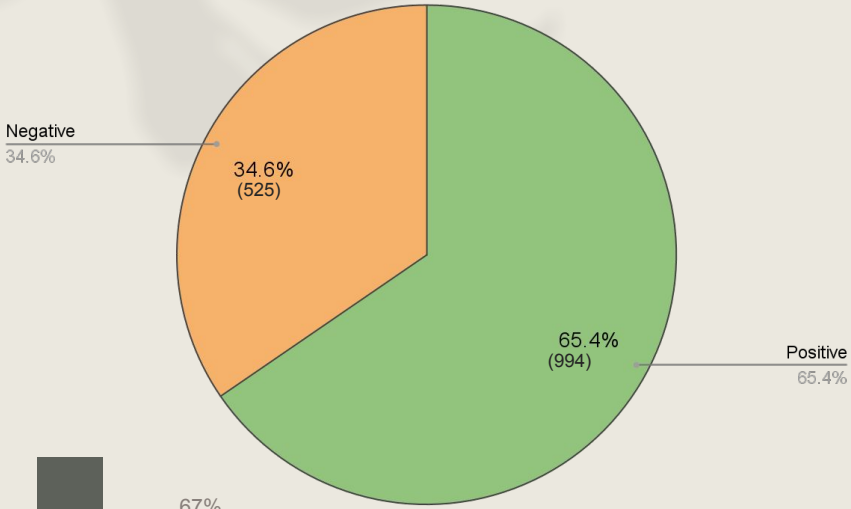
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Belonging

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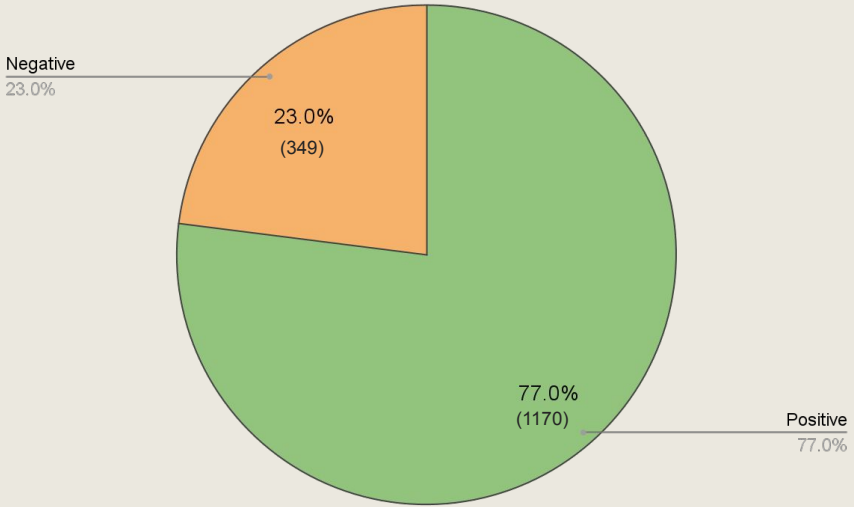
Student Survey: Elementary

I like going to my school



67%

If I am sad, mad or worried, there is a trusted adult who can help me

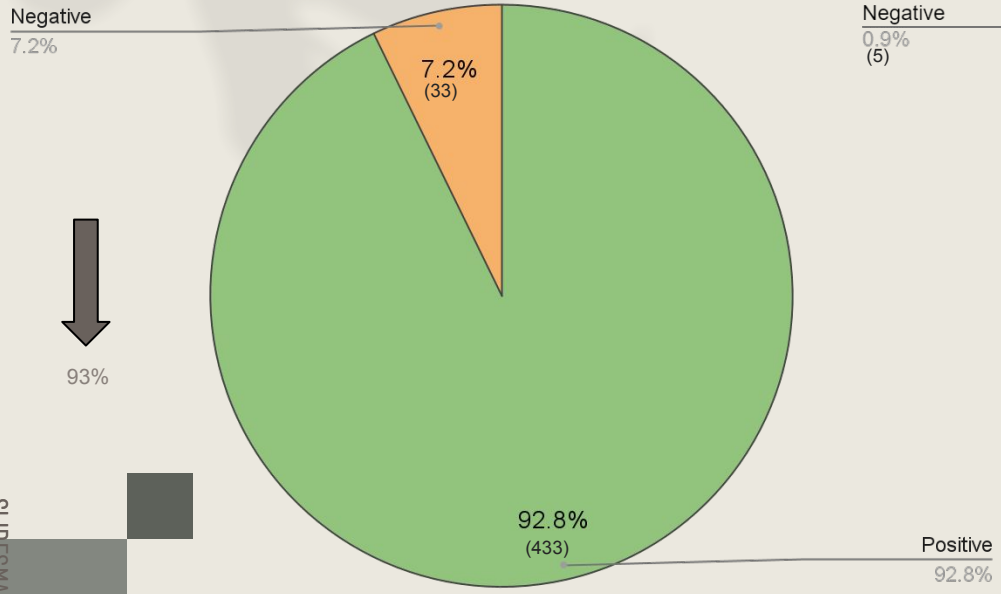


72%

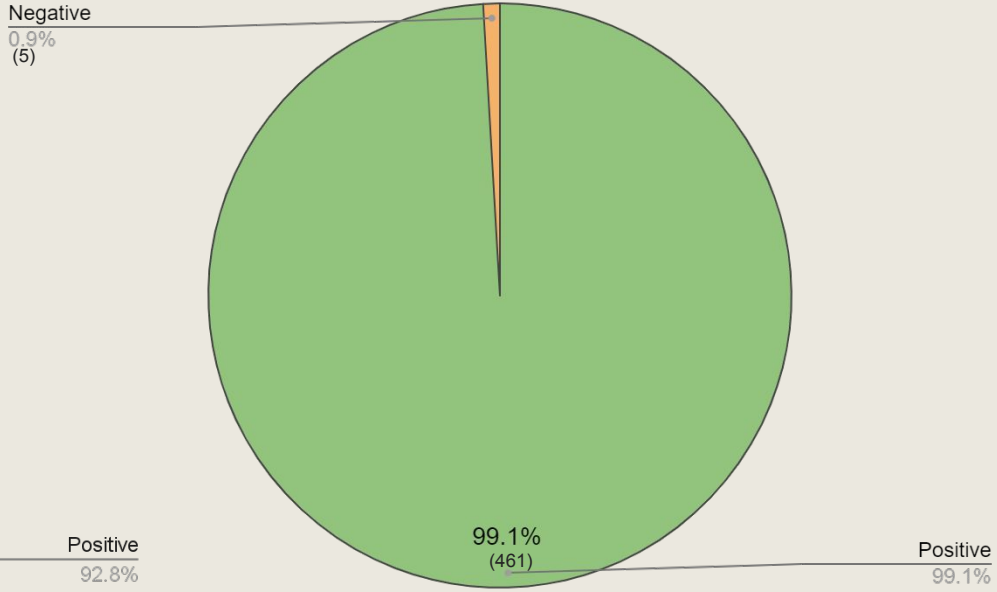
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Elementary School Parents

At my child's school, there are opportunities for parental involvement



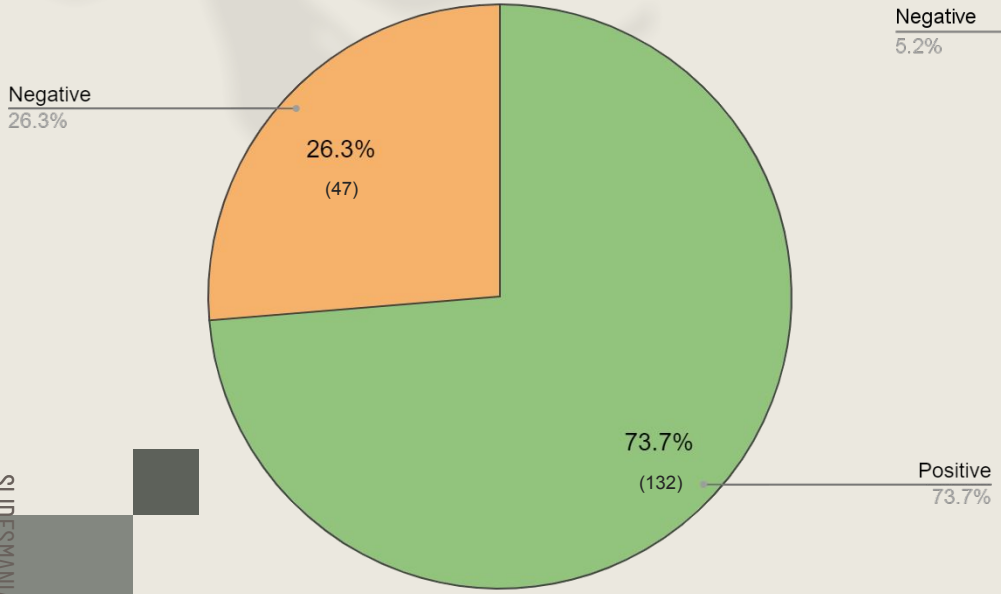
I am comfortable talking to my child's teacher



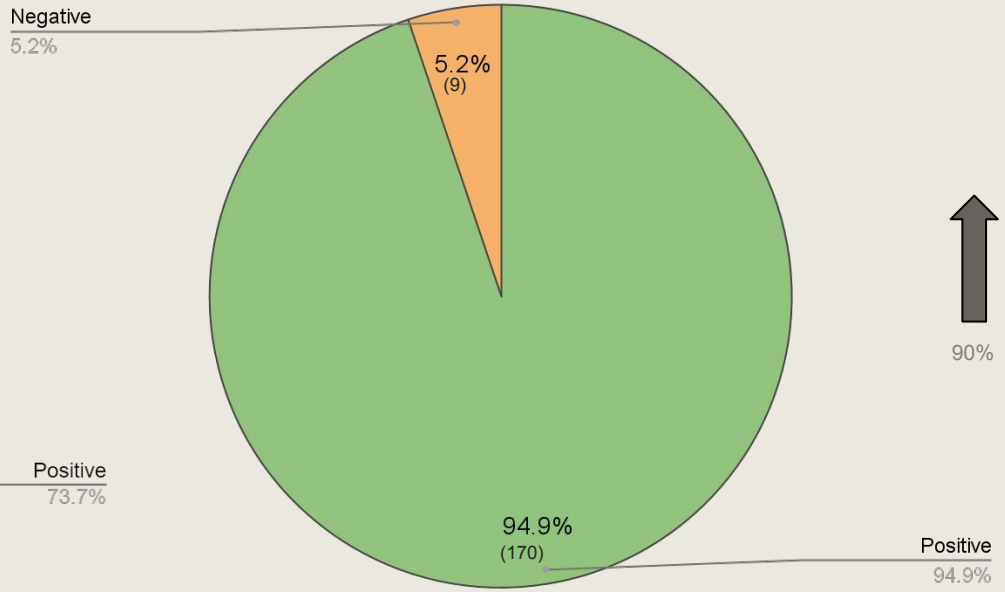
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Secondary School Parents

At my child's school, there are opportunities for parental involvement



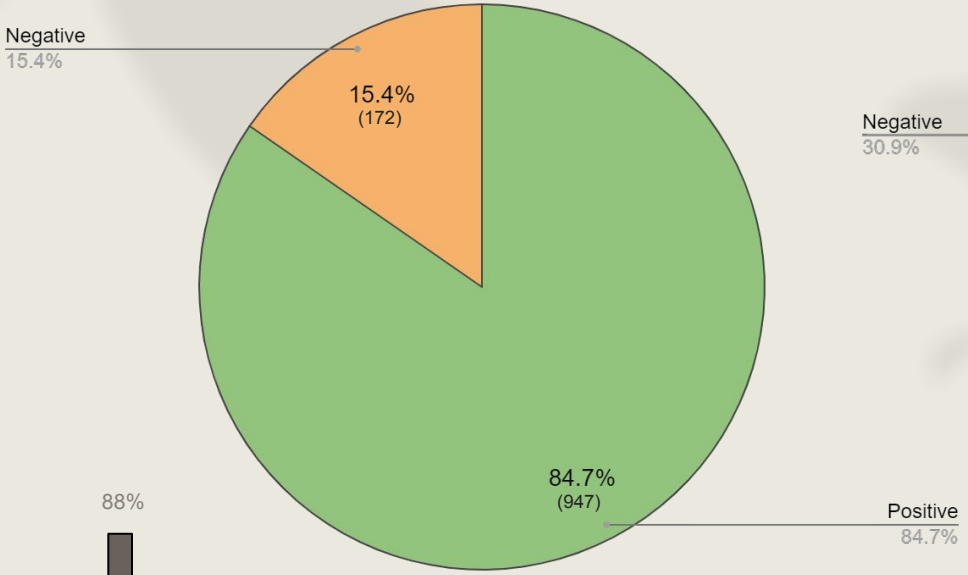
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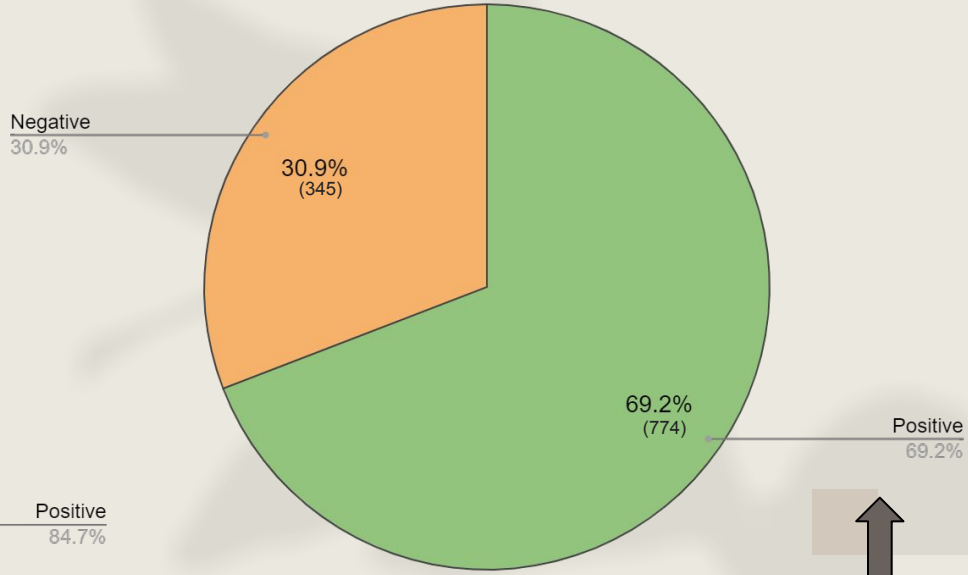
Secondary Students

There are trusted adults in my school



88%

I am involved in extracurricular activities at some point during the school year



66%

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Safety and Belonging Comments

Staff: " Staff meetings are much more enjoyable in the horseshoe shape and not just sharing committee updates. The improvements are noticed and appreciated!"
Parent: "Sometimes it is hard to get information from school to home. I know paperwork goes to students but the school may not be aware that the information never makes it into parent/grandparents hands until it's too late or very last second."
Parent: "What a great supportive community at this school. So grateful to have this experience for elementary years."
Staff: "I think it is hard to feel connected when teachers (especially Essentials/off-team teachers) teach multiple courses in multiple rooms."
Parent: "My students regularly state that they are uncomfortable using the bathrooms. I feel this is an issue that needs to be addressed."
Staff: " I do not feel safe using the school as a voting place when school is in session."
Parent: "While it is agreed that the school is clean and maintained the quality of equipment for students is dated and needs replacing. Money needs to be put aside in the CIP and not zeroed out yearly."

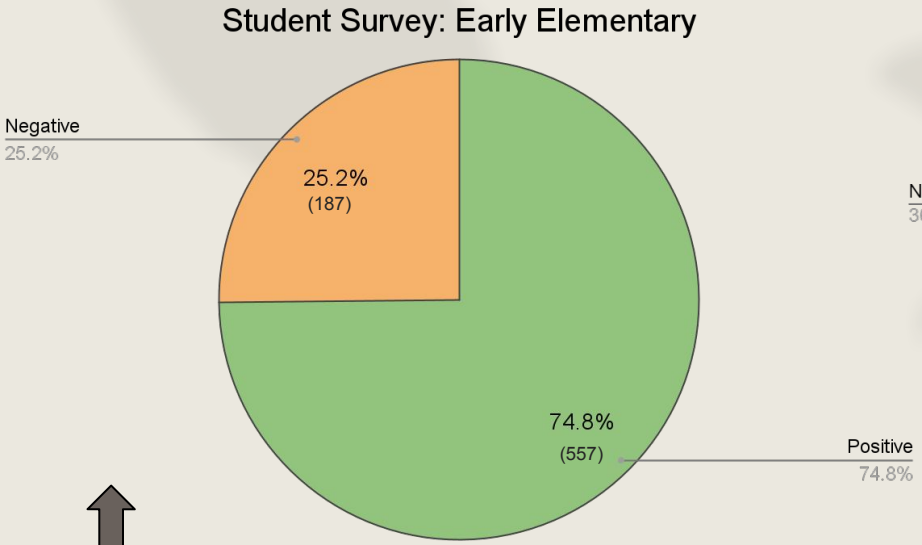
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Respect & Inclusion

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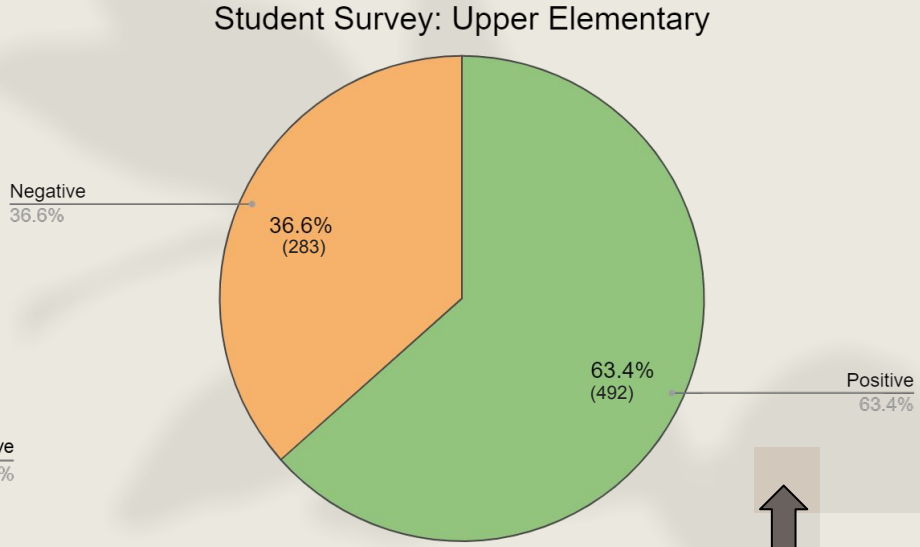
Elementary Students

This school provides books that show different types of families



66%

This school provides books that show different types of families

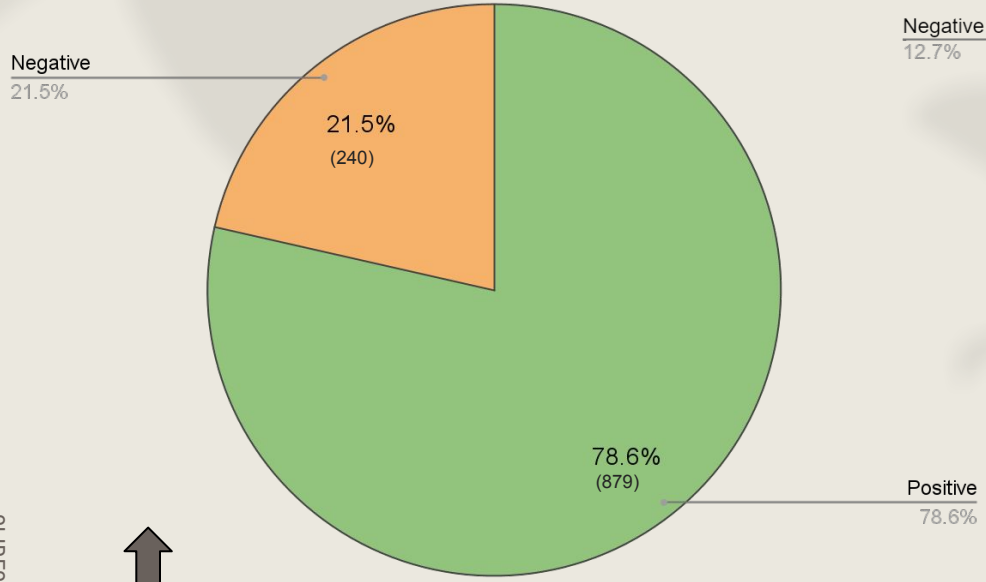


48%

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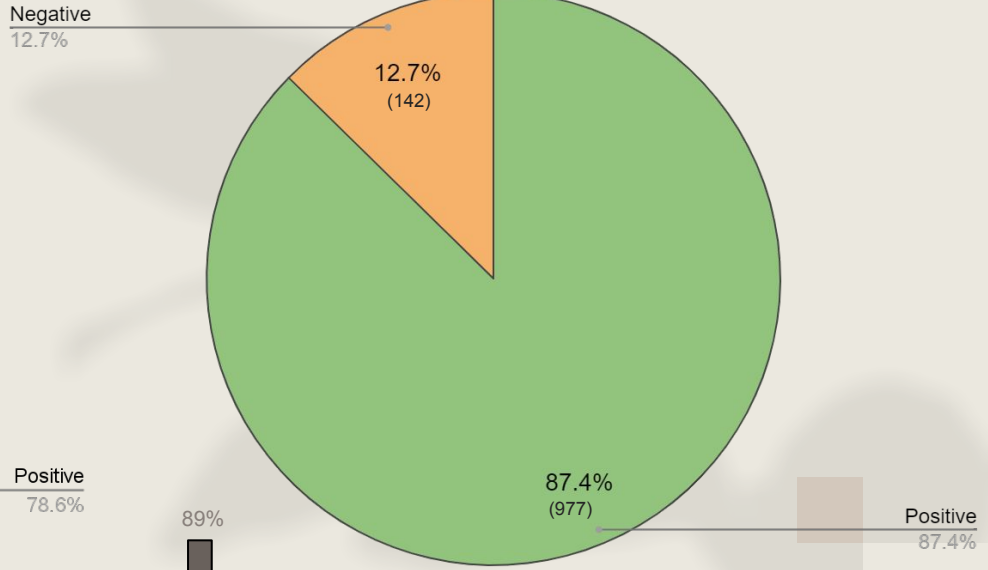
Secondary Students

I am able to select high level courses



76%

My teachers help me to try my best

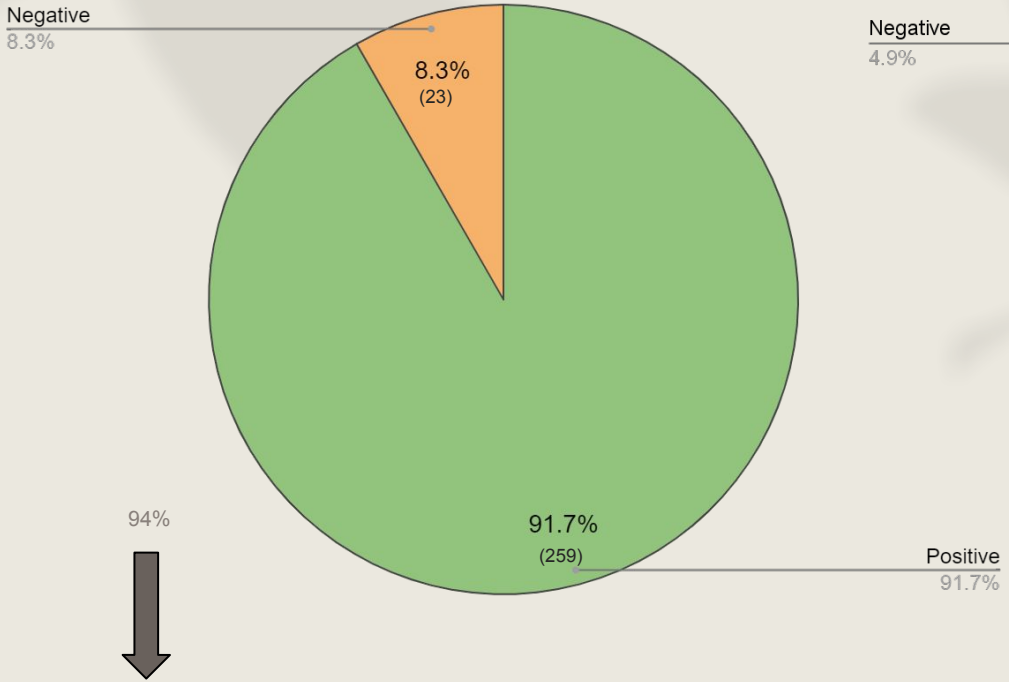


89%

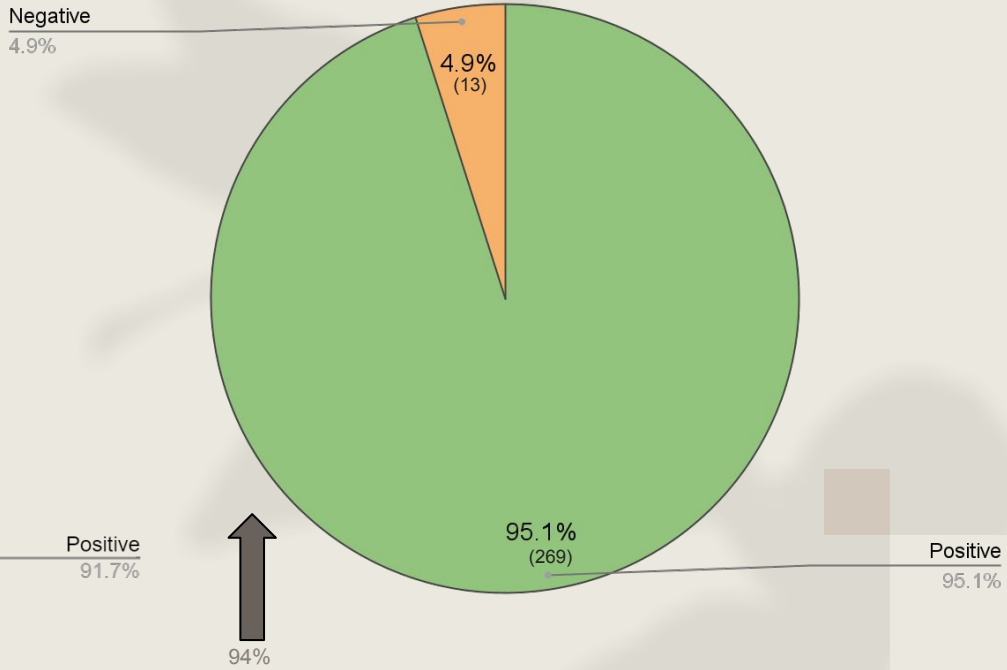
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Elementary School Staff

Our building fosters an appreciation of student diversity and respect for each other



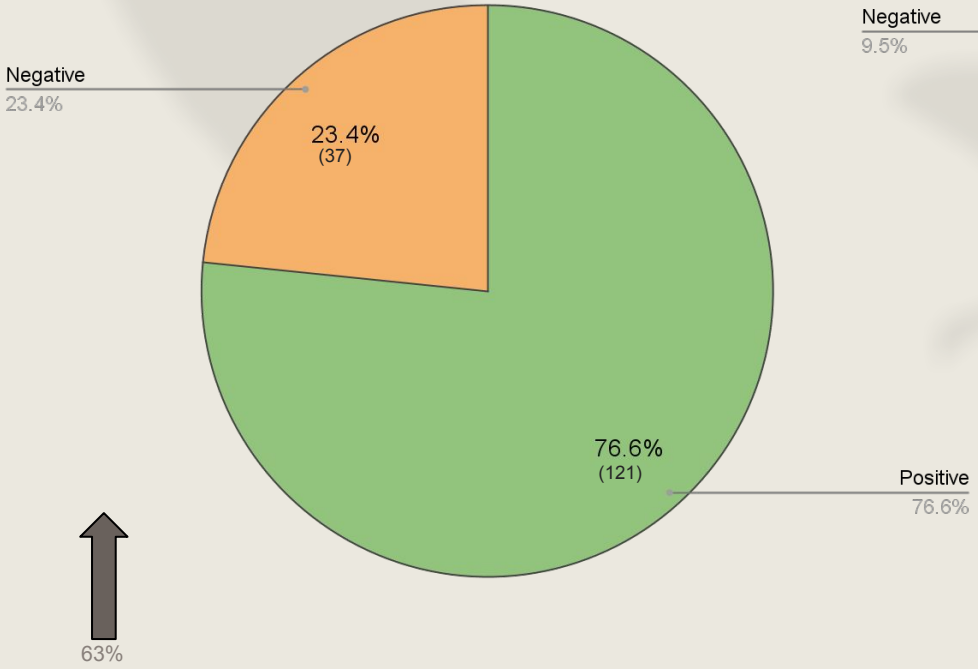
The staff respects all colleagues regardless of their race, ethnicity, or culture



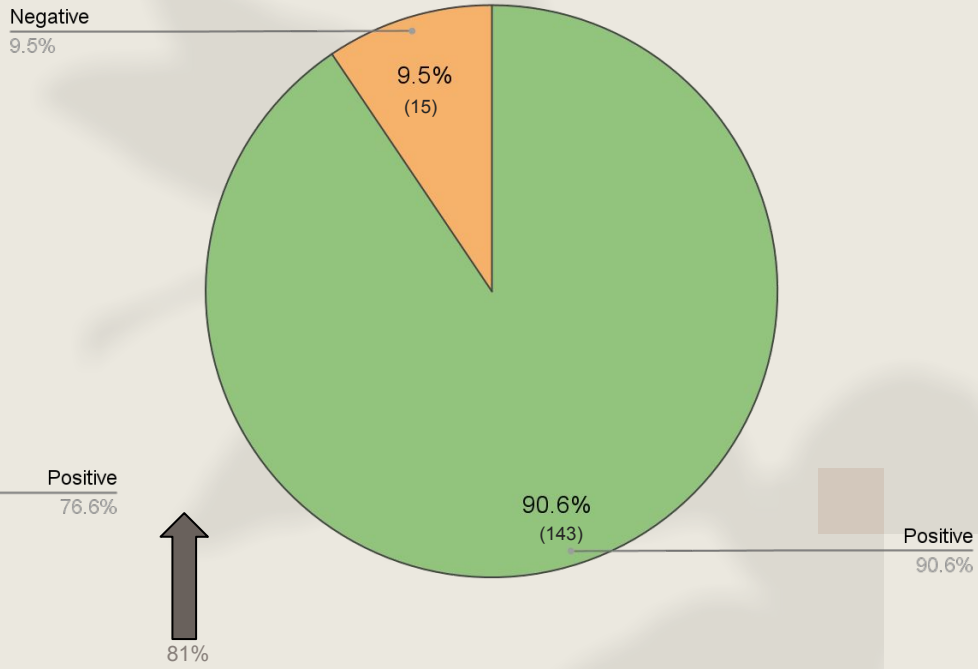
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Secondary School Staff

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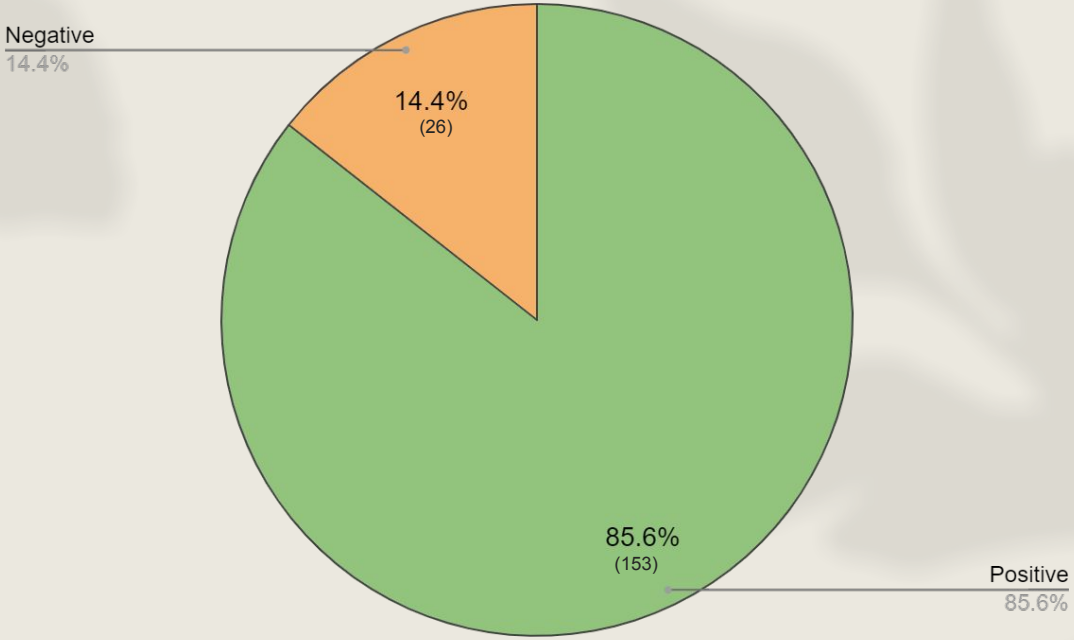
The staff respects all colleagues regardless of their race, ethnicity, or culture



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Secondary Parents

This school provides Diversity, Equity, Inclusion learning opportunities



79%

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Respect and Inclusion Comments

Staff: “Some students do not treat each other with respect. This is most commonly seen in non-structured times such as lunch, recess, and special areas.”

Staff: “Some student behaviors must be managed better, some students must be held accountable for behavior.”

Parent: “My child complains that other students’ behavior in class disrupts the learning environment for the other students and prevents the teacher from teaching them.”

Staff: “I feel very supported by my administrators and feel they are working to establish a positive climate.”

Parent: “I wish there were more opportunities for multicultural activities after school for families to participate in.”

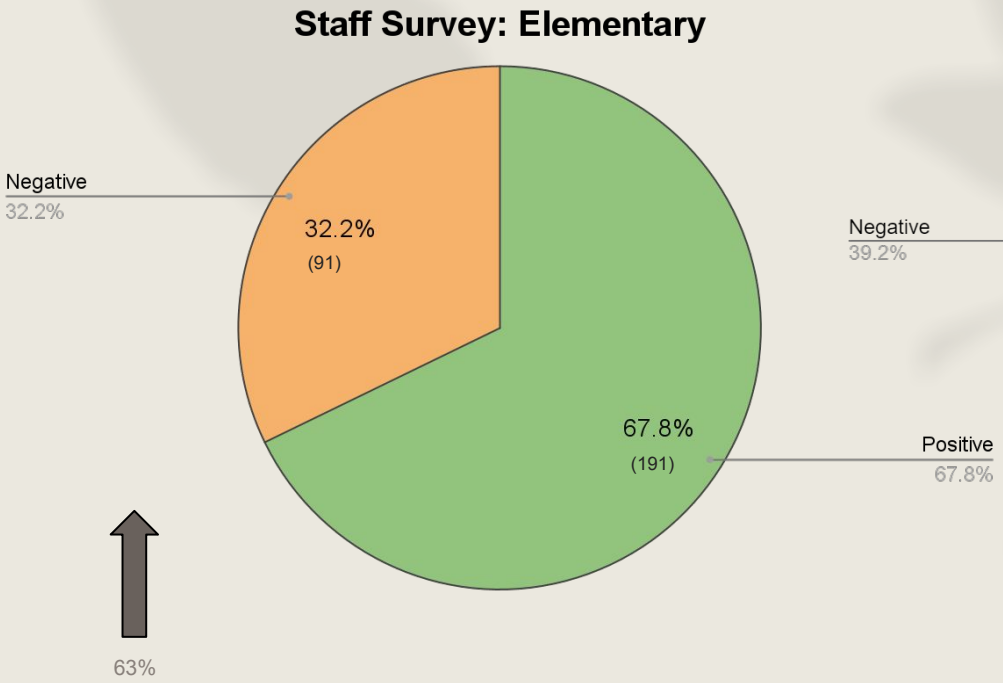
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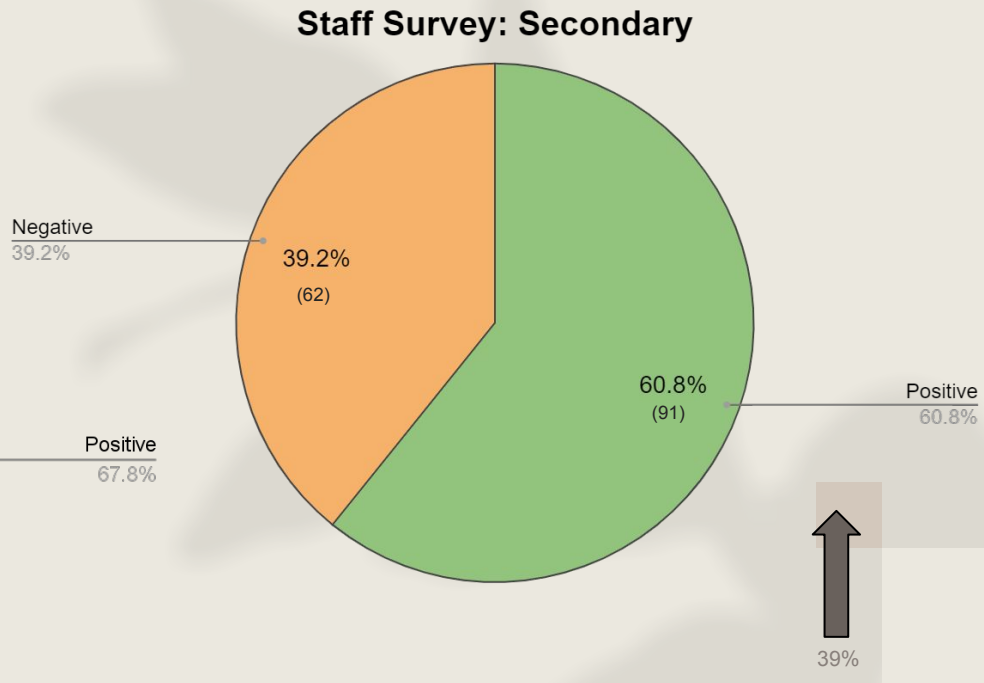
Professional Growth

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Professional Development Supports

I am able to participate in professional development directly related to my job





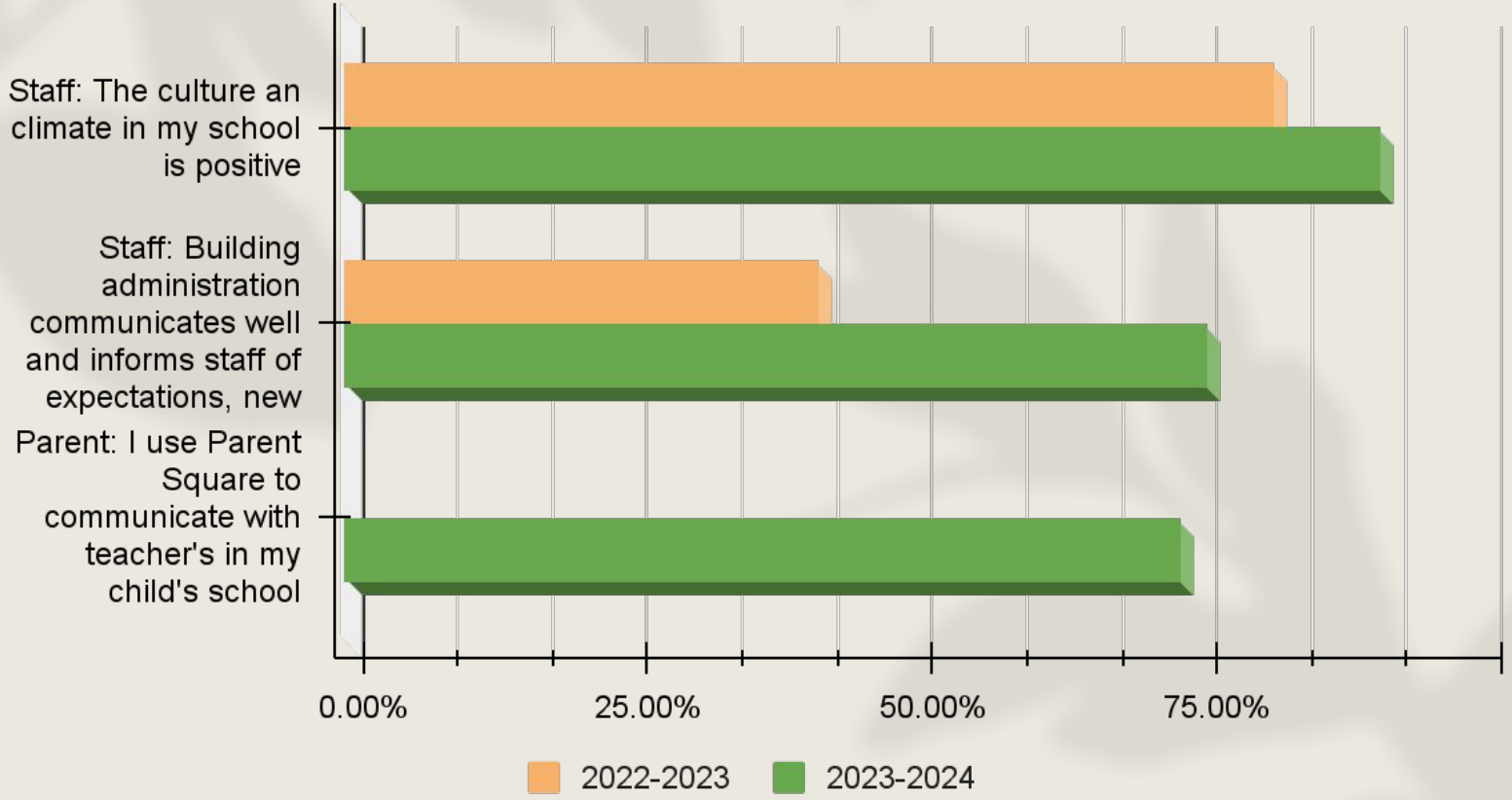
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Themes Regarding Professional Development

- More time to focus on PD initiatives during common plan and less meetings
- Continued professional development on trauma informed practices
- Professional development to improve the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support or Response to Intervention models
- Professional development around expanding the magnet themes to be integrated throughout the school day

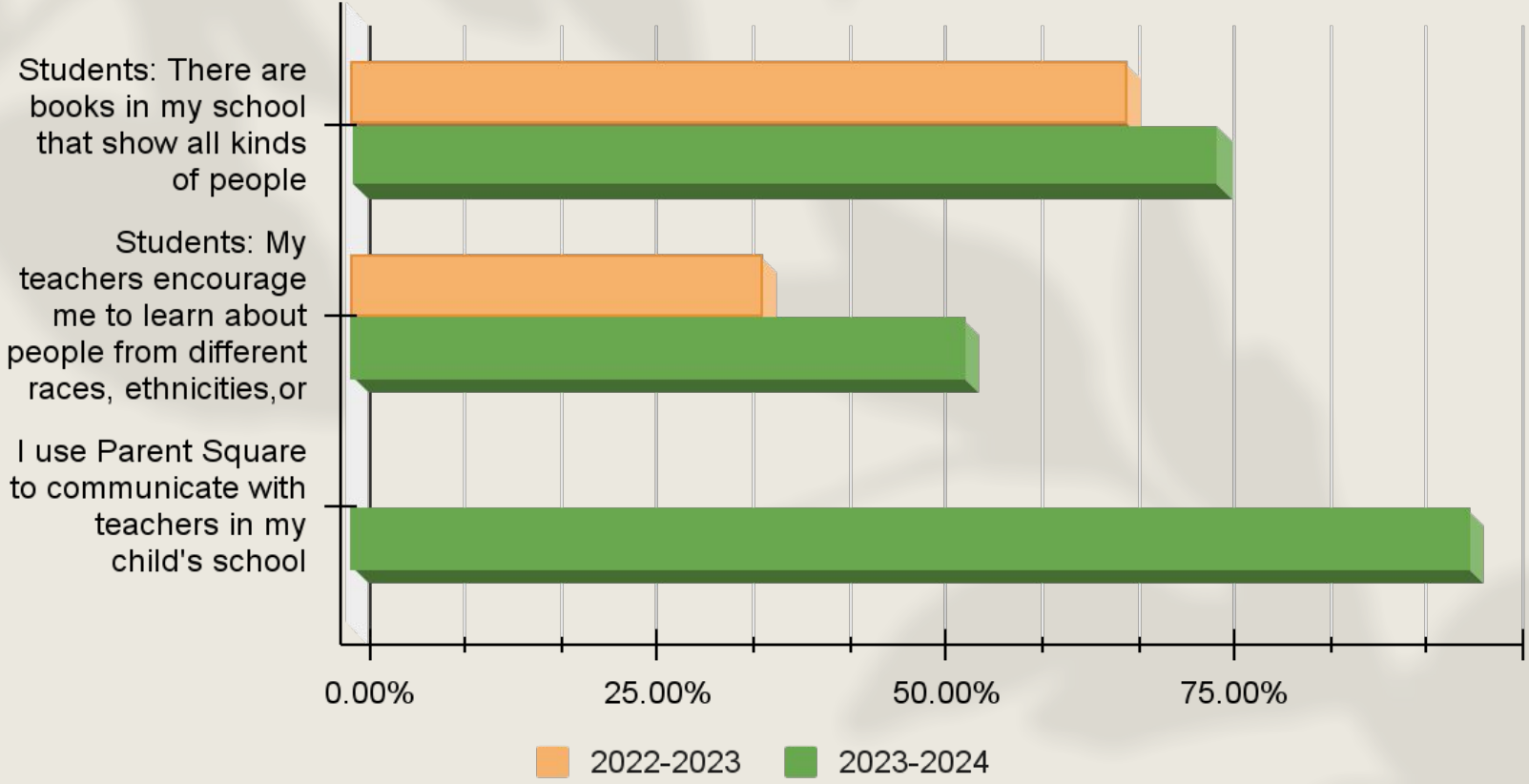
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Impressive Gains: Secondary Survey



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Impressive Gains: Elementary Survey



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Takeaways

- We will examine the practices currently in place in order to make adjustments to improve survey completion
- Respect and Inclusion is an ongoing focus. While significant gains have been made, we will continue to work towards ensuring all students are seen, heard, and provided every opportunity to find their passion
- While parents/guardians overwhelmingly agreed students were safe, safety will always be a priority
- Parent Square is proving to be an effective way to engage parents

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Attachment #2

GROTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1041 Groton, CT 06340 • Beth Horler, President geaprez@gmail.com

9/17/2024

Jay Weitlauf

Dear Jay Weitlauf,

As you begin the work of looking at the Climate Surveys from Spring 2024, GEA wishes to express that our membership has participated in this survey in good faith to continuously improve support for teachers and to prioritize their safety and mental health.

We urge the members of the board and the public to not politicize this data as we shared our thoughts with Central Office administrators and building administrators.

Sincerely,

Beth Horler
Beth Horler
Groton Education Associaiton
Co- President

Rebecca Giulini
Rebecca Giulini
Groton Education Associaiton
Co- President

cc: Susan Austin, Superintendent
Gregory Perry, CEA Uniserve Representative