PCSD
Parma City School District

Parma City Schools
Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills



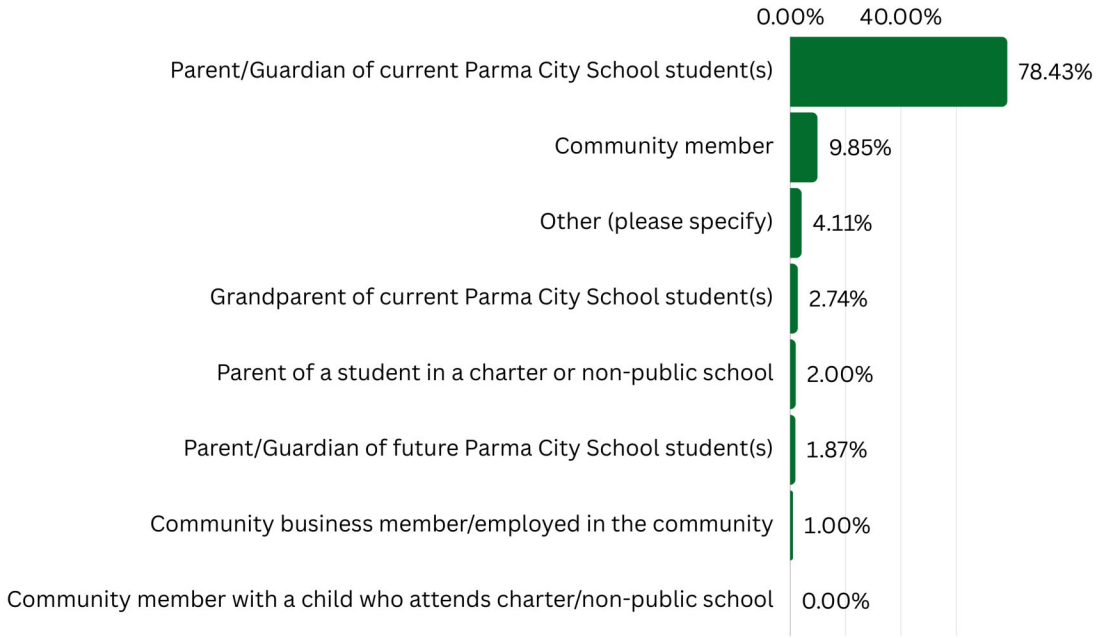
STRATEGIC PLANNING

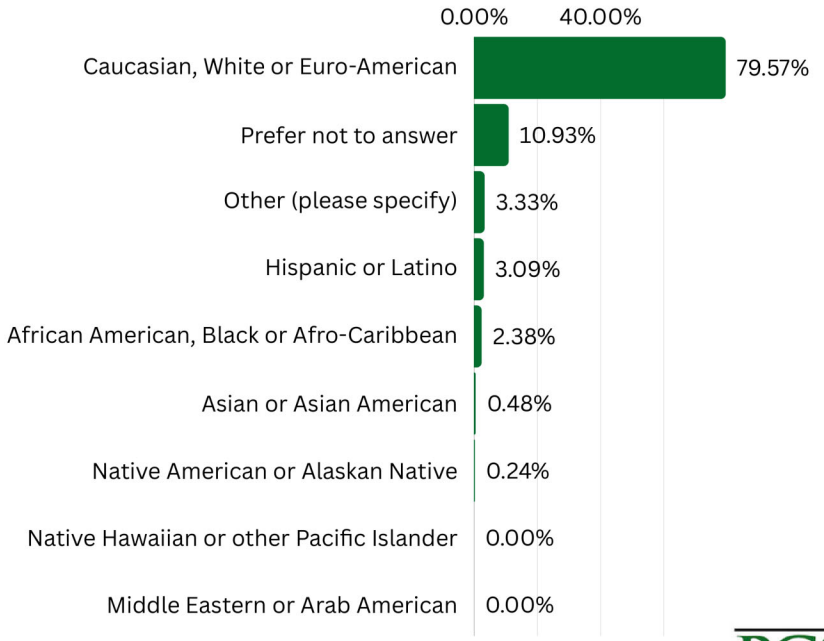
Parent/Community Survey Results

807 Responses

Participation & Demographics

There were 805 responses to the survey, with the majority of respondents (629) identifying as parents of current students.





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How would you describe the Parma City School District in two or three words?

Teacher Quality and Commitment:

- Positive remarks were made about teachers, emphasizing their dedication, commitment, and caring attitude toward students.
- Many respondents praised the staff and described them as supportive and dedicated.

Financial Constraints:

- Many responses reflected concerns about funding and financial management, with phrases like "underfunded," "cash-strapped" and "champagne taste on a beer budget."
- Some respondents criticized the district's financial decisions and called for more fiscal responsibility.

Communication and Transparency:

- Several respondents expressed dissatisfaction with communication within the district, mentioning issues like a lack of transparency, poor communication and mismanagement.
- There's a call for better communication practices and increased transparency from the district leadership.

Perception and Reputation:

- The perception of the district varies widely among respondents, ranging from positive remarks about the quality of education and staff to negative comments about reputation and perceived decline.
- Some respondents expressed pride in the district, while others described it as disappointing or failing.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

- Many respondents mentioned issues with the buildings and facilities, including descriptions like "old buildings," "outdated," "crumbling" and "deteriorating."
- There's a call for new buildings and improved infrastructure to support education effectively.

Academic Performance and Curriculum:

- Some respondents expressed concerns about academic performance, mentioning phrases like "behind academically," "needs improvement" and "struggling."
- There's a mixed perception of the curriculum, with some praising it as "excellent curriculum choices" while others find it lacking.

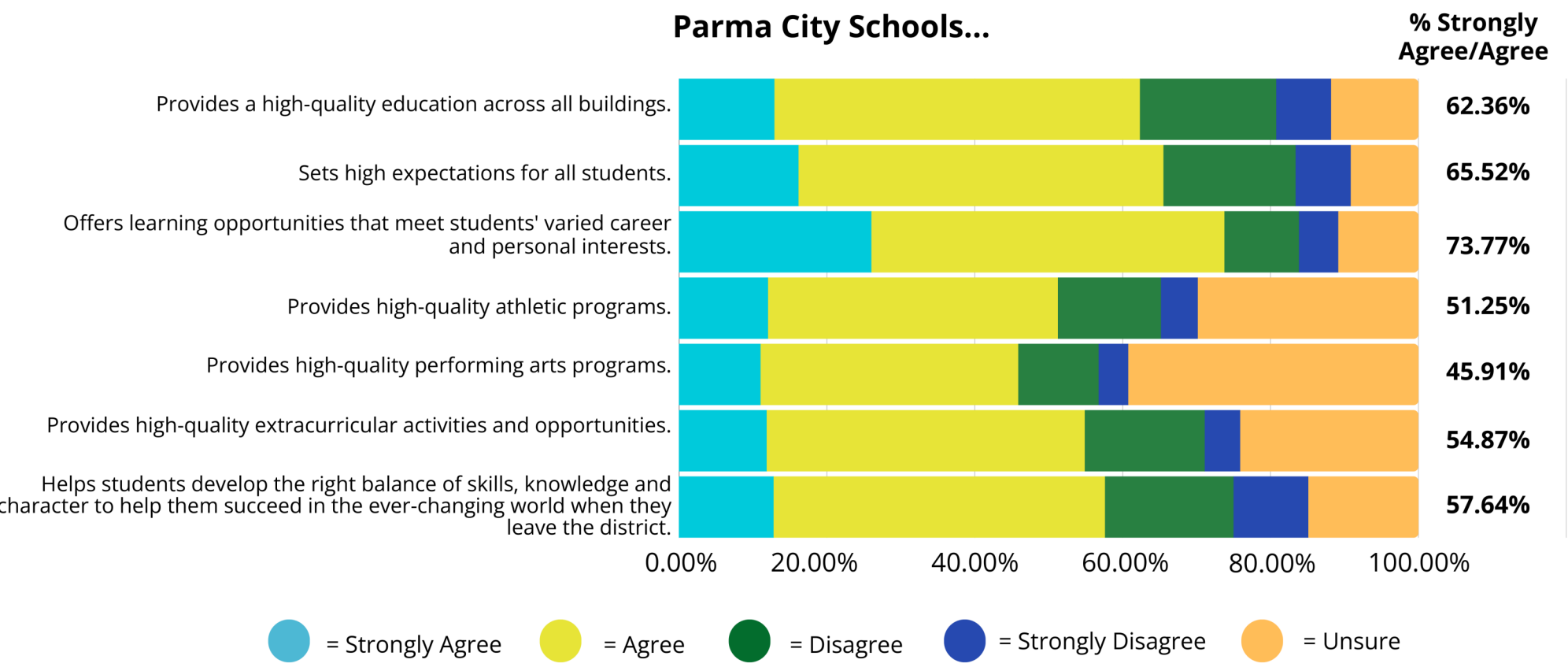
Community Engagement and Support:

- Several respondents noted the need for community support and involvement to assist in improving the district.
- There's also a sentiment of disappointment regarding community trust and engagement, with mentions of feeling "bullied by the community" and a lack of support for funding.

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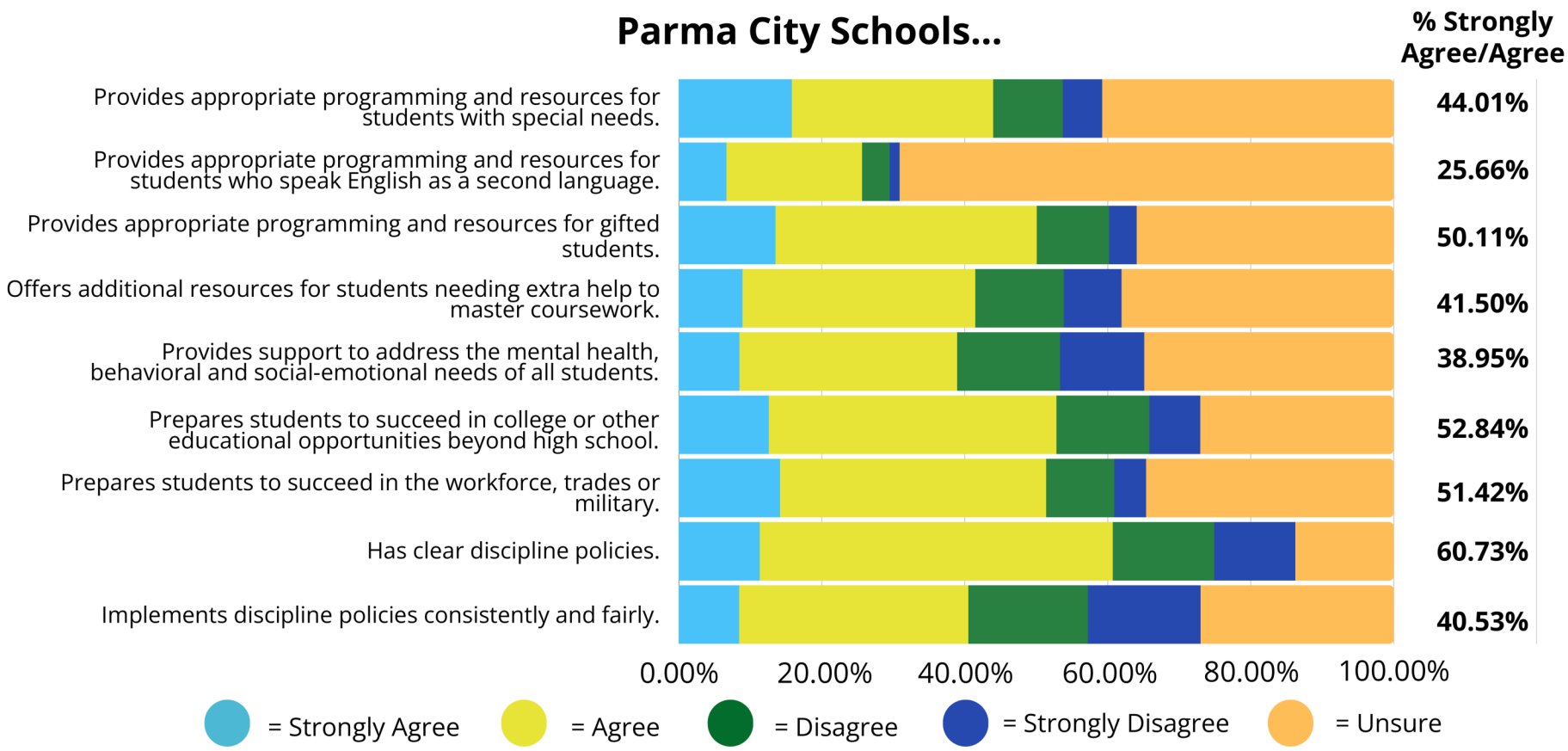
Teaching & Learning

In thinking about **Teaching and Learning** in the Parma City School District, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.



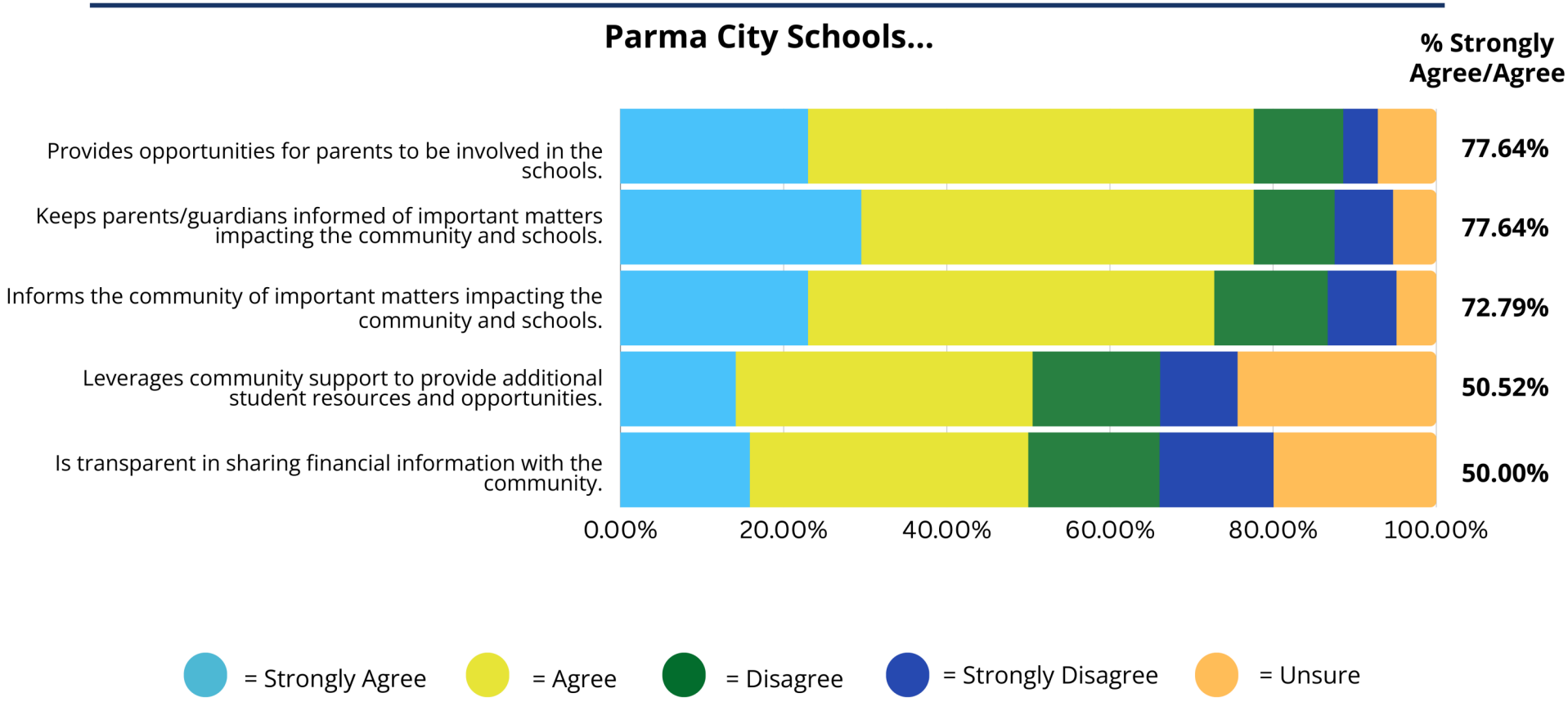
Student Support

In thinking about **Teaching and Learning** in the Parma City School District, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

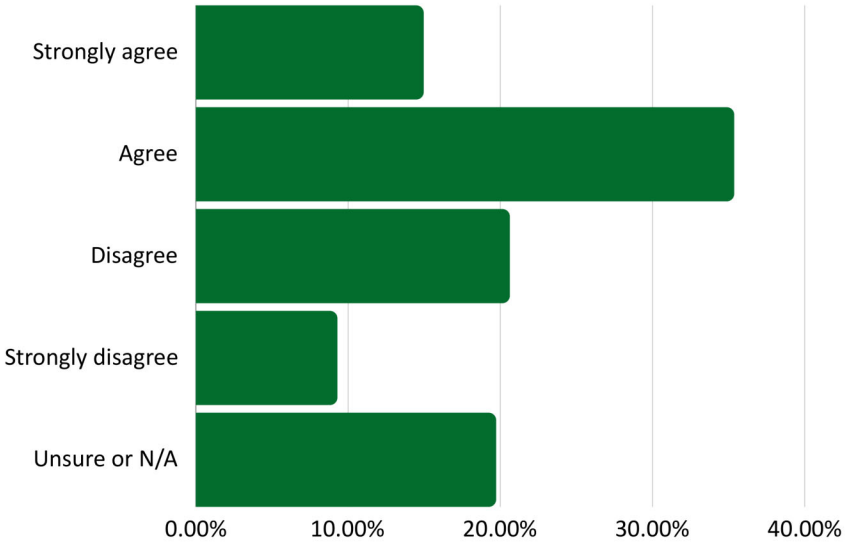


Communication & Community Involvement

In thinking about **Communication and Staff Development** in the Parma City School District, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.



The district provides Preschool-Grade 5 facilities that are safe, comfortable and conducive to learning.

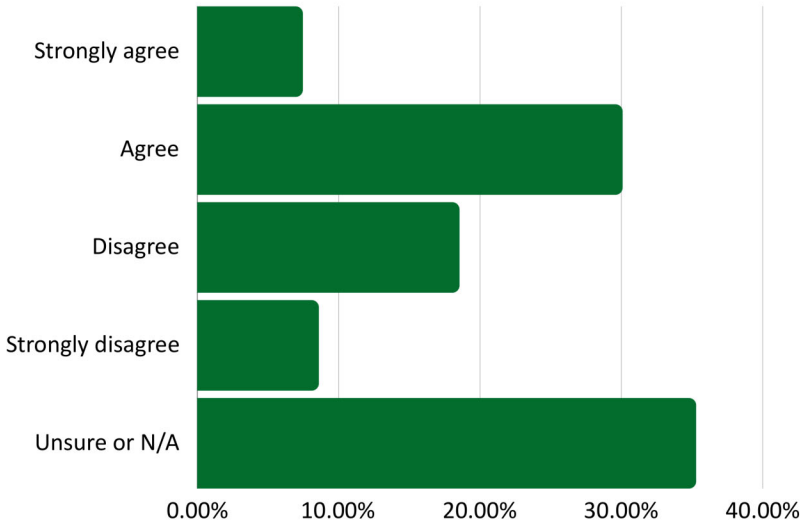


Why did you answer the last question regarding Preschool-Grade 5 facilities as you did?

1. **Safety Concerns:** Some parents expressed concerns about safety, citing instances of bullying, fights on the playground and the need for better security measures such as controlled entrances.
2. **Building Conditions:** Many parents highlight issues with the aging infrastructure of the schools, including lack of air conditioning, outdated facilities and overcrowded classrooms. Some mention specific issues like HVAC problems, uncomfortable temperatures and outdated technology.
3. **Learning Environment:** Despite concerns about building conditions, many parents appreciate the efforts of teachers and staff to create a positive learning environment. However, some express frustration with disruptions in classrooms and the lack of consequences for disruptive behavior.
4. **Mixed Experiences:** While some parents report positive experiences and satisfaction with their children's school buildings others feel that improvements are necessary, especially regarding safety, comfort and modernization of facilities.
5. **Desire for Improvement:** There's a general consensus among parents that there is room for improvement in the district, including upgrades to facilities, better security measures and addressing behavioral issues.

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The district provides Middle School facilities that are safe, comfortable and conducive to learning.

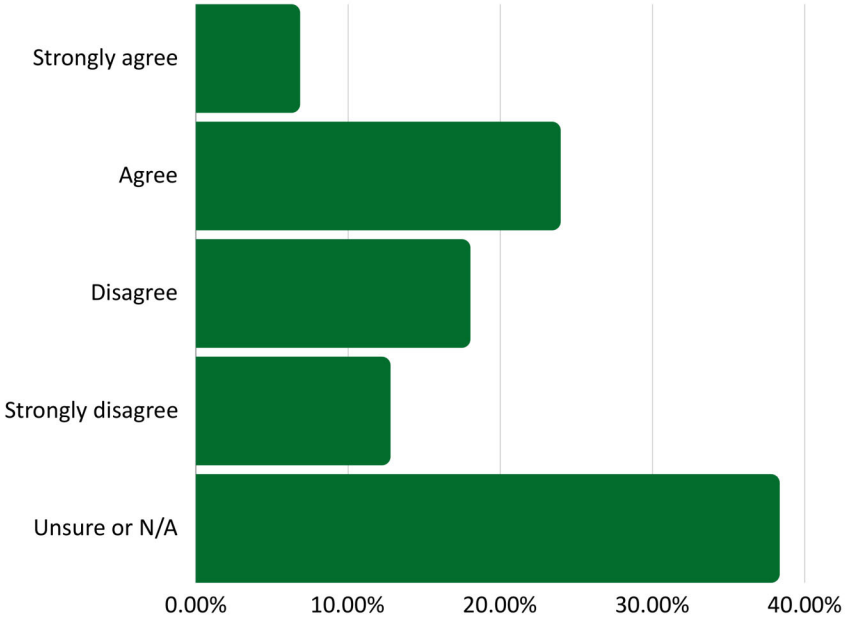


Why did you answer the last question regarding Middle School facilities as you did?

1. **Building Conditions and Maintenance:** Many respondents mentioned concerns about the condition of the middle school buildings, including issues such as old age, outdated facilities, lack of air conditioning and visible defects. Specific concerns included broken lockers, water spots on ceilings, loose floor tiles, old windows and inadequate heating and cooling systems. Some respondents expressed frustration with the lack of funding for renovations and maintenance.
2. **Safety and Security:** Some respondents mentioned feeling safe inside the schools but raised concerns about safety during dismissal times, including issues with traffic and bus arrival procedures. Others highlighted the presence of police officers and security measures as factors contributing to their sense of safety.
3. **Desire for Improvement and Updates:** Many respondents expressed a desire for improvements to middle school facilities, including updates to infrastructure, climate control systems, and overall building conditions**.** Some respondents suggested the need for increased discipline, better communication from administration, and efforts to address bullying and behavioral issues.

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The district provides High School facilities that are safe, comfortable and conducive to learning.



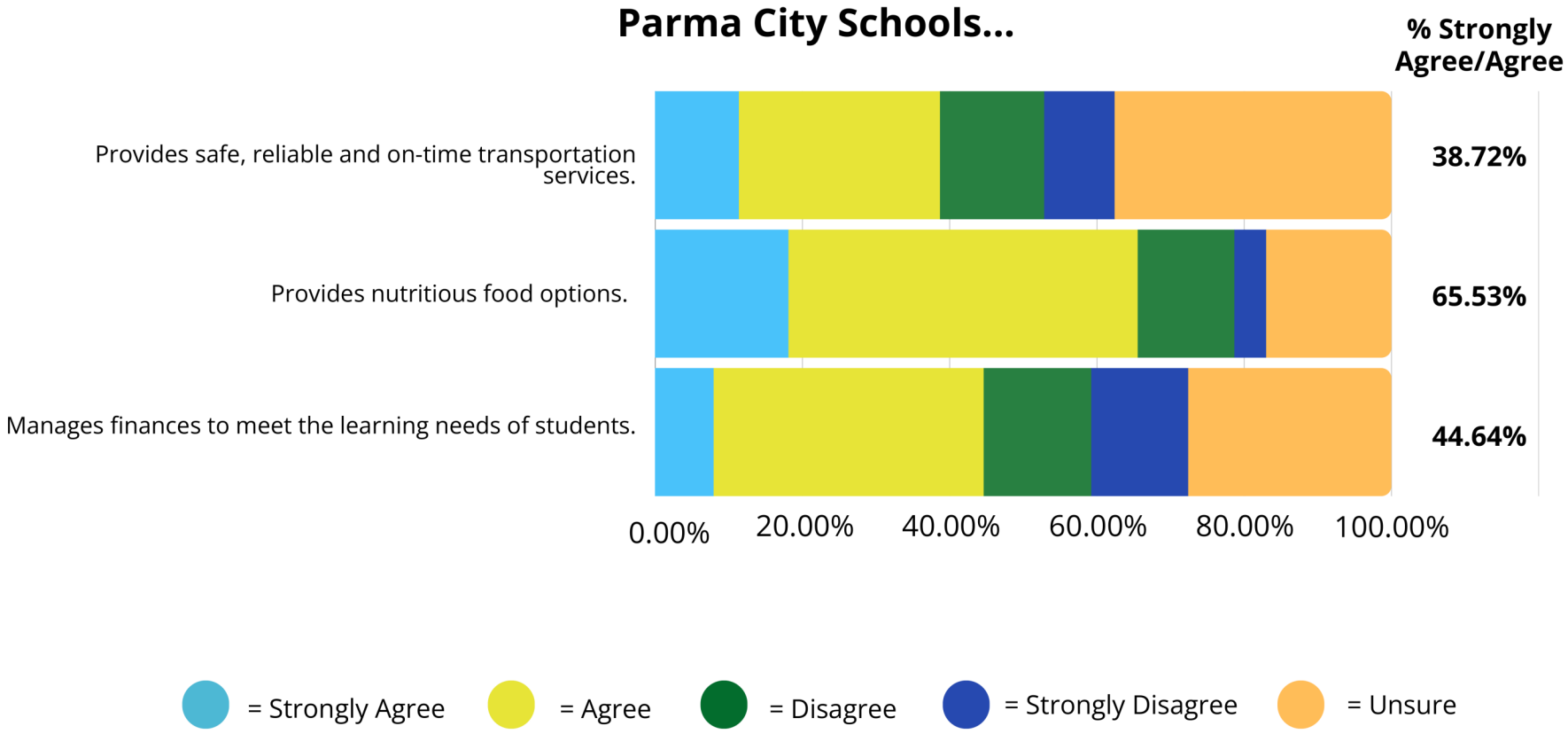
Why did you answer the last question regarding High School facilities as you did?

1. **Safety and Comfort:** While some respondents believe the schools are safe and comfortable, others express concerns about safety due to fights, bullying, drug use and outdated facilities. Issues like lack of air conditioning, overcrowding and uncomfortable learning environments are also mentioned.
2. **Physical Conditions of Buildings:** Many respondents emphasize the poor physical condition of the buildings, including issues like leaking roofs, outdated infrastructure, uncomfortable classrooms and lack of maintenance.
3. **Quality of Education:** Some respondents mention concerns about the quality of education, including teacher-student relationships, lack of engagement and the need for better support for struggling students.
4. **Desire for Improvements:** There is a widespread desire for improvements, including modernization of facilities, installation of security cameras, better communication between teachers and parents and updates to the learning environment.
5. **Comparisons with Other Districts:** Respondents compare Parma City School District's facilities unfavorably with those of other districts, highlighting disparities in resources and quality.
6. **Support for Staff**: Despite concerns about facilities, many respondents expressed appreciation for teachers and staff who support students and maintain a positive learning environment.
7. **Calls for Action:** There are calls for urgent action to address safety concerns, overcrowding and the need for facility upgrades. Some express frustration with the lack of progress in addressing these issues.

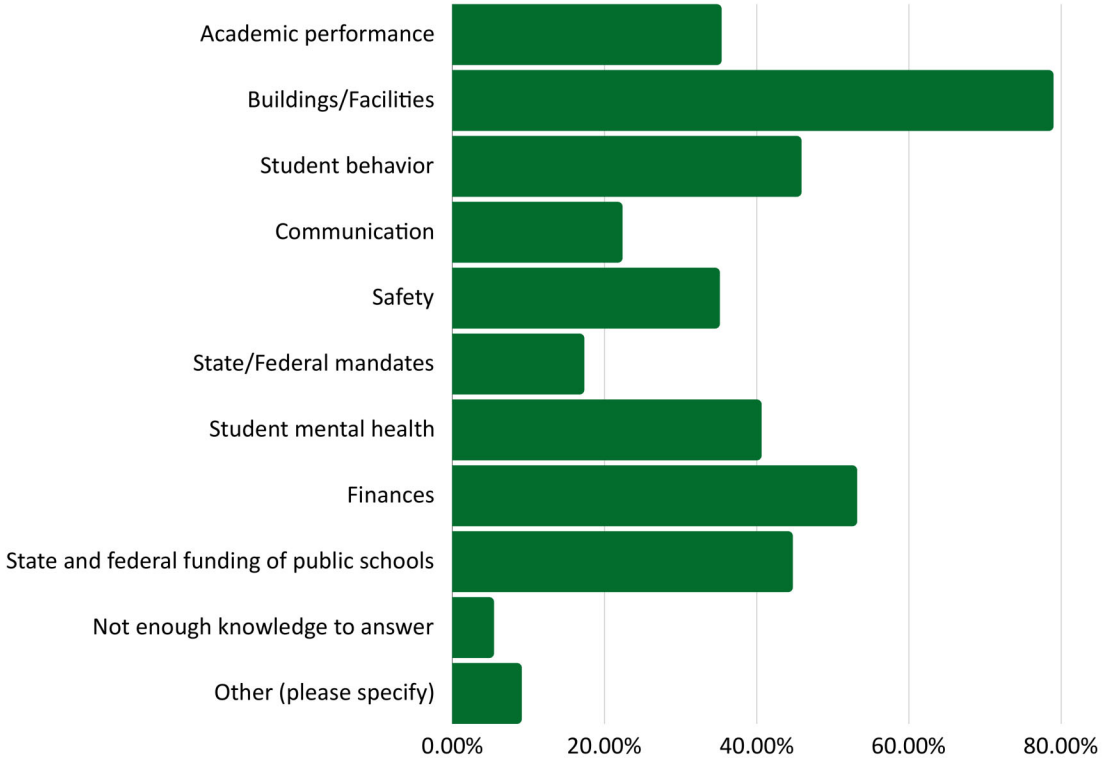
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Operations

In thinking about **Operations** in the Parma City School District, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.



What are the largest challenges facing the Parma City School District in the next 3-5 years?

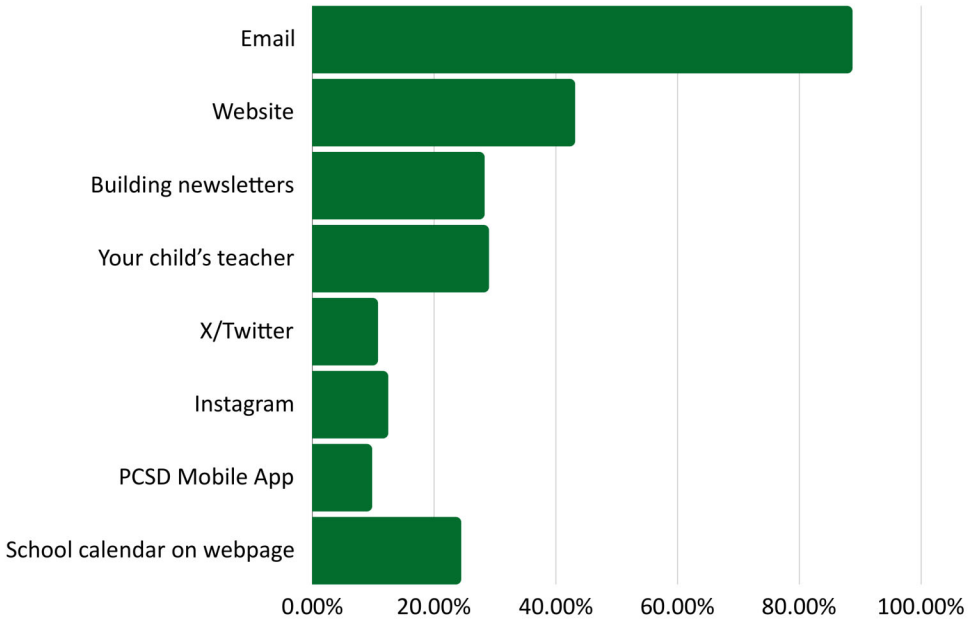


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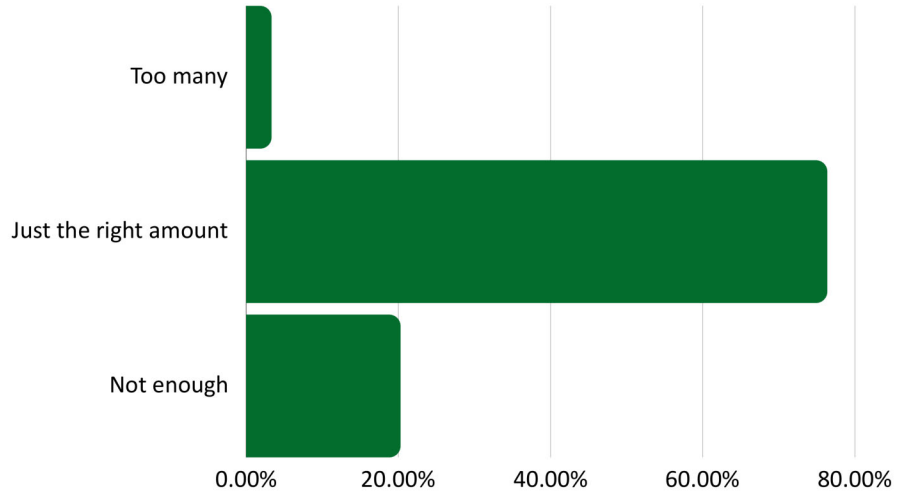
Why did you choose these areas in the previous question?

1. **Building Conditions and Upgrades:** The current state of the school buildings is a significant concern, with many expressing the urgent need for updates, renovations or new facilities. The deteriorating infrastructure affects the learning environment and safety of students and staff.
2. **Community Trust and Transparency:** There is a prevailing sense of distrust towards the school board and administration, stemming from past financial mismanagement and a lack of transparency in decision-making. Building trust and fostering open communication with the community are seen as essential for progress.
3. **Financial Challenges and Funding:** The district faces financial difficulties, with repeated failures to pass levies for necessary improvements and operations. Some community members express frustration with the reliance on property taxes and the lack of alternative funding sources.
4. **Academic Standards and Student Support:** Concerns about academic performance, curriculum quality and student support services, particularly in the areas of mental health and behavior management, are highlighted. There's a call for more rigorous standards and comprehensive support systems for students.
5. **Safety and Discipline:** Safety concerns, including bullying and the need for better discipline policies, are raised as critical issues affecting the learning environment and student well-being.
6. **Community Engagement and Leadership:** Many community members feel disconnected from the decision-making processes of the school board and express dissatisfaction with current leadership. There's a desire for more inclusive and responsive leadership that prioritizes the needs and concerns of students, parents, and staff.
7. **State Mandates and External Pressures:** External factors such as state mandates, standardized testing and changing educational requirements are perceived as additional challenges facing the district, impacting curriculum, teaching methods and resource allocation.
8. **Equity and Resource Allocation:** Concerns about disparities in resource allocation and school performance across different areas within the district underscore the need for greater equity and fairness in educational opportunities.
9. **Community Division and Normandy Favoritism:** There's a sense of division within the community, including favoritism towards certain schools like Normandy and dissatisfaction with consolidation efforts.
10. **Athletic Coaching and Programs:** The need for qualified coaching for sports and athletic programs is highlighted as an area needing improvement.

How do you currently receive information regarding the district? [Select all that apply]

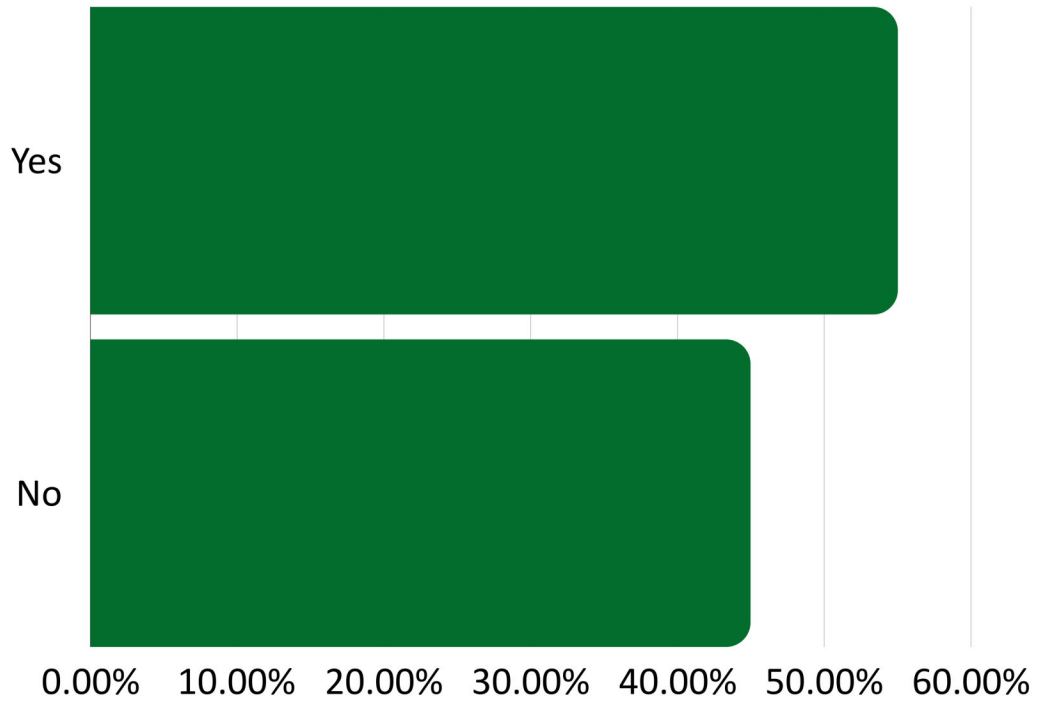


The frequency with which I receive communications from the district is:



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In general, do you believe the Parma City School District is headed in the right direction?



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Please use this space to share additional comments you would like to share that will help the district as it creates its next strategic plan.

1. **Community Collaboration and Unity**: Many individuals expressed a desire for better collaboration between different entities, such as mayors, school districts and community organizations, to create a more cohesive and united community.
2. **Homework Load and School Facilities:** Concerns were raised about the amount of homework students are given and the need for improvements to school buildings and facilities.
3. **Rec Centers and School District Responsibilities:** Some individuals disagreed with the idea of incorporating community rec centers with schools, emphasizing that the focus should be separate initiatives for each.
4. **Transportation Issues:** There were complaints about unreliable transportation services to and from school, including instances of buses skipping stops and leaving students behind.
5. **Extracurricular Activities and After-School Programs:** Suggestions were made for expanding extracurricular activities and after-school programs, including options like chess clubs, yoga and STEM activities.
6. **Communication and Transparency:** Many parents expressed a desire for better communication from the school district regarding various matters, including grades, gifted programs, and school events.
7. **Bullying and Student Behavior:** Concerns were raised about bullying incidents on buses and the need for better education for staff on conflict resolution and handling bullying situations.
8. **Financial Management and Levies:** There were criticisms regarding the district's financial management and the failures of levies.
9. **Curriculum and Educational Focus:** Some individuals expressed concerns about the curriculum, including the inclusion of political ideologies and the need to focus more on teaching basic skills.
10. **Safety and Security:** Some respondents mentioned issues related to safety and security, including the lack of athletic trainers at games and practices.
11. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Calls were made for more diversity and inclusion within the school district, including representation on the Board of Education and addressing the needs of underserved sectors.

As you think about the future of the Parma City School District, what is a hope/wish for the children of our community that you would like to see become a reality?

1. **Desire for New Buildings and Technology:** Many respondents emphasize the need for new or upgraded school buildings, incorporating modern technology to provide a comfortable and advanced learning environment.
2. **Concerns about Funding and Governance:** Some respondents expressed frustration with the current funding model for schools in Ohio and called for greater transparency and accountability in how funds are allocated and managed within the district.
3. **Community Support and Involvement:** There is a strong call for increased community support, not only in terms of financial contributions but also in fostering positive attitudes towards the school district and its students. The hope is for a united community that recognizes the benefits of investing in education.
4. **Safety and Well-being of Students:** Concerns about student safety, both physically and mentally, are prevalent. This includes addressing issues like bullying and providing support for mental health.
5. **Calls for a New High School:** Several responses express a desire for a new high school, with the belief that it will contribute to the overall success of students in the future.
6. **Transparency and Communication:** Respondents stress the importance of transparent communication between the school district, parents, and the community. This includes understanding why levies may be voted against and addressing any concerns through open dialogue.
7. **Teacher Support and Training:** Some respondents mention the need for proper teacher support, including fair wages and ongoing training, to ensure a high-quality education for students.
8. **Emphasis on Real-World Skills:** There is a call for the education system to focus on real-world skills and prepare students for life beyond the classroom. This includes teaching practical knowledge and promoting critical thinking.
9. **Improvements in Facilities and Programs:** A desire was expressed for improvements in facilities, extracurricular programs, and non-academic offerings to enhance the overall school experience.

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