

Parent Focus Group Questions

1. I am the parent of a student in the:
 - A. 11% Preschool
 - B. 27% Elementary School
 - C. 13% Middle School
 - D. 9% High School
 - E. 4% I do not currently have children in any of the buildings, but have in the past.
 - F. 28% I have children in more than one building.
 - G. 0% I have children in all three buildings.
 - H. 5% I do not have children in the district.

2. The district is facing over \$500,000 dollars in additional budget reductions between now and the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Were you aware of this possibility?
 - A. 41% I didn't know the dollar amount for our district, but have heard about other district cuts on the news and am not surprised we also have to make cuts.
 - B. 14% I was unaware the district was going to have to make such drastic cuts.
 - C. 36% I was aware of our district's circumstances.

3. The first set of statements we are going to ask your feelings on tonight are about our athletic programs. The district currently charges a "pay-to-participate" fee of \$125 (HS) and \$75 (MS).
True/False: I would support an increase in pay-to-participate costs.
 - A. 68% True
 - B. 21% False

4. I would support doubling the current cost for pay-to-participate athletics.
 - A. 52% True
 - B. 38% False

5. I would rather eliminate some athletic programs than pay more to participation fees.
 - A. 22% True
 - B. 67% False

6. More specifically: I would rather eliminate most or all MS sports instead of changing the pay-to-participate fee and would hope to see many of those same activities offered through Community Recreation for a fee.
 - A. 27% True
 - B. 64% False

7. If necessary, I would support both eliminating most, or all MS sports and an increase in pay-to-participate fees.
 - A. 16% True
 - B. 69% False

8. The next set of questions are about transportation. Currently the WISD schools are looking at countywide transportation collaborative that may or may not change the way WL students get to school each day.
True/False: I rely on district buses to get my children to school on a daily basis.
A. 62% True
B. 28% False
9. I rely on district buses to get my children home on a daily basis.
A. 64% True
B. 26% False
10. I could find another way to get my children to school on a daily basis if morning transportation was eliminated.
A. 62% True
B. 26% False
11. I could find another way to get my children home on a daily basis if afternoon transportation was eliminated.
A. 51% True
B. 36% False
12. I could support eliminating transportation for middle school/ high school students, but not for elementary students.
A. 27% True
B. 24% False
C. 38% I think we shouldn't have busing for one part of the district if we can't have it for the rest.
13. I absolutely rely on district buses and could not find a way to get my children either to or from school should either be eliminated.
A. 24% True
B. 64% False
14. I would like to see something else cut in the district instead of transportation.
A. 51% True
B. 39% False
15. The next set of questions are about class size. First, we'd like to know what you think about our current class sizes. Let's get some background information first.
How large do you think the current class sizes are at the ES on average?
A. 18% 20-25
B. 64% 25-30
C. 7% 30+

16. How large do you think the current class sizes are at the MS on average?
- A. 7% 20-25
 - B. 55% 25-30
 - C. 24% 30+
17. How large do you think the class sizes are at the HS on average?
- A. 19% 20-25
 - B. 48% 25-30
 - C. 18% 30+
18. I think our current class sizes at the ES are:
- A. 46% Just about right.
 - B. 40% A bit too big already.
19. I think our current class sizes at the MS are:
- A. 51% Just about right.
 - B. 35% A bit too big already.
20. I think our current class sizes at the HS are:
- A. 18% A bit too small in some instances.
 - B. 49% Just about right.
 - C. 16% A bit too big already.
21. In light of impending budget cuts, I would understand and support an increase in class size in the following circumstances:
- A. 14% Raise class size instead of eliminating part, or all, of our transportation program.
 - B. 28% Eliminate transportation instead, keep class sizes where they are.
 - C. 19% Eliminate some transportation and raise class sizes only at the MS/HS.
 - D. 26% Find some other way instead of eliminating transportation or having class size increases.
22. The next couple of questions are specifically about kindergarten.
True/False: I think that full-day kindergarten over half-day kindergarten should be maintained at all costs, even if it results in an increase in class size or a decrease in transportation.
- A. 36% True
 - B. 51% False
23. If the district is only able to afford half-day kindergarten, I would like to see it offered in the following manner.
- A. 47% Half days, Monday through Friday.
 - B. 25% Two full days and one half day each week.
 - C. 0% One full week on and one full week off, alternating throughout the year.
 - D. 8% Some other configuration resulting in the same number of hours in school yearly.

24. One thing we are considering is the current price of our school lunches.
True/False: I would be willing to support a 25 cent per day increase in student lunch costs.
A. 72% True
B. 14% False
25. The district may choose not to replace a principal retiring later this year. Would you be supportive of an option that would leave the district with just two principals?
A. 47% Yes, this would be acceptable.
B. 18% No, I believe the students/staff/buildings might not get the attention they need.
C. 21% This might work under certain circumstances.
26. Would you be willing to donate time on a regular basis to volunteer in your child's library, should that be the only way to keep it open?
A. 64% Yes
B. 11% No
C. 9% This might work under certain circumstances.
27. Would you be willing to make a donation of your choice to the Whitmore Lake Foundation for Educational Excellence to support education in Whitmore Lake?
A. 53% Yes
B. 25% No
C. 8% Maybe
28. The district is considering the consolidation of buildings and/or grades into another configuration such as K-6, 7-12 by closing (or nearly closing) one building. Would you support this move?
A. 31% Yes, if it keeps other things from being cut.
B. 38% No, I think we need to stay with 3 buildings and cut something else instead.
C. 19% I might be willing to consider this option at some point in time.
29. Are you aware that in light of the large amount of reductions the district is being faced with that all of the above options and then some are possible and even likely to occur later this year should school aid funding be decreased again, or by the start of the next school year if funding levels are reduced from where they are today?
A. 79% Yes
B. 7% No
30. In regards to budget reductions, if I had to choose only one option, it would be to:
A. 31% Eliminate all transportation.
B. 15% Eliminate all athletics.
C. 41% Close a building and consolidate into K-6, 7-12.

31. My second choice would be to:

A. 36% Eliminate all transportation.

B. 24% Eliminate all athletics.

C. 28% Close a building and consolidate into K-6, 7-12.

32. Thank you for attending this evening and giving us your opinions. Did you enjoy giving us your thoughts in this manner?

A. 73% Yes, everyone was able to participate, even those who don't like to speak up.

B. 11% No, I would have preferred doing this another way.

C. 2% I would have preferred not to have participated.