



May 21, 2008

To the Platte River Academy Community and Governing Board:

In accordance with state legislation, the Platte River Academy (PRA) School Advisory Committee (SAC) has completed the PRA Parent Satisfaction Survey for 2007-2008. As always, the survey has produced some very useful results. Overall, the results were extremely positive with high marks for administration, staff, governing board and the school. Data gained from the survey will be considered for possible incorporation into our School Improvement Plan.

Improvements Process Overview:

Whereas the 2007-08 survey effort was ultimately executed by the SAC, it is the product of an army of dedicated individuals comprised of parent volunteers, staff and faculty. To begin the work of updating our PRA Satisfaction survey, a Survey Improvement Team (SIT), comprised of representatives from all PRA walks was formed. The SIT began meeting Summer 2007. Therein began the initial phases of considering project goals, questions, information gathering techniques, software/services and data use. Through the collaborative efforts of the SIT and the PRA Technology Committee, Zoomerang, a commercial survey tool, was selected for use.

Zoomerang performed very well. Our Help Desk logged only two (2) technical issues (17 fewer than last year) from parents. The benefits of Zoomerang were the ease of use with respect to programming; the ease of available data; less time on the back-end preparing visual presentation (graphs) and the benefits associated with not hosting the survey on the PRA server.

As in previous years, a key benefit of this survey will be to track and compare annual metrics.

The SAC is providing two reports on the survey data. These include:

- 1) Report_Operational.pdf This report includes the Operational data and was downloaded directly from Zoomerang. It uses Zoomerang's presentation and graphs. Data gathered from this portion of the survey pertains our community's appraisal of overall operations at PRA including the execution of our mission statement, efficiencies and responsiveness of our administration and office staff, the governing board, communications and general satisfaction.
- 2) SurveyResults_Report_V1.xls. This report includes the Academic Survey data. Since the results are relevant by grade, the data was downloaded from Zoomerang into an Excel spreadsheet and then sorted by grade level. Data gathered from this portion of the survey is pertinent to our community's appraisal of Core subjects, communications (TeacherWeb, TeacherEase, and responsiveness), specials and electives.

Additionally, SAC will be forwarding individual parent directed comments to teachers, administrators, the governing board and the SAC.

Key Points: Operational Survey Report Observations

The following points provide a snapshot of the observations for the operations portion of the survey. We encourage you to review the complete section for more in depth information.



- Ninety-nine (99%) of parent respondents rate “PRA’s effort in providing a content-rich, academically rigorous education and a well-defined, sequential curriculum as Good/Excellent. (Questions 1 & 2)
- Ninety-one (91%) rate “PRA’s effort in providing an orderly and caring environment as Good/Excellent. (Questions 3)
- Forty-one (41%) report having read the E.D. Hirsch series handbook “*What your Xth Grader Needs to Know*” relative to their child/ren’s grade level. (Question 4)
- **Forty-five (45%) of parents are interested in taking parent education classes specific to PRA’s Core Knowledge Curriculum** (Question 5)
- Principal and Assistant Principal ratings regarding leadership, performance, approachability and responsiveness range from 92%-85% as Good/Excellent. (Questions 8-14)
- Governing Board ratings regarding financial stewardship, strategic leadership and communications range from 93%-77% respectively as Good/Excellent (Questions 15-17)
- Office Staff Ratings show 95% or above on Good/Excellent (Questions 21- 23)
- **85% of parents picked PRA for Core Knowledge Curriculum** (Question 29), **and**
- **96% of parents would recommend PRA to their friends** (Question 30).

Key Points: Academic Report Observations

The Academic report is divided first by subject matter (Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies) and by Grade (K-8). There is a separate tab for Arts/Electives, separated by K-6 and Middle school.

The following points provide possible areas for greater acknowledgement and/or consideration from data gathered regarding the academic, specials, electives, languages and learning environment at PRA. We encourage you to review the complete section for more in depth information regarding core subjects by grade level.

- Progress reports: Art (K-6) 74% report a solid understanding as to their child’s progress; 82% rated the Art Specials Program as good/excellent in supporting core subjects. (Questions 61 & 62)
- Progress reports: Music (K-6) 63% report solid understanding as to their child’s progress; 70% rated the Music Specials Program as good/excellent in supporting core subjects. (Questions 63 & 64)
- Progress reports: PE (K-6) 71% report solid understanding as to their child’s progress. (Question 67)
- Progress reports: Technology (K-6) 70% report solid understanding as to their child’s progress; 68% rated the Technology Specials Program as good/excellent in supporting core subjects. (Question 65 & 66)
- Progress reports. Spanish (K-6) 85% of respondents report solid understanding as to their child/ren’s progress in Spanish. (Question 68)
- Middle School Specials (Art, Music and Technology subjects): Seventy (70%) of respondents rated such as good/excellent in their ability to support core subjects. (Question 228)
- Middle School World Languages: To best prepare PRA students for successful transition into 9th grade language programs, 34% of respondents felt classes should meet daily the entire year; 51% felt classes should meet every other day for the entire year. (Question 217)
- Thirty-eight (38%) percent of respondents report their elementary students (K-6) have “discussed being bullied or witnessing bullying” at least monthly at PRA (Question 224)
- Twenty-three (23%) percent of respondents report their PRA middle schooler/s (7-8) have “discussed being bullied or witnessing bullying” at least monthly at PRA (Question 224)
- Seventeen (17%) percent of K-6 parents either do not plan on, or are undecided as to whether their children will to continue their middle school education at PRA.

Thanks to everyone in the PRA community that participated in this process. We hope the data in these reports can be a helpful resource when making decisions that affect our children’s futures. The SAC looks forward to further review with the members of the Governing Board prior to the beginning of the 08-09 school year.

School Advisory Committee (SAC)