

Boxford Parent Survey Results

June, 2011

The parent survey was the first one to be completed collaboratively between the two elementary schools and was designed to collect information that could act as a baseline for next year, during the transition of new principals to both schools. We continue to strive to provide the best learning environments for our children, and hope with the help of our survey, positive changes can be made as the school year progresses.

During the survey, parents were asked to answer questions using the following rating scale: 1= *Strongly agree*, 2= *Agree*, 3= *Neutral*, 4= *Disagree*, 5= *Strongly Disagree*. In addition, an area for comments was included at the end of each section so parents could have an opportunity to provide feedback, thoughts and/or any specific examples.

Overall, 123 parents responded; the breakdown of school participation is as follows: 30% of Cole School parents, 38% Spofford parents and 32% had children at both Cole and Spofford. Below you will find the Detailed Survey Results, which includes an average rating score for each answer. Comments and/or actions taken by the school are also noted for your information.

School Improvement Plan for 2011-2012

As part of our ongoing improvement efforts for the next school year, we will be focusing on the areas highlighted below.

Welcoming environment, school safety & respect

To complement the Second Step (Cole) and Steps to Respect (Spofford) programs which are designed to prevent harassment and bullying, we will be implementing the Olweus Program at both schools. This anti-bullying program will provide us with a common language to address social problems and help to get everyone involved in creating an accepting and welcoming environment for all members of our school community including teachers, students, parents, teaching assistants, office staff, recess monitors, cafeteria staff and bus drivers.

Curriculum

We will be piloting math programs next year in some of our classrooms as a way to help us determine the most effective math program for the coming years. Our writing curriculum has been updated this past school year, and teachers will continue to refine this curriculum by implementing a more rigorous writing curriculum in the coming year. We will continue to expand our regular education supportive services for reading, math and guidance for students who need supplemental learning time in these areas. In addition, we will offer high-achieving students additional options for extending their curriculum experience by providing an Extended Studies program that will begin in mid-October.

Wellness

We have made improvements over the last two years in our school lunch program to offer students healthier choices. These improvements have been listed on the lunch menus and will continue to be listed next school year. A la carte food items have not been served this year and healthier options are being reviewed for next. In addition, we are working towards getting the nutritional content of our school lunches online for families to view.

Thank you again for your participation as input from our parent community is vital for achieving and maintaining a high level of standards for our elementary schools.

Detailed Survey Results

Rating Scale:

1= Strongly agree, 2= Agree, 3= Neutral, 4= Disagree, 5= Strongly Disagree

1. In the areas of **welcoming environment and school safety** our goal is to have all those who enter our schools feel welcomed. From the office to the classroom, we want families to feel invited into our schools. Efforts are continuously being made to address this goal everyday.

The school is clean and well-maintained.	1.6
I feel welcome at my child's school	1.8
The school has emergency protocols/procedures in place	1.6
I feel my child is safe traveling to and from school on the bus.	1.7
My child is safe at school.	1.6
I understand the behavior code of conduct at Cole School	1.7
I feel my child's school addresses bullying issues/concerns.	2.0

2. In the area of **respect**, results indicate that parents feel that the school is encouraging children to be respectful and the children are benefiting from morning meetings, Second Step and the Steps to Respect programs.

I am respected by the principal at Cole School	1.4
I am respected by the principal at Spofford Pond School	1.5
I respect the principal at Cole School	1.3
I respect the principal at Spofford Pond School	1.4
I am respected by my child's teacher and other faculty /staff members.	1.6
I respect my child's teacher at Cole School	1.4
I respect my child's teacher at Cole School	1.8
Teachers show respect for their students at Cole School	1.5
Teachers show respect for their students at Cole School	2.0
Students show respect for each other.	2.3

3. **Communication** will increase as we continue to work towards updating all websites and online information for parents as a way to increase our level of communication with families. The Cole Connection and Spofford Times Newsletters were sited as a great way to communicate school-wide information.

	I can easily communicate with the principal at Cole School	1.6
	I can easily communicate with the principal at Spofford School	1.6
	There is open communication between parents and teachers at Cole	1.7
	There is open communication between parents and teachers at Spofford	1.9
	My child knows what his/her teacher expects at Cole School	1.5
	My child knows what his/her teacher expects at Spofford School	1.9
	I know how my child is progressing in school at Cole School	1.6
	I know how my child is progressing in school at Spofford School	1.9
	The Cole principal responds to parent concerns in a timely manner.	1.6
	The Spofford principal responds to parent concerns in a timely manner.	1.5
4.	Curriculum is of the utmost important to our schools and we have improved and will continue to improve both the writing and math curriculums and provide additional support to help each student achieve their potential.	
	I have a general understanding of my child's grade level curriculum.	1.9
	The school expects quality work.	1.7
	The school assessment practices are fair.	2.0
	The school report cards are comprehensive and informative.	2.0
	My child is challenged academically.	2.2
	My teacher recognizes the learning style of my child.	1.9
	My child's homework is aligned with the School Committee's guidelines.	2.1
	My teacher helps me to help my child at home.	2.1
	New technology is used effectively in my child's classroom.	2.2
5.	In the areas of wellness and general information we we will continue our nutritional education programs and nutrition/fitness programs to educate and encourage children to embrace a healthy lifestyle.	
	The school has an effective policy for addressing student allergies.	1.8
	The school lunches are healthy and well balanced.	2.7
	I read the Parent/Student Handbook with my child.	2.3
	I know the Boxford Schools' Vision Statement.	2.4
	I utilize the Cole School website.	2.0

I utilize the Spofford Pond School website.	1.8
At Cole School, I utilize my child's teacher's website.	2.1
At Spofford School, I utilize my child's teacher's website.	2.4
Cole School has a good public image.	1.5
Spofford Pond School has a good public image.	2.5
The school succeeds at preparing children for future work.	2.0
6. How many times a week does your child purchase lunch?	
One day	12.1%
Two day	17.0%
Three days	10.5%
Four days	11.3%
Five days	27.6%
Once a month	6.5%
My child does not buy school lunch	18.6%
Other	2.4%
7. Are you interested in knowing the nutritional content of the school lunches served? Would you use this to help in your lunch decision-making?	
Yes	81.6%
No	20.0%
Other	<1.0%
8. If you had more information regarding the nutritional content of the lunch options, would you use this to help in your lunch decision-making?	
Yes	74.7%
No	22.6%
Other	2.5%
9. I need more information regarding the Point of Sale (POS)/My NutriKids system	3.6
10. I feel that my child has sufficient time to eat and purchase lunch.	
Yes	42.2%

No	51.2%
No Response	6.5%

11. I am satisfied with my child's learning of foreign language at the elementary level.

Yes	67.4%
No	25.2%
Other	7.3%