

## Spring 2011 DPC Assessment Response Summary:

Zoomerang - Launched: 5/16/2011 Closed: 6/4/2011

Survey Invites: 19 DPC reps and building board presidents; 7 BOE members; 2 admin staff

### Brief Conclusion:

- Support and informational needs vary by building level, however all highly value the ability to freely share and exchange information regarding issues, both from district admin and BOE to the councils, and from the councils to the district admin/BOE.
- The DPC role should focus primarily between it and individual building councils (Q2) and with BOE/admin (Q3), more so than with the general family population (Q4).
- DPC should continue to expand its role in providing individual building councils operating support and suggestions. This however should be done via boot camp, special meetings, emails and website tools rather than devoting discussion to this at the monthly meetings.
- Desired DPC meeting topics currently gravitate toward “big picture” educational discussions and applications within our system. In 2011-2012 we will focus on the “top” 6 issues identified in Q7.

### Survey Summary:

Q1. Please identify your role as follows:

BOE member, Superintendent or Director	1	9%
DPC Representative or building Parent Council President	10	91%
Total responses	11	

Q2. Three areas which received over 80% response as being either quite important or extremely important regarding information which the DPC should provide to building councils:

- building council structure and 501(c)3 legal requirements,
- sharing effective volunteer support ideas
- school board & superintendent 'hot' issues and news.

Of moderate importance:

- providing info on district budget issues (64%)

The least of the choices, with 54% responding as quite important or extremely important, were:

- provision of potential special topics for individual building council meetings,
- providing effective fundraising ideas
- sharing dates of K-12 building council activities.

None of these topics received a “not at all important” rating.

Q3. All 5 areas received over 80% response as being either quite important or extremely important regarding information which the DPC should provide the EL School Board. One area received 100% agreement:

- provide BOE with “hot issues” within the parent community

The other 4 areas received 82% agreement:

- provide feedback regarding budget decisions
- provide feedback regarding curriculum decisions
- provide feedback regarding policy decisions
- provide valuable outlet for disseminating important BOE news

One topic: feedback about budget decisions, received 1 “not at all important” rating.

Q4. One area received over 80% response as being either quite important or extremely important regarding information which the DPC should provide community families:

- an opportunity to have face-to-face discussions with the superintendent and Board rep

63% of the responses support:

- an avenue to express aggregate concerns (with 1 “not at all important” rating)

The rest received equally mixed responses varying between not important to extremely important:

- support tools for interactions with staff
- educational support tools for use in home (with 1 “not at all important” rating)
- an avenue to express individual concerns (with 2 “not at all important” ratings)

Q5. 5 of the 11 respondents attended the 3 special DPC meetings. All 5 found the August boot camp (council job descriptions, role of parent councils, welcoming new families) and the May budget proposal review helpful. The March mid-year boot camp (board transitioning info, sharing of ideas on improving council effectiveness) was helpful to 4 of the 5 attendees.

Q6. Future DPC meeting topics receiving the highest percentages of being quite important or extremely important:

- Review by Dr Chapin and Board Rep of status update/outcomes of 5 year (2007-2011) strategic plan (91%)
- Review by Dr Chapin of the Annual Education Report (expected summer 2011) (91%)
- Review by Cliff Seybert of collaborative opportunities currently in place to deliver curriculum (81%)
- Summary by Dr Carter of 2nd stage of feedback (K-12 student survey data from May 2010) (73%)
- Current identification process of advanced (aka "gifted and talented") students in the system (73%)
- Collaborate with administration to create an annual 'educational experience assessment' survey tool for families (73%)

Topics receiving moderate support:

- Discuss outcomes from the final Achievement Gap Task Force report suggestions (54%)
- Parent participation brainstorming for use by individual councils (54%)
- Website review - is it user friendly? (45%)
- Meeting topic brainstorming for use by individual councils (45%)

- Provide feedback or discussion venue for status of K-8 Facilities Progress (45%)

Of least importance is:

- Fundraising brainstorming for use by individual councils (36%) (with 2 “not at all important” ratings)

Q7. Comments:

Responses:

- Suggested Topic: Examine the current status/ability of district to provide adequate quality of instruction for the special needs population – would rate this as quite important
- I see the DPC as a communication venue between parents and school district. I believe we should focus less on fundraising efforts and leave those to the individual schools and more on learning to act as advocates for our students.
- Don't know what this means: “Review by Cliff Seybert of collaborative opportunities currently in place to deliver curriculum.” Are you talking about integrated curriculum?
- Recommend meeting topic brainstorming for use by individual councils (plus recommended meeting format, guest speakers, etc.)
- Provide a reflective survey to be given to each building’s parent council at the end of the school year. Could gather feedback such as: meeting length, productivity, cooperation and responsiveness of administration, cooperation and responsiveness of faculty, cooperation and responsiveness parent volunteers, ability to secure volunteers, diversity of volunteer base, etc.
- The meeting times are not conducive to participation for working members of the boards.
- I see DPC as an information conduit: a way to represent parent concerns to the BOE and Superintendent, and a way to represent BOE and Superintendent concerns to the parents. It is another way for an individual school parent group to communicate in the larger school community. Getting Elementary, Middle and HS parents and school staff together to discuss events that effect the whole community while highlighting individual programs and what is working or needs help is something I hope continues for a long time.