

School District # 73 Parent Survey on School Fees

Conducted by School District #73
District Parent Advisory Council

District Parent



Advisory Council

SD 73

Feb 09, 2007

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Executive Summary

In response to Justice Johnson's decision on School Fees (Supreme Court of British Columbia decision 1415), School District #73 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), working with eleven other DPACS (Appendix 6) across British Columbia developed and administered an electronic survey designed to gain parent input on the school fees issue.

In School District #73, 407 completed surveys were submitted representing 722 students with the majority (98.5%) of students attending public school. While the majority of students represented were in the K-7 grades, overall, there was no significant difference in respondent's opinions between secondary and primary school levels. No significant difference in responses was detected when family income was analyzed as a variable.

In summary, the following profile describes the majority of respondents:

- 63% of students are in the primary grade level.
- 37% of students are in the secondary grade level.
- Over 98% of students attend a public school.
- 83% of respondents reported being two parent families.
- 37% of respondents reported that they have served on Parent Advisory Council and 11% have served on a School Planning Council¹.
- 51% of respondents reported family income exceeding \$70,000 per year.
- 42% of respondents reported volunteering at their school a few times per year.

The survey has provided a valuable insight in identifying what parents believe is "core" education (Table 5) and, by extension, what should be paid for by the province (and school board) (Table 2, 4, and 6) and what parents are willing to pay for outside of "core" education (Table 5, 6, and 7). Criteria, principles, and values have been identified that respondents find important; guidance for policy and decision-makers in developing a new school fee relationship with parents.

Parents are clear on their expectations in the event school fees are to be levied.

...parents and students should at least be given a choice as to whether or not they are willing to pay.

I feel their needs to be more accountability within the schools and the school districts.

¹ Based on 160 respondents who identified themselves as serving on either a Parent Advisory Council or School Planning Council.

Parents do not support paying school fees related to the delivery of “core” education. They have indicated that school fees for enhanced or extra curriculum activities may be appropriate providing:

- Parents are involved in the decision-making process that sets the fee schedule;
- Fees are reasonable and consistent across the district;
- Capacity to pay is addressed;
- There is transparency and accountability for funds spent;
- Systemic barriers are addressed.

The report recommends that:

1. The School Board defines “core” education courses and enhanced course offerings using criteria that is documented and transparent and provides this information to parents.
2. The School Board collaborates and engages with DPAC in designing, implementing, and monitoring strategy for any school fees that may be levied.
3. The School Board report annually, by school, the amount of school fees collected, how the funds were spent, assessment of value for funds spent, and where the planned outcomes achieved.
4. Request the School Board to undertake a review of district policies and procedures to ensure systemic barriers identified in this survey are pro-actively addressed. Parent engagement is strongly urged to ensure solutions developed will have the desired outcome.
5. DPAC and the School Board work collaboratively to ensure government fully funds core education.

Background

On October 02, 2006, the British Columbia Supreme Court decision *Young versus Minister of Education* was released. This decision brought clarity to the issue of school fees, specifically the *School Board Fees Order*. Justice Johnston stated in his decision that “ *A board shall not charge fees for goods and services provided by the board to students of school age resident in the school district without which the student could not meet required learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program provided by the board.*”²

Subsequently, School Board #73 (Kamloops/Thompson) obtained legal opinions as to the interpretation of the ruling and has conducted a potential impact assessment^{3,4}. In preparation for changes in program delivery to ensure compliance with Justice Johnson’s decision, the Board approved a public consultation process, which would engage stakeholders in dialogue around the issue.

Separately, the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) #73, in partnership with like-minded DPACs across the province, prepared a questionnaire (Appendix 1) to gain insight on parents’ perspectives both locally and across the province. This was an opportunity to gather a broad cross section of perspectives and to identify common themes with a provincial scope. DPAC #73 contributed the results of this survey to the provincial roll-up. Results from this survey are also being submitted to School Board #73 as part of DPAC’s submission on school fees.

This report documents DPAC #73’s survey results.

Methodology

An electronic survey⁵ was developed and posted to the School District #73 website at www.sd73.bc.ca under School Fees (and related) Survey. For parents without Internet access, a paper copy of the survey was made available and DPAC volunteers then manually entered the data into the electronic survey database. Results were tabulated using the summary functions available through Survey Monkey.

² Reasons for Judgement, Justice Johnston *Young v British Columbia (Minister of Education)* 2006 BCSC 1415. www.courts.gov.bc.ca/Jdb-txt/SC/06/14/2006BCSC1415.htm

³ Stretch, Kelvin. Secretary-Treasure, School District 73. December 12, 2006. School Fees Report. Memorandum. 4 pp.

⁴ Sullivan, Terrence S. Superintendent, School District 73. December 15, 2006. School Fees Report, , Memorandum. 2 pp.

⁵ Survey Monkey at www.surveymonkey.com was used for collecting and compiling results from survey.

Notification to parents was done through the local media (Kamloops This Week, Kamloops Daily News and press releases to various other media) and direct notification through school newsletters and flyers. The survey was posted on December 19, 2006 and remained open until January 31, 2007.

Concurrently across the province, the same survey was administered to parents in seventeen other School Districts (See Appendix 6).

Survey Results

Demographics

Within School District #73 parents completed 407 surveys representing 722 students. The primary grades (K-7) were represented by 453 students and the secondary grade level (8-12) was represented by 269 students. Seven respondents choose not to indicate which grade their child(ren) was in. The majority of respondents have children attending a public school (98.5%) while the remainder (1.5%) attend private school. Only 1.5% of respondents reported that they home schooled their children.

The results are presented as an aggregate (secondary and primary grades combined), however, where significant differences between the two grade levels were observed; these are identified for the benefit of the reader.

In summary, the following profile describes the majority of respondents:

- 63% of students are in the primary grade level.
- 37% of students are in the secondary grade level.
- Over 98% of students attend a public school.
- 83% of respondents reported being two parent families.
- 37% of respondents reported that they have served on Parent Advisory Council and 11% have served on a School Planning Council⁶.
- 51% of respondents reported family income exceeding \$70,000 per year.
- 42% of respondents reported volunteering at their school a few times per year.

When comparing primary to secondary grade levels, there was no significant difference in demographic profile. Additional data analysis based on family income was also undertaken to determine if this was a factor in the responses. No significant difference was detected compared to the aggregate responses.

⁶ Based on 160 respondents who identified themselves as serving on either a Parent Advisory Council or School Planning Council.

Opinions on Public Education

When asked about public education, the majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements (Table 1):

- “the public education system should provide every student with the opportunity to develop his/her full potential.” (97%).
- “Our schools should be places where every child has access to opportunities regardless of family income or capacity” (95%).
- “Refundable deposits teach students to have respect for property” (70%).

The clarity of agreement/disagreement was not as sharp for the statement “students should have to pay some fees and make choices based on their financial resources to teach them about the “real world”. Forty nine percent (49%) strongly disagreed or disagreed while 37% agreed or strongly agreed and 14% had no firm opinion.

Respondents overwhelmingly disagreed (80%) with the statement “ public education’s primary responsibility is to teach literacy and numeracy. Anything else is extra.”

Table 1: Public Education Responses to Statements (n=390)

		Categories ⁷	
		Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Agree or Strongly Agree
2a	The public education system should provide every student with the opportunity to develop his/her full potential.	3%	97%
2b	Students should have to pay some fees and make choices based on their financial resources to teach them about the 'real world'.	49%	37%
2c	Our schools should be places where every child has access to opportunities regardless of family income or capacity.	3%	95%
2d	Refundable deposits teach students to have respect for property.	17%	70%
2e	Public education's primary responsibility is to teach literacy and numeracy. Anything else is extra.	80%	11%

⁷ Totals of disagree, strongly disagree and agree or strongly agree do not necessarily equal 100%; the difference is the percentage of respondents who did not have a firm opinion for the statement.

Opinions on Funding Issues

Seventeen statements (Table 2) were presented with respondents asked to indicate whether they strongly disagree, disagree, have no firm opinion, agree, or strongly agree with each statement. The following guide has been used to color-code the responses. This provides a visual interpretation of the data showing the degree of agreement or disagreement to each statement.

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Firm Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

For presentation purposes, Table 2 ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score (strongly agree) being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last (strongly disagree).

Table 2: Response to statements on funding issues (n=377)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score (All)	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	It is appropriate for the government to fully fund core public education	4.58	94	3	
2	The Ministry of Education should provide funds to cover the fees that can no longer be charged due to the Supreme Court ruling	3.93	71	13	
3	If it is worth doing, it is worth funding	3.89	75	9	
4	A voluntary fee system will not work because some people who can afford it simply will not pay	3.86	72	13	
5	School fees should be consistent across the school district	3.81	71	15	
6	School fees should only be charged to recover actual costs	3.73	68	15	
7	Parents should have input into setting school fee amounts	3.53	61	23	
8	One school fee at the beginning of the school year would make more sense than getting requests continuously all year long.	3.49	57	25	
9	As a parent, I expect to pay for enhancements to my child(ren)'s public education experience	3.32	58	28	
10	It is appropriate to charge school fees to provide educational opportunities beyond core	3.32	56	30	

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score (All)	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
	education.				
11	It is appropriate for the government to fully fund programs of choice	3.29	44	31	
12	Schools should be fully funded including extra-curricular activities	3.09	39	44	
13	Corporate sponsorship is an appropriate way to raise funds for a school	3.02	41	34	
14	Parent fundraising is an acceptable alternative to paying school fees	2.80	36	46	
15	Parents who can afford to pay school fees should be required to do so.	2.73	33	49	
16	The public cannot afford to put more money into public education	2.53	22	54	
17	Parent fundraising should be increased to replace the money previously collected as school fees.	2.10	10	70	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Equity and Opportunity

Thirteen statements were presented to respondents with each statement having five rating values: strongly disagree, disagree, no firm opinion, agree, and strongly agree. For presentation purposes, Table 3 below ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last.

Table 3: Response to statements on equity and opportunity category (Primary and Secondary Combined) (n=372)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	Graduation activities should be kept affordable so that all students can participate	4.54	96	1	
2a	Specialty programs such as sports academies and apprenticeships are critical to keeping some students in school	4.19	84	5	

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
2b	Extra-curricular fees should be structured to minimize the financial impact on families to ensure greater opportunity for participation	4.19	89	4	
3	Students in families with a lower income sometimes have difficulty asking parents for money to pay a school fee	3.99	74	4	
4	A student should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid course or other fees	3.94	73	12	
5	Some families will pay school fees even when they can't afford it	3.87	75	6	
6	Increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater inequalities in our public education system.	3.76	64	13	
7	The existing practice of waiving fees for those who can't afford them ensures equality for all students	3.50	62	24	
8	All students are able to take advantage of the "programs of choice" that some of our schools now offer	3.05	36	32	
9	Some students avoid going to school or cut classes because they can't afford the cost of the scheduled activity	2.84	29	39	
10	The prohibition of school fees will lead to more equitable education system	2.76	28	46	
11	I would feel comfortable approaching my school principal to request a fee waiver	2.66	31	49	
12	It is appropriate to withhold a report card when fees are not yet paid	2.16	22	67	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Parent Involvement

Four statements were presented to respondents with each statement offering five rating values: strongly disagree, disagree, no firm opinion, agree, and strongly agree. For presentation purposes, Table 4 ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last.

Table 4: Response to statements on parent involvement (combined primary and secondary scores) (n=368)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	All school fees should be accounted for and parents should have access to financial information related to the resulting expenditures	4.18	87	5	
2	Increased fundraising shifts "advisory" capacity away from Parent Advisory Councils.	3.16	24	26	
3	Increased fundraising by parents affects their ability to be involved in school decision-making processes	2.94	26	33	
4	Parents spend too much time fundraising resulting in reduced time with their families	2.86	26	40	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Core Education

Thirty statements were presented to respondents with each statement offering five rating values: strongly disagree, disagree, no firm opinion, agree, and strongly agree. For presentation purposes, Table 5 ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last.

Table 5: Response to statements on core education (primary and secondary scores combined) (n=359)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	Textbooks	4.57	96	3	
2	Library books	4.51	95	3	
3	Safety items	4.44	91	7	
4	Course workbooks	4.39	88	8	
5	Computers (including software)	4.25	89	5	
6	Audio/visual equipment	4.22	86	7	
7	Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc)	4.18	88	10	
8	Physical education (gym, outdoor pursuit course, weight training, etc.)	4.15	86	12	
9	Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc)	4.13	80	13	
10	Fine arts (art, drama, music, etc)	3.88	76	19	
11a	Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc)	3.85	74	19	
11b	Playground equipment	3.85	72	21	
12	Home economics (foods, sewing, etc)	3.77	73	21	
13	Secondary apprenticeship programs	3.73	65	19	
14	Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's etc.)	3.68	66	24	
15	Language immersion programs	3.52	57	26	
16	Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	3.44	53	29	
17	Locker rentals	3.42	55	33	
18a	Drama and band equipment	3.37	53	32	
18b	Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc as part of a PE program	3.37	56	34	
19	Educational field trips (i.e.	3.34	54	35	

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
	trip to a science exhibit)				
20	Student agendas	3.29	51	38	
21	Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc	3.21	44	37	
22	Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc	2.99	40	51	
23	Sport academies	2.95	34	42	
24	Music instrument rentals	2.93	36	49	
25	Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	2.87	33	51	
26	Social/sports field trips	2.80	33	53	
27	Band trips	2.58	21	60	
28	Multi-cultural exchanges (i.e. trips out of province)	2.26	12	72	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

School Fees

Thirty statements were presented to respondents with each statement offering five rating values: strongly disagree, disagree, no firm opinion, agree, and strongly agree. For presentation purposes, Table 6 ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last.

Table 6: Response to statements on school fees (primary and secondary scores combined) (n=349)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	Multi-cultural exchanges (i.e. trips out of province)	3.76	72	15	
2	Band trips	3.57	67	21	
3	Social/sports field trips	3.35	61	29	
4	Musical instrument rental	3.22	56	33	
5	Sports academies	3.15	45	31	
6a	Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	3.10	52	37	
6b	Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc	3.10	50	36	
7	Educational field trips (i.e. trip to a science exhibit)	3.05	50	41	

Ranking	Statement	Response Average	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
8	Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc as part of a PE program	2.99	48	45	
9	Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc)	2.97	50	43	
10	Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	2.89	38	42	
11	Home economics (foods, sewing, etc)	2.83	44	50	
12	Drama and band equipment	2.82	38	45	
13	Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc)	2.77	41	53	
14	Student agendas	2.73	39	51	
15	Secondary apprenticeship programs	2.67	30	51	
16	Language immersion programs	2.65	32	55	
17	Fine arts (art, drama, music, etc)	2.63	37	58	
18	Locker rentals	2.39	25	62	
19	Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's etc.)	2.38	25	66	
20	Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc)	2.22	19	75	
21	Physical education (gym, outdoor pursuit course, weight training, etc.)	2.18	20	75	
22	Playground equipment	1.99	11	79	
23	Audio/visual equipment	1.91	9	82	
24	Computers (including software)	1.89	6	88	
25	Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc)	1.80	7	86	
26	Course books	1.76	9	86	
27	Library Books	1.68	6	91	
28	Safety Items	1.65	5	90	
29	Textbooks	1.61	6	92	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

PAC Expenditures

Thirty statements were presented to respondents with each statement offering five rating values: strongly disagree, disagree, no firm opinion, agree, and strongly agree. For presentation purposes, Table 7 ranks each statement, based on the response average score, with the highest score being ranked first and lowest score being ranked last.

Table 7: Response to statements on PAC expenditures (primary and secondary grade level scores combined)

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
1	Social/sports field trips	3.28	60	28	
2	Playground equipment	3.23	57	31	
3	Educational field trips (i.e. trip to a science exhibit)	3.12	55	34	
4	Band trips	3.06	49	34	
5	Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc as part of a PE program	3.02	51	38	
6	Multi-cultural exchanges (i.e. trips out of province)	3.00	47	37	
7	Drama and band equipment	2.86	41	43	
8	Sport academies	2.67	32	47	
9	Audio/visual equipment	2.62	35	51	
10	Library books	2.56	34	54	
11	Computers (including software)	2.44	27	59	
12	Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc)	2.38	24	61	
13	Music instrument rentals	2.37	24	61	
14	Fine arts (art, drama, music, etc)	2.32	23	65	
15	Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's etc.)	2.28	22	66	
16	Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	2.23	15	64	
17	Home economics (foods, sewing, etc)	2.22	18	70	
18	Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc)	2.19	17	70	
19	Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc)	2.19	19	70	
20	Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc)	2.18	21	68	
21	Secondary apprenticeship programs	2.16	13	66	

Ranking	Statement	Response Average Score	Strongly Agree/ Agree (%)	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree (%)	Colour Indicator
22	Language immersion programs	2.14	14	70	
23	Student agendas	2.12	19	71	
24	Physical education (gym, outdoor pursuit course, weight training, etc.)	2.13	16	73	
25	Safety items	1.98	15	74	
26	Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc)	1.94	11	79	
27	Locker rentals	1.85	7	80	
28	Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	1.84	6	80	
29	Course workbooks	1.81	10	83	
30	Textbooks	1.77	9	84	

Colour Indicator Guide

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments

Forty three percent (176) respondents provided comments (see Appendix 5 for original text) that upon analysis, yielded four key themes:

1. The writer feels some school fees should be allowed as per previous practice.
2. The writer feels the provincial government should fully fund the education system; there should be no fees except for extra-curricular programs or non-essential enhancements.
3. The writer feels fundraising is already onerous for parents – don't ask PACs to do more!
4. The writer feels that a greater accountability for monies collected, and greater consultation with parents is required.

Briefly, the following excerpts capture the perspective presented by parents in each of the themes.

Previous Practices

I think it's appropriate to charge parents for some fees, but not all.

I would like to see the provincial government change the law to allow the schools to charge fees to cover costs for these valuable programs.

...parents and students should at least be given a choice as to whether or not they are willing to pay.

Change the legislation to allow fees, within clearly prescribed limits.

School fees should be reinstated.

I don't have a problem paying for school fees. I think the system was fine.

Provincial Government

I feel strongly that any courses that are offered in the school system must be funded by the Ministry of Education. The source of these funds should be from general taxation and decreases in other government ministries, eg, transportation - education is more important than being able to speed along a highway with no potholes.

Parents are taxed too much money as it is, and fees need to stop, they are just another form of taxes.

I personally have had difficulty in the past few years to budget for all three of my children's fees.

I think that the school district should pay for all core funding. I think that all things are core, because the musicians and actors of the world also went to school at one time.

I believe that there is a need for new legislation within the government to change the education rules to allow more funding for education, including the extra core related courses such as the shops and home economics.

Additional fees are becoming excessive for the average family.

PAC Fundraising

I am absolutely appalled that PAC has to raise money for items that I think are essential to a school, like playground equipment, sports equipment, or the cost of a bus to take children on a field trip!

PAC's can assist in those areas but cannot be expected to take over the complete expenditures.

PAC monies were a hint of encouraging the vast program requests for optimal class utensils. A hint, not a budgetary line responsibility.

I've been involved with PAC's and to expect the PAC's to pay is ridiculous...that is just a circle route of having the parents pay.

Your survey seems to indicate that you plan to pass over the extra costs over to the individual PAC's. I would recommend against that idea.

As Pac chair I know that parent fundraising cannot be counted on. In our school we have ten women who do the majority of the fundraising and repeated attempts to get help and support have been refused

The PAC's have enough to raise funds for, they should not be burdened to cover school fees.

The trouble with asking the PAC to raise money is it is always the same small group of parents who do the fundraising and therefore it becomes a lot of work on a small amount of people.

Greater Accountability\Consultation

I personally would like advance discussion with the teachers/school before getting the permission notices sent home with our children!

I feel their needs to be more accountability within the schools and the school districts.

I feel strongly that the school board blew their opportunity for good to charge fees because they got TOO GREEDY imposing fees on worthless and unnecessary and frankly often "made up" items

I have paid fees for my daughter in PE (\$10.00). It was never explained what for exactly but my daughter thought it was a "field trip" fee. They went bowling which I had to pay for, then at end of year went to beach and I paid for pizza. What happened to the \$10.00 that I paid?? I think it probably went into general funds for the PE department. These small fees that are not accounted for are something I'd like to see done away with.

I would like to emphasis the importance I feel about adequate accounting of what money is collected, and what it is used for. There doesn't seem to be enough of a priority placed on this, and it makes me as a parent very nervous. I think the money has come too easily and not been accounted for closely enough.

All money should be accounted for in the School District.

Discussion

The results are reflective of the public school system and the full spectrum of grade levels. There was higher representative of students in the primary grade levels – but this did not affect overall trends observed in the opinions of parents. There was insufficient data collected (n<6) on private or home school children to identify any unique issues/features for these groups - instead their opinions and values were included in the aggregate results.

While the profile of respondents trended to the higher income brackets (>\$60,000), all family income brackets were represented in the survey. Fifty percent of respondents had a family income of less than \$70,000 per year.

Over 82% of respondents are from two parent families with the balance being single parent families. Approximately 39% of respondents have served on the Parent Advisory Council School Planning Council. As well, over 77% of respondents reported that they have volunteered at least a few times per year at their schools. Twenty two percent reported that they were unable to volunteer.

The questionnaire presented a series of statements relating to public education (Table 1) and public education funding (Table 2). Parent opinion on public education (Table 1) was strongest with:

- Principle #1 - "every student should be provided with the opportunity to develop his/her full potential", and;
- Principle #2 "our schools should be places where every child has access to opportunities regardless of family income or capacity".

When statements probed public education funding, parents were clear that they expected the province to fully fund core education (94% agree/strongly agree - question 3c) but parents also recognized that school fees might be appropriate for enhanced or extra-curriculum activities (question 3a & 3f with 58% and 56% respectively agree or strongly agree). Interestingly, the majority of respondents (71%) felt that the Ministry should provide the funds to cover the fees that are no longer to be charged because of the Supreme Court decision. One interpretation is that parents now believe that the now disallowed school fees were being charged on what is now believed to be "core" education. Based on Table 5 and 6 results, parents do not believe that school fees for core education should be levied. The challenge is that parents, based on the survey results, have a different interpretation of the definition of "core" education than the Ministry of Education and School Boards.

Principles 1 and 2 noted above are important in providing guidance in determining the process and method of establishing, implementing, and monitoring, a school fee system within the school district. Respondents further refined (Table 2 and 4) these two principles by indicating that:

- Fees should be consistent across a school district.
- Parents should have input into the fee schedule.
- Only actual charges should be recovered.
- Fees should be mandatory (voluntary fee system unlikely to work).
- Core education is a government funding responsibility.
- All school fees should be accounted for and parents should have access to financial information related to the resulting expenditures

In determining a school fee schedule, the issue of equity and opportunity (Table 3) must be considered with parents expressing the importance of:

- Offering specialty courses to improve student retention.
- Minimizing financial impact on families by considering capacity to pay.
- Maintaining equality through waiving fees for those unable to pay.
- Keeping graduation affordable (secondary school).

These factors listed above must be considered in developing an appropriate fee schedule. Furthermore, it was noted that parents are concerned that:

- Low income family students find it difficult to ask for funds from their parents, and;
- Low-income parents find it challenging to ask for fee waiver.

These two systemic barriers may result in students from this economic spectrum not being able to fully participate in school learning opportunities offered. Strategies need to be developed to address these barriers – whether perceived or real. A new school fee approach needs to account for and accommodate this reality.

Parents felt strongly that it was inappropriate to:

- Withhold a report card when fees are not paid, and;
- Students should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid fees.

Finally, respondents (62%) believe that the existing practice of waiving school fees for students who cannot afford them ensures equality for all students. Furthermore, increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater in equalities in our public education system. These perspectives on equity should be considered going forward. Especially when the majority (75%) of respondents felt that some families would pay school fees even when the family cannot afford it.

Outlined above are principles, factors, systemic barriers, and social considerations that should guide policy-makers in ensuring that school practices and district policies are aligned with these values.

Core Public Education

Next, the survey sought insights on what core education (Table 5) represented from a parent's perspective. Parents reported, that from their perspective, the following items are part of "core" education and as such should be paid for by the provincial government (Table 2) without additional fees being levied against parents:

- Textbooks
- Library books
- Safety items
- Course workbooks
- Computers (including software)
- Audio/visual equipment
- Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc)
- Physical education (gym, outdoor pursuit course, weight training, etc.)
- Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc)
- Fine arts (art, drama, music, etc)
- Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc)
- Playground equipment
- Home economics (foods, sewing, etc)
- Secondary apprenticeship programs
- Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's etc.)
- Language immersion programs
- Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs
- Locker rentals
- Drama and band equipment
- Trip to skating rink, swimming pool, bowling etc as part of a PE program
- Education field trips (i.e. a trip to a science exhibit)
- Student agenda

There was a direct correlation noted between what parents felt was “core” education and who should pay for these items. School fees (Table 6) levied for the following items was not supported (disagree or strongly disagree categories) by parents:

No School Fee Zone

- Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc)
- Student agendas
- Secondary apprenticeship programs
- Language immersion programs
- Fine arts (art, drama, music, etc)
- Locker rentals (although a deposit fee is supported)
- Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's etc.)
- Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc)
- Physical education (gym, outdoor pursuit course, weight training, etc.)
- Playground equipment
- Audio/visual equipment
- Computers (including software)
- Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc)
- Course books
- Library Books
- Safety Items
- Textbooks

The majority of parents indicated that school fees for the following courses or activities would be acceptable (Table 7).

Fees

- Multi-cultural exchange trips (i.e. trips out of province)
- Band trips
- Social/sports field trips
- Musical instrument rental
- Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)

Again, when it came to PAC funding (Table 8) activities and/or courses, parents expressed a reluctance to be providing financial support to those items they believe formed part of the “core” education. Parents indicated support for using PAC funds to support the follow areas (>50% agree and strongly agreed combined):

PAC Funding

- Social/sports field trips
- Playground equipment
- Educational field trips (i.e. trip to a science exhibit)
- Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc as part of a PE program

Summary and Recommendations

Summary

The survey has provided a valuable insight in identifying what parents believe is “core” education and, by extension, what should be paid for by the province (and school board) and what parents are willing to pay for outside of “core” education. Criteria, principles, and values have been identified that respondents find important; guidance for policy and decision-makers in developing a new school fee relationship with parents. Parents are clear on their expectations in the event school fees are to be levied. Parents do not support paying school fees related to the delivery of “core” education. They have indicated that school fees for enhanced or extra curriculum activities may be appropriate providing:

- Parents are involved in the decision-making process that sets the fee schedule;
- Fees are reasonable and consistent across the district;
- Capacity to pay is addressed;
- There is transparency and accountability for funds spent;
- Systemic barriers are addressed.

Recommendations:

6. The School Board defines “core” education courses and enhanced course offerings using criteria that is documented and transparent and provides this information to parents.
7. The School Board collaborates and engages with DPAC in designing, implementing, and monitoring strategy for any school fees that may be levied.

8. The School Board report annually, by school, the amount of school fees collected, how the funds were spent, assessment of value for funds spent, and where the planned outcomes achieved.
9. Request the School Board to undertake a review of district policies and procedures to ensure systemic barriers identified in this survey are pro-actively addressed. Parent engagement is strongly urged to ensure solutions developed will have the desired outcome.
10. DPAC and the School Board work collaboratively to ensure government fully funds core education.

Appendix 1: Survey Questions

Parent Survey – School Fees and Related Issues January, 2007

1. Parent Demographics:

- a. What grade(s) is (are) your child(ren) in? _____
- b. Do you have any children attending private school? Yes No
- c. Do you home school any of your children? Yes No
- d. How many children do you have at home (school age or younger)?

- e. Please indicate your family income level (optional, please circle).
- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Less than 20,000 | 20,000 to 24,999 | 25,000 to 29,999 | 30,000 to 34,999 |
| 35,000 to 39,999 | 40,000 to 44,999 | 45,000 to 49,999 | 50,000 to 54,999 |
| 55,000 to 59,999 | 60,000 to 69,999 | 70,000 to 89,999 | 90,000 or More |
- f. Please indicate your family status.
- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Single Parent | Two Parents | Other |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
- g. Please indicate if you have served on a parent advisory council and/or school planning council.
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Served on PAC | Served on SPC |
|---------------|---------------|
- h. How frequently do you volunteer at your school(s)?
- About once a week
- A few times a year
- About once a month
- I am unable to volunteer

2. Public Education - Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following :

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = No Firm Opinion, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

- a. The public education system should provide every student with the opportunity to develop his/her full potential. _____
- b. Students should have to pay some fees and make choices based on their financial resources to teach them about the “real world”. _____

- c. Our schools should be places where every child has access to opportunities regardless of family income or capacity. _____
- d. Refundable deposits teach students to have respect for property. _____
- e. Public education's primary responsibility is to teach literacy and numeracy. Anything else is extra. _____

3. Public Education Funding - Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following:

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = No Firm Opinion, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

- a. As a parent, I expect to pay for enhancements to my child(ren)'s public education experience. ____
- b. If it is worth doing, it is worth funding. ____
- c. It is appropriate for the government to fully fund core public education. _____
- d. It is appropriate for the government to fully fund programs of choice. _____
- e. Schools should be fully funded including extra-curricular activities. _____
- f. It is appropriate to charge school fees to provide educational opportunities beyond core education. _____
- g. The Ministry of Education should provide funds to cover the fees that can no longer be charged due to the Supreme Court ruling. _____
- h. Parents who can afford to pay school fees should be required to do so. _____
- i. The public cannot afford to put more money into public education. _____
- j. A voluntary fee system will not work because some people who can afford it simply will not pay. _____
- k. One school fee at the beginning of the year would make more sense than getting requests continuously all year long. ____
- l. Parents should have input into setting school fee amounts. _____
- m. School fees should be consistent across the school district. _____

- n. Parent fundraising is an acceptable alternative to paying school fees. _____
- o. Parent fundraising should be increased to replace the money previously collected as school fees. _____
- p. School fees should only be charged to recover actual costs. _____
- q. Corporate sponsorship is an appropriate way to raise funds for a school. _____

4. Equity and Opportunity – Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following:

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = No Firm Opinion, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

- a. Some students avoid going to school or cut classes because they can't afford the cost of the scheduled activity. _____
- b. All students are able to take advantage of the "programs of choice" that some of our schools now offer. _____
- c. Specialty programs such as sports, academies and apprenticeships are critical to keeping some students in school. _____
- d. The existing practice of waiving fees for those who can't afford them ensures equity for all students. _____
- e. Some families will pay school fees even when they can't afford it. _____
- f. It is appropriate to withhold a report card when fees are not yet paid. _____
- g. Graduation activities should be kept affordable so that all students can participate. _____
- h. Students in families with a lower income sometimes have difficulty asking their parents for money to pay a school fee. _____
- i. A student should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid course or other fees. _____
- j. Extra-curricular activities should be structured to minimize the financial impact on families to ensure greater opportunity for participation. _____
- k. Increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater inequalities in our public education system. _____
- l. The prohibition of school fees will lead to a more equitable education system. _____

m. I would feel comfortable approaching my school principal to request a fee waiver. _____

5. Parent Involvement – Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following:

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = No Firm Opinion, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

- a. Parents spend too much time fundraising resulting in reduced time with their families. _____
- b. Increased fundraising by parents affects their ability to be involved in school decision-making processes. _____
- c. All school fees should be accounted for and parents should have access to financial information related to the resulting expenditures. _____
- d. Increased fundraising shifts “advisory” capacity away from Parent Advisory Councils. _____

IMPORTANT – The next section deals with expenditure items from the perspective of 3 separate funding sources. *Note: Please put a rating for each item in each column.*

6. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree that each of the following should be funded as shown in the column headings.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = No Firm Opinion, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

	Core Public Education (publicly funded).	School Fees funding (parent funded)	Parent Advisory Council funding
a. Fine Arts (art, drama, music, etc.)			
b. Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc.)			
c. Home Economics (foods, sewing, etc.)			
d. Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc.)			
e. Physical Education (gym, outdoor pursuit courses, weight training, etc.)			
f. Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc.)			
g. Language immersion programs			
h. Textbooks			
i. Course workbooks			
j. Musical instrument rentals			
k. Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.			
l. Student agendas			
m. Locker rentals			
n. Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)			
o. Educational field trips (i.e. - trip to a science exhibit)			
p. Social / Sports field trips			
q. Trip to skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of PE program			
r. Computers (including software)			
s. Computer supplies (disks, paper, CDs, etc.)			

t. Playground equipment			
u. Library books			
v. Audio / Visual equipment			
w. Sports academies			
x. Band trips			
y. Multicultural exchanges (i.e. – trips out of province).			
z. Drama and band equipment			
aa. Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, water fountains, etc.)			
bb. Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)			
cc. Secondary apprenticeship programs.			
dd. Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs.			

If you have any comments, please use the space below. If referring to a particular item on the survey, please include the question number and letter.

Thank you for participating. We appreciate the time you took to complete our survey.

Note: You can fill this survey in online if you would prefer.

The link is posted on the front page of the SD 73 website www.sd73.bc.ca under School Fees (and related) Survey.

The deadline for completing the survey is January 31, 2007.

Appendix 2: Survey Results (Aggregate)

Total: 407

Visible: 407

1. Parent Demographics

1. What grade(s) is (are) your child(ren) in?

		Response Percent	Response Total
K	<div></div>	10.8%	43
1	<div></div>	12.2%	49
2	<div></div>	12.2%	49
3	<div></div>	12.2%	49
4	<div></div>	16%	64
5	<div></div>	14.8%	59
6	<div></div>	17.2%	69
7	<div></div>	17.8%	71
8	<div></div>	14.2%	57
9	<div></div>	15.8%	63
10	<div></div>	14.8%	59
11	<div></div>	11.2%	45
12	<div></div>	11.2%	45
Total Respondents			400
(skipped this question)			7

2. Do you have any children attending private school?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	<div></div>	1.5%	6
No	<div></div>	98.5%	397
Total Respondents			403

(skipped this question)	4
-------------------------	---

4

3. Do you homeschool any of your children?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	<div><div></div></div>	1.5%	6
No	<div><div></div></div>	98.5%	394
Total Respondents			400
(skipped this question)			7

4. How many children do you have at home (school age or younger)? Please type a number in the space below.

	<input type="text"/> Total Respondents	387
	(skipped this question)	20

5. Please select your family income level from the pull-down menu.

		Response Percent	Response Total
\$20,000 to \$29,999		6.7%	28
\$30,000 to \$34,999		3.3%	12
\$35,000 to \$39,999		6%	22
\$40,000 to \$44,999		4.7%	17
\$45,000 to \$49,999		3.3%	12
\$50,000 to \$54,999		5.5%	20
\$55,000 to \$59,999		3.6%	13
\$60,000 to \$69,999		9.6%	35
\$70,000 to \$89,999		16.5%	60

\$70,000 to 89,999		16.5%	60
\$90,000 or more		34.1%	124
Total Respondents			364
(skipped this question)			43

6. Please indicate your family status.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Single parent		17.1%	68
Two parents		82.9%	330
Total Respondents			398
(skipped this question)			9

7. Please indicate if you have served on a parent advisory council and/or a school planning council.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Served on PAC		95.6%	153
Served on SPC		28.1%	45
Total Respondents			160
(skipped this question)			247

8. How frequently do you volunteer at your school(s)?			
		Response	Response
About once a month		16.8%	66
A few times a year		42.1%	165
I am unable to volunteer		22.4%	88
Total Respondents			392

d) It is appropriate for the government to fully fund programs of choice.	3% (12)	28% (103)	24% (91)	26% (98)	18% (69)	3.29
e) Schools should be fully funded including extra-curricular activities.	5% (17)	39% (144)	18% (67)	21% (77)	18% (68)	3.09
f) It is appropriate to charge school fees to provide educational opportunities beyond core education.	11% (42)	19% (72)	14% (51)	38% (143)	18% (66)	3.32
g) The Ministry of Education should provide funds to cover the fees that can no longer be charged due to the Supreme Court ruling.	2% (6)	11% (41)	16% (59)	35% (131)	36% (134)	3.93
h) Parents who can afford to pay school fees should be required to do so.	17% (65)	32% (120)	18% (68)	25% (92)	8% (28)	2.73
i) The public cannot afford to put more money into public education.	22% (82)	32% (118)	24% (91)	15% (57)	7% (25)	2.53
j) A voluntary fee system will not work because some people who can afford it simply will not pay.	4% (15)	9% (33)	15% (57)	42% (156)	30% (114)	3.86
k) One school fee at the beginning of the year would make more sense than getting requests continuously all year long.	9% (34)	16% (61)	17% (62)	32% (121)	25% (95)	3.49
l) Parents should have input into setting school fee amounts.	6% (21)	17% (62)	17% (63)	40% (148)	21% (76)	3.53
m) School fees should be consistent across the school district.	5% (19)	10% (36)	14% (51)	42% (157)	29% (109)	3.81
n) Parent fundraising is an acceptable alternative to paying school fees.	20% (73)	26% (95)	18% (67)	27% (99)	9% (34)	2.80
o) Parent fundraising should be increased to replace the money previously collected as school fees.	33% (123)	37% (138)	19% (72)	7% (26)	3% (12)	2.10
p) School fees should only be charged to recover actual costs.	7% (25)	8% (30)	17% (63)	42% (155)	26% (98)	3.73
q) Corporate sponsorship is an appropriate way to raise funds for a school.	17% (63)	17% (62)	26% (96)	29% (108)	12% (43)	3.02
Total Respondents						377
(skipped this question)						30

4. Your Opinion - Equity & Opportunity

11.

a) Some students avoid going to school or cut classes because they can't afford the cost of the scheduled activity.	13% (49)	26% (95)	33% (121)	22% (81)	7% (26)	2.84
b) All students are able to take advantage of the "programs of choice" that some of our schools now offer.	10% (36)	22% (79)	32% (117)	27% (100)	10% (35)	3.05
c) Specialty programs such as sports academies and apprenticeships are critical to keeping some students in school.	1% (4)	4% (14)	11% (41)	43% (159)	41% (151)	4.19
d) The existing practice of waiving fees for those who can't afford them ensures equity for all students.	8% (28)	16% (58)	15% (54)	43% (158)	19% (69)	3.50
e) Some families will pay school fees even when they can't afford it.	2% (9)	4% (16)	18% (66)	54% (200)	21% (77)	3.87
f) It is appropriate to withhold a report card when fees are not yet paid.	45% (165)	21% (79)	11% (42)	17% (63)	5% (19)	2.16
g) Graduation activities should be kept affordable so that all students can participate.	0% (1)	1% (3)	2% (9)	37% (137)	59% (218)	4.54
h) Students in families with a lower income sometimes have difficulty asking their parents for money to pay a school fee.	0% (1)	4% (15)	21% (79)	44% (163)	30% (110)	3.99
i) A student should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid course or other fees.	2% (7)	10% (36)	16% (59)	37% (134)	36% (131)	3.94
j) Extra -curricular fees should be structured to minimize the financial impact on families to ensure greater opportunity for participation.	2% (8)	2% (8)	7% (27)	51% (188)	37% (135)	4.19
k) Increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater inequalities in our public education system.	4% (16)	9% (32)	23% (85)	34% (125)	30% (109)	3.76
l) The prohibition of school fees will lead to a more equitable education system.	19% (69)	27% (99)	27% (98)	15% (57)	12% (45)	2.76
m) I would feel comfortable approaching my school principal to request a fee waiver.	24% (87)	26% (95)	20% (75)	21% (79)	9% (32)	2.66
Total Respondents						372
(skipped this question)						35

5. Your Opinion - Parent Involvement

12.						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
a) Parents spend too much time fundraising resulting in reduced time with their families.	7% (27)	33% (121)	33% (123)	19% (70)	7% (27)	2.86
b) Increased fundraising by parents affects their ability to be involved in school decision-making processes.	4% (15)	29% (107)	41% (150)	20% (72)	6% (22)	2.94
c) All school fees should be accounted for and parents should have access to financial information related to the resulting expenditures.	1% (5)	4% (13)	9% (31)	49% (177)	38% (137)	4.18
d) Increased fundraising shifts "advisory" capacity away from Parent Advisory Councils.	6% (20)	20% (72)	39% (142)	24% (86)	12% (42)	3.16
Total Respondents						368
(skipped this question)						39

6. Your Opinion - Core Education

13.						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
a) Fine Arts (art, drama, music, etc.)	3% (11)	16% (58)	5% (18)	41% (145)	35% (125)	3.88
b) Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc.)	3% (11)	16% (58)	7% (24)	41% (146)	33% (118)	3.85
c) Home Economics (foods, sewing, etc.)	3% (11)	18% (66)	6% (22)	43% (152)	30% (106)	3.77
d) Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc.)	2% (6)	8% (28)	3% (9)	47% (167)	41% (146)	4.18
e) Physical Education (gym, outdoor pursuit courses, weight training, etc.)	2% (8)	10% (34)	2% (8)	43% (153)	43% (153)	4.15
f) Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc.)	5% (16)	32% (114)	19% (67)	26% (93)	18% (64)	3.21
g) Language immersion programs	5% (17)	21% (74)	17% (59)	32% (113)	25% (89)	3.52
h) Textbooks	1% (5)	2% (7)	1% (5)	29% (102)	67% (237)	4.57
i) Course workbooks	2% (7)	6% (20)	5% (16)	27% (96)	61% (215)	4.39
j) Musical instrument rentals	11% (38)	38% (134)	15% (53)	19% (67)	17% (60)	2.93

k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	15% (53)	36% (128)	9% (30)	15% (52)	25% (89)	2.99
l) Student agendas	8% (28)	30% (105)	11% (40)	27% (95)	24% (85)	3.29
m) Locker rentals	7% (24)	26% (91)	13% (45)	28% (97)	27% (94)	3.42
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	12% (42)	39% (134)	16% (54)	17% (60)	16% (57)	2.87
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	7% (25)	28% (100)	11% (37)	32% (112)	22% (78)	3.34
p) Social/sports field trips	12% (41)	41% (145)	15% (52)	20% (70)	13% (44)	2.80
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	8% (30)	26% (93)	9% (33)	32% (112)	24% (85)	3.37
r) Computers (including software)	1% (5)	4% (15)	5% (17)	46% (164)	43% (152)	4.25
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	3% (12)	21% (73)	9% (33)	37% (131)	29% (103)	3.68
t) Playground equipment	3% (9)	18% (62)	8% (29)	36% (125)	36% (127)	3.85
u) Library books	1% (3)	2% (7)	3% (9)	35% (124)	60% (211)	4.51
v) Audio / Visual equipment	1% (5)	6% (21)	7% (25)	41% (144)	45% (159)	4.22
w) Sports academies	11% (37)	31% (110)	25% (86)	20% (69)	14% (49)	2.95
x) Band trips	12% (42)	48% (169)	19% (67)	12% (42)	9% (31)	2.58
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	21% (72)	51% (179)	17% (58)	6% (20)	6% (22)	2.26
z) Drama and band equipment	8% (28)	24% (84)	15% (52)	30% (107)	23% (82)	3.37
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	3% (11)	10% (34)	7% (26)	30% (106)	50% (174)	4.13
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	2% (8)	5% (18)	2% (7)	28% (99)	63% (221)	4.44
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	3% (9)	16% (58)	16% (55)	36% (128)	29% (104)	3.73
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	4% (15)	25% (89)	17% (60)	29% (102)	24% (85)	3.44
Total Respondents						359
(skipped this question)						48

7. Your Opinion - School Fees

14.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
a) Fine Arts (art, drama, music, etc.)	24% (83)	34% (117)	6% (20)	28% (95)	9% (30)	2.63
b) Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc.)	19% (67)	34% (117)	6% (21)	32% (109)	9% (31)	2.77
c) Home Economics (foods, sewing, etc.)	19% (67)	31% (107)	6% (20)	34% (117)	10% (33)	2.83
d) Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc.)	27% (92)	48% (165)	7% (23)	14% (47)	5% (17)	2.22
e) Physical Education (gym, outdoor pursuit courses, weight training, etc.)	32% (110)	43% (146)	5% (18)	14% (48)	6% (19)	2.18
f) Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc.)	14% (48)	22% (76)	14% (47)	40% (136)	10% (36)	3.10
g) Language immersion programs	22% (74)	33% (114)	12% (42)	23% (80)	9% (32)	2.65
h) Textbooks	55% (188)	37% (128)	3% (9)	3% (9)	3% (9)	1.61
i) Course workbooks	49% (170)	37% (126)	5% (16)	7% (24)	2% (8)	1.76
j) Musical instrument rentals	17% (57)	16% (56)	11% (36)	41% (140)	15% (53)	3.22
k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	23% (80)	20% (68)	7% (24)	37% (128)	13% (45)	2.97
l) Student agendas	23% (79)	28% (96)	10% (33)	31% (107)	8% (27)	2.73
m) Locker rentals	29% (98)	33% (114)	12% (42)	21% (72)	4% (15)	2.39
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	19% (64)	18% (60)	11% (39)	39% (133)	13% (45)	3.10
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	16% (56)	25% (87)	8% (26)	38% (131)	12% (42)	3.05
p) Social/sports field trips	10% (35)	19% (67)	10% (34)	46% (157)	15% (51)	3.35
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	16% (56)	29% (100)	7% (25)	35% (119)	13% (44)	2.99
r) Computers (including software)	33% (112)	55% (187)	7% (23)	4% (13)	2% (8)	1.89
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	24% (83)	42% (144)	9% (30)	20% (68)	5% (16)	2.38
t) Playground equipment	38% (129)	41% (141)	10% (33)	8% (29)	3% (12)	1.99
u) Library books	49% (169)	42% (143)	3% (9)	4% (13)	2% (8)	1.68

v) Audio / Visual equipment	38% (131)	44% (150)	8% (28)	7% (24)	2% (8)	1.91
w) Sports academies	13% (46)	18% (62)	23% (78)	30% (104)	15% (51)	3.15
x) Band trips	9% (30)	12% (40)	13% (44)	47% (161)	20% (67)	3.57
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	6% (22)	9% (32)	12% (41)	46% (157)	26% (90)	3.76
z) Drama and band equipment	19% (66)	26% (89)	16% (55)	30% (103)	8% (29)	2.82
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	44% (149)	42% (145)	8% (26)	4% (13)	3% (9)	1.80
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	54% (183)	36% (123)	5% (17)	2% (8)	3% (10)	1.65
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	20% (67)	31% (107)	19% (66)	22% (76)	8% (26)	2.67
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	16% (56)	26% (90)	19% (65)	28% (97)	10% (34)	2.89
Total Respondents						349
(skipped this question)						58

8. Your Opinion - PAC Expenditures

15.

j) Musical instrument rentals	30% (101)	31% (104)	15% (51)	20% (67)	4% (13)	2.37
k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	41% (138)	38% (127)	10% (33)	8% (27)	3% (10)	1.94
l) Student agendas	38% (128)	33% (112)	10% (35)	15% (49)	4% (12)	2.12
m) Locker rentals	43% (144)	37% (123)	13% (42)	5% (17)	2% (6)	1.85
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	43% (144)	37% (124)	14% (47)	4% (13)	2% (6)	1.84
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	17% (58)	17% (57)	11% (37)	46% (154)	9% (30)	3.12
p) Social/sports field trips	14% (46)	14% (46)	13% (43)	50% (166)	10% (32)	3.28
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	19% (64)	19% (63)	12% (39)	42% (139)	9% (29)	3.02
r) Computers (including software)	30% (102)	29% (97)	13% (44)	21% (71)	6% (21)	2.44
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	31% (104)	35% (115)	13% (42)	17% (55)	5% (15)	2.28
t) Playground equipment	17% (56)	14% (49)	12% (41)	43% (144)	14% (48)	3.23
u) Library books	32% (108)	22% (73)	12% (39)	26% (87)	8% (28)	2.56
v) Audio / Visual equipment	28% (93)	23% (76)	14% (47)	29% (97)	6% (19)	2.62
w) Sports academies	26% (85)	21% (69)	22% (73)	24% (80)	8% (25)	2.67
x) Band trips	18% (60)	16% (55)	17% (56)	39% (131)	10% (32)	3.06
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	20% (66)	17% (57)	17% (56)	37% (124)	10% (32)	3.00
z) Drama and band equipment	21% (71)	22% (72)	16% (53)	33% (110)	8% (28)	2.86
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	41% (135)	27% (89)	10% (34)	16% (54)	5% (17)	2.18
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	47% (157)	27% (90)	11% (35)	11% (37)	4% (14)	1.98
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	33% (112)	33% (110)	21% (69)	11% (36)	2% (8)	2.16
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	31% (103)	33% (110)	21% (70)	12% (41)	3% (9)	2.23
Total Respondents						341
(skipped this question)						66

9. Your Comments are Welcome

16. Write your comments here:

Total Respondents

176

(skipped this question)

231

Appendix 3: Survey Results - Primary Grade Level (K-7) Only

Total: 407

Visible: 313

1. Parent Demographics

1. What grade(s) is (are) your child(ren) in?

		Response Percent	Response Total
K	<div></div>	13.7%	43
1	<div></div>	15.7%	49
2	<div></div>	15.7%	49
3	<div></div>	15.7%	49
4	<div></div>	20.4%	64
5	<div></div>	18.8%	59
6	<div></div>	22%	69
7	<div></div>	22.7%	71
8	<div></div>	10.9%	34
9	<div></div>	12.1%	38
10	<div></div>	8.6%	27
11	<div></div>	6.1%	19
12	<div></div>	4.5%	14
Total Respondents			313
(filtered out)			87
(skipped this question)			7

2. Do you have any children attending private school?

		Response Percent	Response Total

Yes	<div></div>	1.9%	6
No	<div></div>	98.1%	307
Total Respondents			313
(filtered out)			90
(skipped this question)			4

3. Do you homeschool any of your children?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	<div></div>	1.6%	5
No	<div></div>	98.4%	305
Total Respondents			310
(filtered out)			90
(skipped this question)			7

4. How many children do you have at home (school age or younger)? Please type a number in the space below.		
	<input type="text"/> Total Respondents	302
(filtered out)		85
(skipped this question)		20

<p>5. Please select your family income level from the pull-down menu.</p> <div></div>

\$35,000 to 39,999	<div></div>	6.5%	18
\$40,000 to 44,999	<div></div>	3.6%	10
\$45,000 to 49,999	<div></div>	3.2%	9
\$50,000 to 54,999	<div></div>	6.5%	18
\$55,000 to 59,999	<div></div>	2.9%	8
\$60,000 to 69,999	<div></div>	9.4%	26
\$70,000 to 89,999	<div></div>	16.5%	46
\$90,000 or more	<div></div>	33.8%	94
Total Respondents			278
(filtered out)			86
(skipped this question)			43

6. Please indicate your family status.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Single parent	<div></div>	18.1%	56
Two parents	<div></div>	81.9%	254
Total Respondents			310
(filtered out)			88
(skipped this question)			9

7. Please indicate if you have served on a parent advisory council and/or a school planning council.			
		Response	Response
Served on SPC	<div></div>	30.3%	36
Total Respondents			119
(filtered out)			41

(filtered out)	41
(skipped this question)	247

8. How frequently do you volunteer at your school(s)?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
About once a week	<div></div>	22.3%	69
About once a month	<div></div>	16.5%	51
A few times a year	<div></div>	40.1%	124
I am unable to volunteer	<div></div>	21%	65
Total Respondents			309
(filtered out)			83
(skipped this question)			15

2. Your Opinion - Public Education

9.						
	Strongly	Disagree	No	Agree	Strongly	Response
c) Our schools should be places	1% (4)	1% (4)	2% (6)	27%	68%	4.59
d) Refundable deposits teach	6% (18)	10% (31)	13%	46%	25%	3.74
e) Public education's primary	41%	40%	8%	7%	4% (12)	1.92
Total Respondents						304

Total Respondents	304
(filtered out)	86
(skipped this question)	17

3. Your Opinion - Funding Issues

10.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
provide funds to cover the fees that			(48)	(113)	(98)	
h) Parents who can afford to pay school fees should be required to do	17% (49)	34% (99)	18% (53)	24% (70)	7% (19)	2.69
i) The public cannot afford to put more money into public education.	21% (62)	33% (97)	26% (74)	13% (39)	6% (18)	2.50
j) A voluntary fee system will not work because some people who can	3% (10)	10% (28)	13% (39)	43% (125)	31% (90)	3.88
k) One school fee at the beginning of the year would make more sense	9% (25)	16% (47)	15% (44)	33% (97)	27% (78)	3.54
l) Parents should have input into setting school fee amounts.	6% (16)	16% (45)	16% (46)	42% (121)	21% (61)	3.57
m) School fees should be consistent across the school district.	4% (13)	10% (28)	12% (36)	43% (125)	31% (89)	3.86
n) Parent fundraising is an acceptable alternative to paying school fees.	15% (44)	25% (72)	20% (57)	30% (86)	10% (28)	2.94

i) A student should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid course or other fees.	1% (3)	9% (26)	17% (49)	36% (103)	36% (104)	3.98
j) Extra -curricular fees should be structured to minimize the financial impact on families to ensure greater opportunity for participation.	1% (3)	2% (7)	6% (18)	52% (147)	39% (110)	4.24
k) Increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater inequalities in our public education system.	5% (13)	9% (25)	25% (71)	33% (94)	29% (82)	3.73
l) The prohibition of school fees will lead to a more equitable education system.	18% (52)	29% (83)	27% (76)	15% (43)	11% (31)	2.71
m) I would feel comfortable approaching my school principal to request a fee waiver.	24% (68)	28% (79)	20% (58)	20% (57)	8% (24)	2.62
Total Respondents						289
(filtered out)						83
(skipped this question)						35

5. Your Opinion - Parent Involvement

12.						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
a) Parents spend too much time fundraising resulting in reduced time with their families.	7% (19)	35% (99)	34% (96)	18% (50)	7% (21)	2.84
b) Increased fundraising by parents affects their ability to be involved in school decision-making processes.	5% (14)	28% (80)	40% (113)	22% (61)	5% (15)	2.94
c) All school fees should be accounted for and parents should have access to financial information related to the resulting expenditures.	1% (4)	4% (10)	8% (22)	50% (140)	38% (106)	4.18
d) Increased fundraising shifts "advisory" capacity away from Parent Advisory Councils.	5% (14)	21% (60)	39% (110)	24% (68)	10% (28)	3.13
Total Respondents						285
(filtered out)						83
(skipped this question)						39

6. Your Opinion - Core Education

13.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
a) Fine Arts (art, drama, music, etc.)	3% (8)	14% (40)	5% (15)	38% (106)	39% (109)	3.96
b) Industrial Arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc.)	3% (7)	15% (41)	8% (22)	40% (110)	35% (98)	3.90
c) Home Economics (foods, sewing, etc.)	2% (6)	18% (50)	7% (20)	41% (113)	32% (89)	3.82
d) Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc.)	1% (3)	7% (19)	3% (7)	45% (126)	44% (122)	4.25
e) Physical Education (gym, outdoor pursuit courses, weight training, etc.)	2% (5)	8% (23)	2% (6)	41% (114)	47% (130)	4.23
f) Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc.)	5% (13)	31% (85)	20% (54)	26% (71)	19% (52)	3.23
g) Language immersion programs	4% (12)	20% (54)	18% (48)	32% (88)	26% (71)	3.56
h) Textbooks	1% (2)	2% (5)	1% (3)	29% (80)	68% (188)	4.61
i) Course workbooks	1% (3)	5% (13)	4% (11)	27% (76)	63% (174)	4.46
j) Musical instrument rentals	9% (26)	37% (103)	16% (43)	20% (54)	18% (49)	2.99
k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	12% (33)	35% (96)	11% (29)	15% (41)	27% (75)	3.11
l) Student agendas	6% (17)	32% (87)	11% (31)	26% (71)	25% (70)	3.33
m) Locker rentals	5% (15)	27% (75)	14% (39)	26% (71)	27% (73)	3.41
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	10% (28)	40% (108)	16% (44)	16% (43)	17% (46)	2.89
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	5% (15)	28% (76)	11% (30)	33% (90)	23% (63)	3.40
p) Social/sports field trips	9% (24)	41% (111)	17% (47)	20% (56)	13% (36)	2.89
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	7% (20)	25% (70)	9% (26)	33% (92)	24% (67)	3.42
r) Computers (including software)	0% (1)	4% (11)	5% (13)	48% (133)	43% (117)	4.29
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	2% (6)	19% (53)	11% (31)	37% (102)	30% (82)	3.73
t) Playground equipment	1% (4)	18% (48)	8% (21)	36% (99)	37% (102)	3.90

u) Library books	0% (0)	2% (6)	3% (7)	34% (95)	61% (168)	4.54
v) Audio / Visual equipment	0% (1)	7% (18)	8% (21)	39% (109)	46% (127)	4.24
w) Sports academies	9% (24)	29% (80)	26% (70)	21% (57)	16% (43)	3.05
x) Band trips	10% (28)	48% (132)	20% (54)	13% (35)	9% (24)	2.62
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	18% (50)	52% (142)	17% (47)	7% (18)	6% (16)	2.30
z) Drama and band equipment	7% (20)	22% (62)	16% (43)	30% (83)	25% (68)	3.42
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	1% (4)	10% (27)	8% (22)	30% (82)	51% (139)	4.19
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	1% (2)	5% (14)	2% (6)	29% (81)	63% (172)	4.48
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	1% (4)	16% (43)	17% (48)	34% (94)	32% (87)	3.79
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	4% (10)	24% (67)	18% (50)	28% (76)	26% (71)	3.48
Total Respondents						280
(filtered out)						79
(skipped this question)						48

7. Your Opinion - School Fees

14.

g) Language immersion programs	20% (53)	35% (93)	12% (33)	22% (59)	11% (29)	2.69
h) Textbooks	54% (145)	38% (103)	3% (7)	3% (7)	2% (6)	1.60
i) Course workbooks	48% (130)	38% (101)	4% (12)	8% (21)	2% (5)	1.77
j) Musical instrument rentals	15% (39)	16% (44)	10% (28)	43% (115)	16% (42)	3.29
k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, note book paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	21% (56)	21% (56)	7% (18)	38% (103)	14% (37)	3.03
l) Student agendas	21% (56)	28% (75)	10% (26)	34% (91)	7% (19)	2.78
m) Locker rentals	26% (69)	33% (88)	13% (34)	23% (62)	5% (14)	2.49
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	16% (44)	18% (49)	12% (33)	40% (107)	13% (35)	3.15
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	14% (38)	27% (71)	9% (23)	39% (103)	12% (32)	3.07
p) Social/sports field trips	9% (23)	22% (59)	10% (26)	46% (125)	13% (36)	3.34
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	16% (42)	30% (80)	8% (22)	34% (92)	12% (33)	2.98
r) Computers (including software)	31% (84)	56% (151)	6% (15)	4% (12)	2% (6)	1.90
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	22% (59)	44% (117)	9% (23)	21% (56)	4% (12)	2.42
t) Playground equipment	36% (98)	42% (114)	10% (27)	7% (20)	4% (10)	2.00
u) Library books	49% (130)	43% (115)	3% (8)	4% (10)	2% (5)	1.68
v) Audio / Visual equipment	38% (100)	45% (120)	9% (23)	6% (17)	2% (6)	1.91
w) Sports academies	13% (36)	20% (53)	23% (62)	29% (78)	15% (39)	3.12
x) Band trips	7% (19)	12% (33)	13% (34)	48% (128)	20% (54)	3.62
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	4% (12)	11% (29)	11% (30)	47% (125)	27% (72)	3.81
z) Drama and band equipment	17% (45)	26% (69)	17% (45)	31% (84)	9% (24)	2.90
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	41% (110)	43% (115)	8% (22)	5% (13)	3% (7)	1.85
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	51% (138)	38% (101)	5% (14)	3% (7)	3% (8)	1.68
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	19% (52)	31% (83)	20% (53)	22% (60)	7% (19)	2.67
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	16% (42)	25% (68)	20% (55)	29% (79)	9% (25)	2.91

Total Respondents	273
(filtered out)	76
(skipped this question)	58

8. Your Opinion - PAC Expenditures

15.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
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Dist
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q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	16% (43)	19% (49)	11% (28)	44% (117)	10% (26)	3.13
r) Computers (including software)	29% (75)	32% (83)	13% (34)	21% (55)	6% (16)	2.44
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	28% (72)	37% (95)	13% (34)	18% (47)	4% (11)	2.34
t) Playground equipment	15% (40)	16% (43)	12% (31)	42% (113)	15% (39)	3.26
u) Library books	30% (80)	23% (61)	11% (29)	27% (70)	9% (23)	2.60
v) Audio / Visual equipment	26% (68)	25% (64)	13% (35)	30% (79)	5% (14)	2.64
w) Sports academies	22% (58)	23% (60)	22% (57)	25% (66)	8% (21)	2.74
x) Band trips	16% (41)	19% (49)	15% (40)	40% (106)	10% (26)	3.10
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	16% (42)	18% (48)	17% (46)	39% (102)	10% (25)	3.08
z) Drama and band equipment	19% (49)	22% (59)	16% (43)	33% (88)	9% (24)	2.92
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	37% (97)	30% (77)	10% (26)	17% (45)	5% (14)	2.24
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	43% (112)	30% (79)	10% (27)	12% (31)	5% (12)	2.05
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	31% (81)	33% (88)	22% (59)	11% (30)	2% (5)	2.20
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	28% (74)	34% (89)	22% (58)	13% (34)	2% (6)	2.27
Total Respondents						269
(filtered out)						72
(skipped this question)						66

9. Your Comments are Welcome

16. Write your comments here:	
<input type="text"/>	Total Respondents
	130
(filtered out)	46
(skipped this question)	231

Appendix 4: Survey Results - Secondary Grade Levels (8-12) Only



Total: 407

Visible: 189





1. Parent Demographics

1. What grade(s) is (are) your child(ren) in?

		Response Percent	Response Total
K		1.1%	2
1		4.8%	9
2		5.3%	10
3		7.4%	14
4		7.9%	15
5		13.2%	25
6		13.2%	25
7		19.6%	37
8		30.2%	57
9		33.3%	63
10		31.2%	59
11		23.8%	45
12		23.8%	45
Total Respondents			189
(filtered out)			211
(skipped this question)			7

2. Do you have any children attending private school?

Total Respondents	90
(filtered out)	70
(skipped this question)	247

8. How frequently do you volunteer at your school(s)?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
About once a week		15.4%	28
About once a month		15.4%	28
A few times a year		48.9%	89
I am unable to volunteer		20.3%	37
Total Respondents			182
(filtered out)			210
(skipped this question)			15

2. Your Opinion - Public Education

9.						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
c) Our schools should be places where every child has access to opportunities regardless of family background.	4% (7)	1% (2)	2% (4)	33% (60)	60% (110)	4.44
d) Refundable deposits teach students to have respect for property.	8% (14)	12% (22)	10% (19)	42% (76)	28% (52)	3.71
e) Public education's primary responsibility is to teach literacy and numeracy. Anything else is extra.	37% (68)	43% (79)	7% (13)	10% (18)	3% (5)	1.98

l) Parents should have input into setting school fee amounts.	6% (10)	20% (34)	19% (33)	35% (61)	20% (34)	3.44
m) School fees should be consistent across the school district.	7% (12)	9% (16)	17% (29)	39% (68)	28% (49)	3.72
n) Parent fundraising is an acceptable alternative to paying school fees.	24% (41)	28% (48)	17% (29)	22% (38)	9% (15)	2.64
o) Parent fundraising should be increased to replace the money previously collected as school fees.	38% (65)	38% (66)	18% (32)	3% (6)	2% (4)	1.95
p) School fees should only be charged to recover actual costs.	7% (12)	7% (12)	16% (27)	43% (75)	27% (47)	3.77
q) Corporate sponsorship is an appropriate way to raise funds for a school.	16% (28)	18% (31)	28% (48)	25% (44)	13% (22)	3.01
Total Respondents						177
(filtered out)						200
(skipped this question)						30

4. Your Opinion - Equity & Opportunity

11.

q) Graduation activities should be kept affordable so that all students can participate.	1% (1)	1% (1)	3% (5)	40% (68)	56% (97)	4.51
h) Students in families with a lower income sometimes have difficulty asking their parents for money to pay a school fee.	0% (0)	5% (9)	18% (31)	46% (79)	31% (53)	4.02
i) A student should not be denied access to a course due to unpaid course or other fees.	3% (5)	15% (25)	12% (21)	37% (64)	33% (57)	3.83
j) Extra -curricular fees should be structured to minimize the financial impact on families to ensure greater opportunity for participation.	4% (6)	3% (5)	7% (12)	53% (90)	34% (58)	4.11
k) Increased reliance on parent fundraising will lead to greater inequalities in our public education system.	5% (9)	9% (16)	19% (33)	38% (66)	28% (48)	3.74
l) The prohibition of school fees will lead to a more equitable education system.	22% (38)	29% (50)	23% (39)	14% (25)	12% (21)	2.66
m) I would feel comfortable approaching my school principal to request a fee waiver.	25% (44)	20% (35)	18% (32)	25% (43)	11% (19)	2.76
Total Respondents						176
(filtered out)						196
(skipped this question)						35

5. Your Opinion - Parent Involvement

12.						
	Strongly	Disagree	No	Agree	Strongly	Response
c) All school fees should be accounted	1% (2)	4% (6)	9%	47%	39%	4.20
d) Increased fundraising shifts	6% (10)	22% (37)	36%	22%	14%	3.16
Total Respondents						174

Total Respondents	174
(filtered out)	194
(skipped this question)	39

6. Your Opinion - Core Education

13.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No firm opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Average
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q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	11% (19)	30% (49)	8% (13)	29% (48)	22% (37)	3.21
r) Computers (including software)	2% (4)	4% (7)	5% (8)	43% (71)	45% (75)	4.25
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	4% (7)	24% (40)	7% (11)	35% (58)	30% (49)	3.62
t) Playground equipment	4% (7)	19% (31)	9% (15)	33% (55)	35% (57)	3.75
u) Library books	2% (3)	2% (3)	3% (5)	37% (62)	56% (93)	4.44
v) Audio / Visual equipment	2% (4)	4% (6)	6% (10)	42% (70)	46% (76)	4.25
w) Sports academies	13% (22)	36% (60)	18% (29)	19% (32)	13% (22)	2.83
x) Band trips	15% (24)	48% (80)	17% (28)	10% (17)	10% (16)	2.52
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie. trips out of province)	23% (38)	49% (81)	14% (23)	5% (9)	8% (14)	2.27
z) Drama and band equipment	10% (16)	26% (42)	15% (25)	28% (46)	21% (35)	3.26
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	4% (7)	12% (19)	6% (10)	30% (49)	48% (78)	4.06
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	4% (6)	6% (10)	2% (3)	27% (44)	62% (103)	4.37
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	5% (8)	18% (29)	12% (20)	39% (64)	27% (44)	3.65
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	7% (11)	24% (40)	15% (25)	30% (49)	24% (39)	3.40
Total Respondents						168
(filtered out)						191
(skipped this question)						48

7. Your Opinion - School Fees

14.

c) Home Economics (foods, sewing, etc.)	17% (28)	31% (50)	5% (8)	36% (59)	10% (17)	2.92
d) Technology (computer programming, keyboarding, etc.)	24% (39)	49% (80)	5% (8)	16% (26)	6% (9)	2.30
e) Physical Education (gym, outdoor pursuit courses, weight training, etc.)	33% (53)	41% (67)	4% (7)	15% (24)	7% (11)	2.22
f) Multimedia (film, journalism, photography, etc.)	14% (22)	24% (39)	10% (16)	40% (65)	12% (19)	3.12
g) Language immersion programs	25% (40)	33% (54)	12% (19)	22% (36)	8% (13)	2.56
h) Textbooks	55% (89)	36% (59)	2% (4)	3% (5)	3% (5)	1.63
i) Course workbooks	51% (82)	36% (59)	5% (8)	6% (9)	2% (4)	1.73
j) Musical instrument rentals	16% (25)	20% (32)	9% (14)	41% (66)	15% (24)	3.20
k) Supplies (pens, pencils, paper, erasers, notebook paper, scrapbooks, crayons, etc.)	26% (42)	17% (27)	7% (11)	34% (55)	17% (27)	2.99
l) Student agendas	24% (39)	28% (45)	9% (14)	31% (50)	9% (14)	2.72
m) Locker rentals	32% (52)	36% (58)	11% (17)	19% (30)	2% (4)	2.23
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	23% (36)	16% (25)	9% (14)	38% (61)	14% (23)	3.06
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	17% (27)	25% (40)	4% (7)	40% (65)	14% (22)	3.09
p) Social/sports field trips	9% (14)	20% (32)	8% (13)	46% (74)	18% (29)	3.44
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	17% (27)	31% (51)	5% (8)	31% (51)	15% (25)	2.98
r) Computers (including software)	34% (55)	54% (88)	8% (13)	2% (3)	2% (3)	1.83
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	27% (44)	41% (66)	9% (14)	19% (30)	4% (7)	2.32
t) Playground equipment	36% (58)	41% (67)	9% (14)	10% (17)	4% (6)	2.05
u) Library books	48% (77)	42% (67)	3% (5)	5% (8)	2% (4)	1.73
v) Audio / Visual equipment	40% (64)	43% (69)	7% (12)	8% (13)	2% (4)	1.91
w) Sports academies	14% (22)	19% (30)	18% (28)	33% (53)	17% (27)	3.21
x) Band trips	10% (16)	11% (17)	12% (20)	45% (73)	22% (35)	3.58
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	9% (15)	9% (14)	11% (18)	45% (73)	25% (41)	3.69
z) Drama and band equipment	20% (33)	29% (47)	14% (23)	29% (47)	7% (11)	2.73

aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	48% (77)	38% (61)	6% (10)	6% (9)	3% (5)	1.79
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	57% (90)	34% (54)	4% (7)	2% (3)	3% (5)	1.61
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	17% (28)	35% (56)	15% (25)	23% (38)	9% (15)	2.73
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	15% (24)	32% (51)	16% (26)	25% (40)	12% (19)	2.87
Total Respondents						163
(filtered out)						186
(skipped this question)						58

8. Your Opinion - PAC Expenditures

15.

m) Locker rentals	49% (77)	31% (49)	12% (19)	7% (11)	1% (2)	1.81
n) Deposits (locker, textbooks, etc.)	50% (79)	31% (49)	12% (19)	6% (10)	1% (2)	1.79
o) Educational field trips (ie, trip to a science exhibit)	22% (35)	13% (21)	13% (20)	45% (71)	8% (12)	3.03
p) Social/sports field trips	17% (27)	15% (23)	13% (20)	47% (74)	8% (13)	3.15
q) Trip to a skating rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, etc. as part of a PE program	22% (35)	18% (29)	13% (21)	38% (60)	8% (12)	2.90
r) Computers (including software)	33% (52)	24% (38)	13% (20)	25% (40)	6% (9)	2.47
s) Computer supplies (disks, paper, CD's, etc.)	35% (55)	32% (50)	13% (20)	17% (26)	4% (6)	2.22
t) Playground equipment	17% (27)	14% (22)	14% (22)	45% (72)	10% (16)	3.18
u) Library books	34% (54)	22% (34)	12% (19)	25% (40)	7% (11)	2.49
v) Audio / Visual equipment	30% (47)	22% (35)	13% (20)	30% (47)	6% (9)	2.59
w) Sports academies	31% (49)	21% (33)	21% (32)	22% (35)	4% (7)	2.47
x) Band trips	23% (37)	17% (27)	17% (27)	36% (57)	6% (10)	2.85
y) Multi-cultural exchanges (ie, trips out of province)	28% (44)	19% (30)	15% (23)	33% (52)	6% (9)	2.70
z) Drama and band equipment	24% (37)	20% (31)	13% (20)	37% (57)	7% (11)	2.83
aa) Small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)	44% (67)	26% (39)	9% (13)	18% (27)	4% (6)	2.12
bb) Safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.)	49% (77)	26% (41)	9% (14)	13% (20)	3% (4)	1.93
cc) Secondary apprenticeship programs	38% (60)	33% (52)	16% (25)	11% (17)	2% (3)	2.05
dd) Tools for secondary apprenticeship programs	36% (56)	34% (53)	16% (25)	13% (20)	2% (3)	2.11
Total Respondents						159
(filtered out)						182
(skipped this question)						66

9. Your Comments are Welcome

16. Write your comments here:		
	Total Respondents	93
	(filtered out)	83
	(skipped this question)	231

Appendix 5: Survey Results – Comments Received

Note – Comments have been edited only where the identification of a school or person may jeopardize the anonymous status of respondent – text deleted is identified by *****

Write your comments here:	
1.	We need an EFFECTIVE teacher evaluation mechanism. Teachers, vice-principals, principals, school district staff and other parents have all told me they see the current system as inadequate. We need to be able to identify and weed out the dead wood. Everyone knows who they are, including teachers who bounce around from school to school over a 25+ year career. Get the known, identifiable bad ones out and let the good ones thrive.
2.	We have no problem paying fees for extra field trips, band, extracurricular activities. Education is more than reading, writing and mathematics.
3.	We are willing to pay school fees for extracurricular activities at our school. We hope that programs are not cancelled because of the court ruling regarding school fees.
4.	I believe that the government needs to create legislation to return the school fee structure to what it was before the recent ruling. I do not want the School District to be forced to pay for fees and I understand that, unfortunately, the government is unwilling/unable to do so.
5.	I think most extracurricular programs are invaluable in experience and are the motivating factor that keeps a great deal of students interested in attending school whether it be at the Elementary level or the secondary level. I recognize that money is a determining factor in a lot of programs but I think parents who are capable of affording to include their children in such programs should have the option to do so instead of having the programs eliminated all together from schools. It will result in a significant change in behavior in a vast majority of students if courses such as band or outside physical education programs are cut. Thank you.
6.	I think that parents should pay for the "extra" activities such as band, school field trips etc. I don't want my daughter missing out on these memorable experience such as field trips, ski days and such just because of this ruling. Let the parents pay for these activities, there is no money in the school system to pay everything for everyone. Why penalize the children??
7.	The term "sports academies" was a little unclear.
8.	If the School District wishes to have equity between all students there will be fees that some kids can't pay. There for each student in need should be able to apply to ***** and try to get funding based on need. The School District has wanted a lot

	<p>thier PAC and try to get funding based on need. The School District has wasted alot of money in the last few years on specialty schools, that money could have done alot to enhance the education on the many instead of the few. I could easily afford to put my children in private school, and if I want my kids to have a different education than the rest of the population then I will. If you want to keep the alternative education sites going, at least for these schools there should be a tuition that the parents have to come up with to offset the cost or close it down. Let's say for example it costs \$10,000 per year per child in a standard school, but it cost \$12,500 for a fine arts school the parents should have to make up the short fall, not the tax payer. To make my point very clear if it is a consumable item for student use it should not come from the school district without a fee. If it is an extra over and above what has been considered normal education. If you want to make a real difference in education, instead of opening special schools hire more staff for the schools we have, more teachers equals more one on one time which will help more kids than the 17 you have enrolled in the Fine Arts junior High. What a colossal waste of mine and every other parents tax money. 17 students 11 million dollars what a joke. good luck next election.</p>
9.	<p>I feel the the district should fund all key compents to education including the arts and physical education. Contributions made from fund raising should go to all elements of education from purchasing equipment to going on a field trip.</p>
10.	<p>I feel that making the school system "fee free" is going to create more of a two tiered education system. A great deal of parents will pull their kids from public education and put them in private schools to give them the variety enriched learning environment. Kids learn with hands on activity. The average public schools will become "ghetto" schools with no programs to offer. Teachers will lose jobs due to lack of child enrollment and will create more of an economic backlash. If there is ever an issue with parents not being able to pay for a field trip or an instrument our school always anties up to the plate along with our PAC and pays the tab. I think the government should pay a "head count" based amount to every school for extra curricular/curriculum based activities that are currently being offered through the education system. The parents and PAC could pick up the rest.</p>
11.	<p>Toooooooo long --- I almost bailed on it a few times!</p>
12.	<p>There are challenges ahead and you won't please everyone but if you make it about the children's experience and learning opportunities, everything will work out in the end. Please keep up the good work.</p>
13.	<p>suggest a monthly list or schedule goes to parents to record what they are paying for each month, what program and where to or what for</p>
14.	<p>I believe that every student should have the right to basic learning in every course offered, with the option of a user fee for the parent to supply a higher level of material. For example, all woodworking students should have access to pine for their project, but the parent that wants oak should have the option of paying extra.</p>
15.	<p>5m) Why ask this question? There isn't a fee on lockers.</p>
16.	<p>3k)With option of payment plans. 4d)Except when families don't speak up out of embarassment. I appreciate all the fundraising that the PAC does for our school. However having 2-4 in one month for parents/students to sell is TOO much. Public education should be equal, and many parents who are in the borderline incomes may pay as they are too proud to admit they cannot, but hurts their budget. Thanks to all members/parents who work so hard in the PAC to do so much for our kids. I try to help when I can but many do much, much more.</p>
17.	<p>The Government should be mostly responsible for PUBLIC School funding.</p>
18.	<p>For many busy parents this survey is TOO LONG to complete. The basic message many of us want to express is that we think school fees are worth paying for a quality education as we will be looking to the private school system</p>

	quality education or we will be looking to the private school option.
<u>19.</u>	I do not believe that fund raising should be considered as an option since I think it is the parents who pay for it indirectly.
<u>20.</u>	1) if the activity/course is considered curriculum then there should be no fees 2) curriculum should include any activity/course that is required, this would include programs of choice or electives as these courses are required 3) materials that are required to complete the curricular course/activity should not have a fee
<u>21.</u>	Agenda's are a waste of money, there is not many who actually use it, if they do, then they can purchase one. If this includes funding for teachers to rent movies not appropriate to current teachings then this is one expense that can be eliminated.
<u>22.</u>	IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE "SCHOOL FEES" ARE THE FEES THAT PARENTS MUST PAY FOR EXAMPLE: IN WOODWORK THE STUDENT IS PROVIDED WITH THE NECESARY MATERIALS TO BUILD A PROJECT THAT IS REQUIRED... IF THE STUDENT WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR A FAMILY MEMBER THEN A "FEE" IS CHARGED FOR THE MATERIALS. I THINK THAT IS CONSISTANT WITH THE COURT RULING... ALSO ADVERTISING IN MY OPINION IS OK IF DIFFERENT COMPEDITORS ARE ALOUD TO COMPETE (OPEN COMPETION)... ALSO CHECK THE VICTORIA SCHOOL BOARDS POLICY ON SCHOOL FEES, I THINK IT IS CONSISTANT WITH THE CURRENT "NO FEES" POLICY CHECK OUT schoolfees.ca
<u>23.</u>	The government should fund all areas that are an intregal part of the education system. They should delve into their surplus of money and fund all school items such as textbooks, school supplies, etc...
<u>24.</u>	School fees should not be for core courses as outlined in the supreme court decision, this puts some kids and their families at a disadvantage. I find it interesting that school districts have charged parents illegally for years and have yet to appologize or offer refunds for those fees already collected.
<u>25.</u>	If it allowed our child to have access to better educational opportunities, we would be willing to continue to pay reasonable fees associated with those activities. We are concerned that the new legislation will mean that some programs will no longer be available at our child's school, and the quality of public education will continue to drop.
<u>26.</u>	While I feel that the public education system should be funded by the Ministry of Education, I realize that it is unable to pay for everything. As a parent I am happy to pay some fees for those things that make my childrens' education more interesting, exciting, and hands-on. For those families that are unable to afford to pay I know that the schools help to cover the cost to make it less of a burden. For courses where the children are consuming goods or keeping items that they make, such as woodshop, cooking programs (both kindergarten & high school)sewing, etc. I feel that those students should have to pay a fee to cover the cost of the items that they are making or eating. I DO NOT want to see courses cut because the school district cannot afford to pay for it. I would like to see the provincial government change the law to allow the schools to charge fees to cover costs for these valuable programs.
<u>27.</u>	Any monies that the PAC aquires through fundraising is still coming from the pockets of the same parents. So putting more pressure on PAC parents to make up for shortcomings due to this new school fees ruling isn't going to solve the problem. If the government would put a stop to all the wasteful spending that takes place in government, there would be plenty of money to put toward things like education (and health care, for that matter!!)
<u>28.</u>	some of the questions on fees are poorly worded and confusing.
<u>29.</u>	Parents are taxed too much money as it is, and fees need to stop, they are just another form of taxes

	another form of taxes
<u>30.</u>	This survey is confusing it is asking the same questions over but in a different manner. Also it is confusing to start with dis-agree instead of agree. Im sure I did some backwards answering because of this format. I beleive most surveys begin with Agree to dis-agree?
<u>31.</u>	I think it's appropriate to charge parents for some fees, but not all. I certainly don't want to see a low-income family's child miss fun or beneficial activities. I do not have a problem with chipping in for certain activities, but then again, our family isn't low income. If certain books are required for core subjects, the Ministry should definitely provide them.
<u>32.</u>	Education is a protected within the Charter and Constitution. As a taxpayer we already pay for textbooks etc., and as a parent my child attends school for a quality education! Schools should offer the exact same courses with little choice for option classes therefore eliminating competition between schools and the schools can therefore focus on bettering their rep for their skill of educating rather than a sport offered etc. For specialized sports there are already schools in Canada for that. They do not belong in the PUBLIC schools! All courses offered within a public school is protected by the CHARTER of RIGHTS of discrimination of sexes and means of ability to pay. Dept. of Education is failing in their ability to focus on the reasons of public education. I will be fighting ***** with the approval received to a ***** on his intention of introducing Hockey as a course within the PUBLIC SCHOOL! Not only is it against the Constitution as it is not offered to ALL students it is supporting discrimination! Students are there to receive an education! If ALL Public Schools offered exactly the SAME courses, the schools could then focus on working towards bettering their rep by the teachers and the teaching methods used within a class. That means LESS outtings required, saved \$ and a QUALITY EDUCATION, which by the way is protected in the CHARTER! I think it best before this hits the media that the Board of Education rethink on this hockey issue!!!!
<u>33.</u>	I feel strongly that any courses that are offered in the school system must be funded by the Ministry of Education. The source of these funds should be from general taxation and decreases in other government ministries, eg, transportation - education is more important that being able to speed along a highway with no potholes.
<u>34.</u>	I think that the school district should pay for all core funding. I think that all things are core, because the musicians and actors of the world also went to school at one time, however if something had to go, it should be the arts first as they do not build necessary life skills such as math. In other words the arts can be seen as core, but not as "hard core" as some along the continuum such as reading and math. It would be nice if PACs could offer funding to those who need it for books, deposits, etc. I think things like cultural exchanges and band trips are perks related directly to those benefitting from them and they should be privately fundraised for - not funded by schools or PACs.
<u>35.</u>	You cannot charge a blanket fee and expect all parents to be able to pay for it. Neither can you make supplies and computers and materials for the actual functioning of the school as a 'fee'. These funds, for the basic educational needs of our children, should come DIRECTLY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Period. Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Physical Education, Knowledge about the World Around Them. These are the important things we need to teach our children in the school setting. Global immersion in world cultures and the fine arts practices are secondary to a proper 'intelligence broadening' experience of our children. Thank You
<u>36.</u>	Regarding section 8 I did not finish completing. I feel that school fees should be covered by families that can afford to and possible implememt a cost based on income. Whv not have parents fill out an income assessment if they do not wish to pay? I feel most essentials should be government covered yet am not sure what

	pay? I feel most essentials should be government covered yet am not sure what PAC should be covering, what do they cover now?
<u>37.</u>	I personally have had difficulty in the past few years to budget for all three of my childrens fees. Since we are a single income family.
<u>38.</u>	Many items were difficult to answer since there is no consideration given to providing financial support for families who are unable to pay for certain expenses. As well, it needs to be clear what is meant by "core" versus "supplemental" activities. Further, the answers will be different depending upon the grade level. If students are unable to achieve in the academic stream, their programs should be funded and not deemed to be part of the 'supplemental' program category.
<u>39.</u>	Currently I feel that as a parent we do not have any say or choice in the "extra curricular" events and as a middle income earner we are being hit for band instrument rentals, out of town field trips and ski trips etc. The only choice we have is to deny our child the opportunity to participate which leaves them feeling left out, etc. There does need to be clear distinction between curriculum (100% school funded) and non curriculum. I personally would like advance discussion with the teachers/school before getting the permission notices sent home with our children!
<u>40.</u>	Schools and PACS should assign funds to support families who can not meet fee requirements. Families should be able to "sign up" for the school year without continually being forced to ask and should demonstrate some need. Taxes should pay for school requirements for education and facilities. special funding of programs whether fine arts or apprenticeships should be funded based on SD approval for the program in their area or obtaining sponsorships from companies.
<u>41.</u>	I have two students that have both been heavily involved in fine arts. They have both been in the band program and one still is. I have no problem paying the fees involved with elective courses. I know from being involved in many of these programs the fees are covered when a student can't afford it and the parents don't always have to ask.
<u>42.</u>	i believe that there is a need for new legislation within the government to change the education rules to allow more funding for education, including the extra core related courses such as the shops and home economics.
<u>43.</u>	My son feels that the quality of his phys. ed. course has declined with the disallowance of school fees. Perhaps this is true of other courses in which case it seems that parents and students should at least be given a choice as to whether or not they are willing to pay.
<u>44.</u>	Change the legislation to allow fees, within clearly prescribed limits.
<u>45.</u>	One of the reason there are obese children is the lack of after school activities that use to be part of school experience. (either with volunteers or paid staff)...school should be the center of a community for lessons, sports, activities, meetings. Additional fees are becoming excessive for the average family.
<u>46.</u>	The survey is intentionally manipulative and deceitful . Shame on the School District for attempting to manipulate the process. You continue to waste taxpayers money with your selfish agenda, rather than serve the interests of the public. Sincerely, the parent of a "closed school" kid
<u>47.</u>	I believe that a fee system is necessary to fund activities that are directly related to the expansion of core and social learning. I disagree with the funding provided for schools and curriculum that is of a specialty nature, by the government. A user fee for specialty programs would perhaps allow extra funding for the core learning and provide users of school of choice or specialty program to pay for this elite education experience.

48.	I am willing to pay additional costs for field trips/ performances and any other extra curricular activities that enhance the education of my children. As a P.A.C. member for the past 3 years in a school of almost 300 students, I must say that it is extremely disappointing to see a maximum of 8 parents(always the same ones...) at the PAC meetings at our school. Parents need to take a more proactive involvement in their childrens' education (at our school) and make their childrens' education a priority. School fees should be reinstated.
49.	I believe that the scholl district should be empowered to set up its own perpetual education fund, whereby tax deductible donations may be made to the fund and that students may apply to the fund for assistance. Families will be placed into a repavment agreement that will be eventually endowed upon the student once the student gains employment. The student could consider the repayment as a tax deduction. Instituting an opportunity for integrity of students to be developed and a facility for those who want to return thanks for their education to education (with tax benefits) would not only give a marvelous method for the community to "put its money where its mouth is" and proof its value of fundamental education, but to also manifest a sensible portal for sensible tax relief for those who need it. This will help to actually avoid the tax man for a good cause that improves our community instead of some whacky offshore activity or useless film project - the list goes on and on in the name of free enterprise. Why not use our tremendous financial moxy to create a world class education system that is a result of the fruits of its labours (grateful world class students who become world class educators, researchers, engineers). We can do it. All we need is the focused will of the community. Once a community breaks the present mold others will follow and the communities will reflect their charecter in the quality of their primary and secondary schools. PS. The Board of Education would do well to have a provincial fund that would be equally dispursed into every school allowing globally benefit for donators who wish for such to happen instead of targeting a community. This concept is being executed in some parts of the world without tax incentives and the funds not only support themselves but grow. 320 3535
50.	I don't believe families should ever be charged school fees. Access to education is a basic right. Imagine being a family living at or near the poverty line and not being able to pay those fees for what we are calling "extras" like field trips. So much for equality of opportunity...So much for education being "the great social equilizer! How must children feel when they are excluded from activities because their parents are not able to pay? Imagine being a parent and having to ask the school principal for an exemption to pay a fee... HOW HUMILIATING! I think our taxes should cover everything-- or virtually everything. I am absolutely appalled that PAC has to raise money for items that I think are essential to a school, like playground equipment, sports equipment, or the cost of a bus to take children on a field trip! When I was in school these things were covered-- mind you, I know that was 25 years ago and that things have changed a great deal. I also think that the role of the school is to do much more than instill the basic "three Rs". Parents and teachers together are preparing children for life as productive citizens in society! They need a well-rounded education that includes an introduction to the wonders in our world. Cutting programs that are deemed "non-essential", such as in the arts, physical education, etc. is also a disgrace in a country and province as rich as ours. Though my child is only in Kindergarten, I sometimes feel as though I am being "nickel and dimed" on a fairly consistent basis already. A few dollars for this and a few dollars for that. Then there's the fund raisers...I know this will only get worse as she gets older. No wonder people are choosing to place their children in private schools--- you are paying more money but at least you know that up front and supposedly you are getting a program that is "better" in some way! (I obviously don't believe that myself, or I would not be supporting the public schools by enrolling my daughter) I don't really know what the solution is. Changing the way schools are funded and re-organizing the education system might be one answer. (Perhaps districts need to be re-organized into a provincial body again in order to address inequities in some school districts) Another government might be more sympathetic to teachers and the education system. Good luck with the survey!

<u>51.</u>	I would pay fees to allow my children to experience enhanced educational experiences. It should be based on a sliding scale according to income
<u>52.</u>	Our daughters cooking class has to find book work to do because there is not enough funding to have cooking materials the entire week.
<u>53.</u>	PAC monies were a hint of encouraging the vast program requests for optimal class utensils. A hint, not a budgetary line responsibility.
<u>54.</u>	<p>I beleive that the system we have had for decades has worked just fine. I feel their needs to be more accountability within the schools and the school districts. Their should not be trades programs in our public schools because this takes funding away from our Core program and elective courses. Their should not be public funding for Fine Arts/Science/Traditional Schools either. This is called Unique or Enriched. If this is to be in our School District#73 then why do we not have a fully funded Resourse Centre for our students that are on I.E.P's or perhaps the more severe cases like students that are considered Challenged in some way. These are children that have suffered the most by far and they are very Unique individuals. Desisions are made to house and educate the elite academics,sports acedemics or even Fine Arts and Special Interest groups!! When will a Elite School for Special Needs be considered? I have 2 children in SD#73, 1 at VVS and 1 at Dallas Elem. My son who is now in Grd.11 benifited from such a Program in the Chilliwack SD. He is now an Honor and Effort Roll student. My daughter now in grd.6, has been in this SD since Kindergarden. I cannot even begin to compare the difference in education my son received. It is unbeleivable how my daughter has suffered. Lack of funding is all I hear; but yet here we are doing surveys on what the District can charge and what they can't. As a parent it is my responsibility to ensure that my children are receiving the best education. I do not mind paying extra costs for field trips, attached costs to Electives that are teaching Life Skills and such. I do not feel that the people of our province are responsible for my child's (extra curricular activities) or future hobby. I do feel that it is the Goverment and the SDistricts responsibility to see that my children get the best education within the Core Academics.The Electives that are offered should be related to their future in a way that will serve as a Life Skill or Lesson. Anything else that can be used as a Hobby or the soul enjoyment should be funded by the Parents. I personally do not what to pay for someone else's child to play a tuba or violin or pay for a student to go to a Elite School of Fine Arts, Science or Traditional School. My child has to be on an I.E.P. and get little extra help because there is not enough funding for any more Support Staff. I will not support funding for any Elite Schools in this District. I believe extra Student Fees are the responsibility of the parents as long as it is a very structured curriculam as I stated above and the SD and Goverment are accountable for all Fees and Expenditures. Thank-you for giving me the opportunity to have a say and a input. You may feel I went off topic but Education and Money are under one hat!! T.Patterson</p>
<u>55.</u>	Personally I find it easier to pay the school supplies fee at the beginning of the year, than having to haul all three of my kids around town looking for supplies.
<u>56.</u>	Why do those who have the means to pay always have to pay, while others never have to pay the user fee. Sometimes I feel like we are penalized because we do work, and want to help our kids experience the extra's.. The school years are a child's formative years, so we need to expose them to as much positive things as we can, to develop our future citizens.
<u>57.</u>	I think the parents need to pay much closer attention to how this is going to affect us all. It's NOT up to PAC, there should be core funding, and the fees were working just fine. Either the legislation needs to change or the Province needs to come forward and start paying for a complete education. The present issue will lead to failure in our system.
<u>58.</u>	The survey appeared to be bit confusing in regards to the different funding aspects of Public Education. PAC and parents. Although it would be nice to pay for extra

	<p>of Public Education, PAC, and parents. Although it would be nice to pay for extra activities for my children, my financial situation does not allow for extra income. I am currently a student who is in a government funded contract. Extra fees such as these school fees are not covered under my terms in the contract and I cannot afford to pay it. Even though I am unable to pay, I feel it is unfair for my children to be deprived of experiences that should be available to everyone. Education is not about reading, writing, arithmetic. It is about more -- the real life as you mentioned. Students may not be geared directly toward academics but are rather creative and artistic. How would you feel if the one thing you were most interested in was taken away because of financial issues? Instead, you were forced into something that was boring and seems pointless. Put yourselves in the shoes of those who are caught in the gap between welfare and a higher level of disposable income.</p>
59.	<p>Provincial government should be made aware that school funds have to be increased where necessary to cover the provincial requirements as set out by the B.C. curriculum. If this means deleting programs that have over the years been allowed to become part of it, then so be it. Let's get back to the core basics of teaching our children how to spell and write, then if they want to go skiing etc they can do it on their own time with their parents, paying privately, away from school, let's ignore what some kids and their parents want, and get back to educating the children.</p>
60.	<p>A PAC should have the flexibility it needs in each individual school. They raise the money and they should choose how to spend it. Limiting the school defeats the purpose. If children are able to pay, they should. If not, perhaps the PAC funds can help out, depending on the circumstances. In a perfect world everyone could have every opportunity. This is not a perfect world. Denying every child field trips or experiences that fees provide is not helpful. In my experience, PAC's and individuals have contributed to financially challenged families, enabling them to participate in at least some, if not all enhancing activities. Eliminating all of these activities is destructive to a school environment.</p>
61.	<p>The School Fee decision finds that "...a school board is not permitted to charge students fees for any materials, or for musical instruments, that are required for students to successfully complete a course leading to graduation" The part of this decision I find most troubling is that the phrase "leading to graduation" is not defined. Does it mean "required for graduation" or "taken prior to graduation and claimed for credit". I believe it should be the former. As such, elective courses other than the mandatory core courses would be permitted fees. I believe that the basic common materials and experiences which need to be common to all students to allow them to complete a course should be without fees (textbooks, workbooks, etc). However, enhancement opportunities, including field-trips, should be able to be funded partially by fees. I know that there are situations where students do not participate in certain field trips, either because a permission slip was not returned or for disciplinary reasons. These students still graduate, therefore the field-trip can not have been "leading to graduation". It is certainly more difficult to avoid the prohibition on fees at the elementary level where the curriculum is far more integrated. In secondary school however, many of the elective courses are not "required" for graduation in the context of the Ministry's requirements. To argue that Band 12, or PE 12 are "leading to graduation" is nonsensical. If students don't wish to pay fees for such courses, they can select a different course. It is ludicrous to consider a school district providing musical instruments to all students free of charge. I was involved in the Band programs in this District from Grade 5 - 12. I remember there were not enough instruments then to provide them to all students. Add to that the health risks associated with sharing instruments and it becomes clear that this portion of the decision is unreasonable. In all, I would encourage the Ministry and the school boards to seek clarification from the courts regarding the phrase "leading to graduation" as I believe many of the existing fees can be maintained where they relate to enhancement courses or events.</p>
62.	<p>I would like to start off by asking a question: what is the difference between charging school fees and having the PAC fundraise to cover the extra costs for</p>

charging school fees and having the PAC fundraise to cover the extra costs for elective classes that are considered to be apart of a students grad requirements. Either way that you look at the funding is still coming from the parents. Another concern that I have is with the Concept of Universality and that what one school receives, every school is to receive. Basically what your are saying is that if you have an allotted amount of funding for one specific program and you have to offer the program to every school, that funding will diminish in no time, and just like the funding the quality of the program will diminish too. And how is this all going to affect the elective course, such as woodwork and metalwork, and the students that are planning on making a career in the trades industry. Instead of receiving quality materials to work with, they will now be receiving "crap". One question that was asked in the survey was something along the line of "do you think that students don't attend classes do to not having the money to participate?" Well if you were to take the time to look into the classes that are most often skipped you will see that they are academic classes, and if you were to ask the students why they do not attend the class, quite often it's because they are disengaged with the teacher. The lack of participation in school sports teams is quite often due to the low income of the family. And finally, "who should be paying for all of this?" Well it should not be the responsibility of the PAC, the parents, the students, nor any other organization or association. It is about time that the Ministry of Education stepped up to the plate and became part of resolving this issue, and invest in the future of BC.

63. I would support higher taxes on my family's income if it meant that more funding would go into improving our equitable public education system. It is apparent that requiring families to subsidize their children's education with additional fees is simply an unfair direct taxation, in which wealthy families are at an advantage. I was very pleased with the recent court decision to prohibit additional fees for some school activities.

64. I believe that every child regardless of finances should receive a full, rounded education that gives them a wide range of experiences and opportunities. This should be the responsibility of the government to fund. There should be accountability as far as expenditures to ensure that unnecessary things are not being paid for. If there is something that would enhance learning but is not necessary then that is where the PAC, fundraising, fees would come in. There should be a budget set at the beginning of the year where teachers would put forth their plans for these extras and allow the PAC to vote. I believe that not only the educational component should be looked at but also the experience that it would give the kids. If the PAC can't or won't fund or only assist partially, then I see no reason why there can not be fundraising done by the participants (not necessarily parents) or fees charged. As for school supplies, text books and anything re-useable should have a deposit paid to motivate the students to be responsible. A limit should be put on the elementary students regarding note books, pencils, pens etc. and high school students should still be purchasing their own items as it has always been. Being part of the private and public system has made me see that the public system seems to provide a few more opportunities for children but the basic education is lacking even though the funds spent far outweigh those spent in the private school.

65. With regards to the last section on whether or not it was appropriate for PAC's to pay for certain fees - on the questions that I answered yes it was appropriate, I mean that it is fine for PAC's to support those sections, not fund them completely. PAC's can assist in those areas but cannot be expected to take over the complete expenditures. I don't have a problem paying for school fees. I think the system was fine, now we are just in limbo land wondering if our children's education will suffer because of this issue.

66. Society is user pay. 2 income families will always be able to pay, but those who can pay should not have to pay for those who can't. Also who plays "God" to determine real hardship. PAC doing the fundraising, will be those same parents who can pay and do the work, those who don't pay usually are not the ones helping out. Let me pay my \$100 or whatever, because my time is worth something to me.

	pay my \$100 or whatever, because my time is worth something to me.
<u>67.</u>	I feel that the government needs to pass legislation to deal with this issue. I did attend a forum on this issue, and one comment that was made was that if we do not fund these "elective courses" or enriched programs, our secondary education will suffer greatly in the public system. We will open the door to a private system and truly destroy the public system that exists. It will close doors for those students that are less fortunate. These elective courses that are affected by this ruling, are what keep some kids in school. Trades - you are facing a shortage of trades people in the current economy. Being able to experience the trades in high school, will allow kids to develop an appreciation for the trades, and start to develop skills and a passion for a career in the trades. Passion - how do you develop passion for what you do? You need to be exposed to different things. Do you remember your passions when you were a teenager and a young adult? What you were exposed to lead you down a path. Create a clear path. Our youth needs exposure to music, arts, trades, cooking, technology etc. to develop passions for their life and careers. School is a big part of these kid's lives. Don't sell them out. Invest in our youth today to create adults who will support your future.
<u>68.</u>	I have been willing to pay for special woodwork projects, field trips, cooking, sewing projects. I cannot stress enough that I find it INFURIATING to pay fees for things like PE in case my son loses a tennis ball or badminton birdie, christmas and other holiday dance/concert fees that we will never support because we do not recognize the holidays, dances etc. that my son will never attend and those USELESS agenda books that are never used by either parent or teacher. (I volunteered countless hours in the classrooms through the years so I do know the facts) I feel strongly that the school board blew their opportunity for good to charge fees because they got TOO GREEDY imposing fees on worthless and unnecessary and frankly often "made up" items. IF my son loses a badminton birdie THEN I will replace it.
<u>69.</u>	We do not want to lose any current programs at Aberdeen Elementary. Especially band instruments and program. It would be great and helpful to have band instruments funded to some degree, BUT if it means the program will be deleted the parents will have to contribute even if it means pro-rating instrument rental according to exact incomes of parents. Could the school purchase instruments and pro-rate the rental?
<u>70.</u>	In a perfect world, there would be enough "public" money to fund all the activities at schools, but that is not the reality. Hence, I believe it is acceptable to charge fees for certain activities. Moreover, I think it would be a significant loss to have these programs/activities cancelled because the fees could not be covered by the school board.
<u>71.</u>	Change the school act so that fees may be applied!
<u>72.</u>	I am against school fees being charged. My children have been charged 110.00 for a calculator, 25.00 for exercise books even though the school does state they are not mandatory. Withholding report cards, preventing children from graduating because their school fees are not paid - that's just a no go. To have kids segregated in PE class and made to run the water tower - at Westsyde Secondary - because the PE teacher is their homeroom teacher and their fees are not paid - that is a no go. To withhold locker combinations and deny access to lockers because school fees are not paid.....that too is a no go. There has to be absolutely no separation of students. To think that a 25.00 text book fee deposit is going to teach the kids to respect those books.....forget it...it's the parents that pay it - not the kids. Too much is being charged to us parents. To have a 100.00 graduation fee to pay on top of grad stuff..that is ridiculous. I've had my kids in your district and in other districts and I'm sick and tired of always paying out to the schools. I've been involved with PAC's and to expect the PAC's to pay is ridiculous...that is just a circle route of having the parents pay.

<u>73.</u>	Every child in this country has the right to a good education. Many children can not complete their courses because their families do not have the money to spare. Is it right to tell them that "Too bad, so sad! guess you don't get to take that!" even if they need it to graduate? So what, only the well to do have the right to a good education? What year are we in? The dark ages? If the schools do not offer equal opportunities for all, you will see more students dropping out.
<u>74.</u>	I would hazard a guess that the survey will prove to be too long for a lot of people to want to complete so the number of responses that would make the survey more representative may be compromised. I firmly believe that the average parents of school aged children do not have a problem paying some school fees if warranted. At the same time they do not want to be held ransom for some obscure course deemed necessary by our illustrious Ministry of Education. I use the Graduation Portfolio as an example of the waste in this ministry. We are graduating students who have this great portfolio of meaningless drivel but can't balance a check book, read a stock report, know what an RRSP is, or how to write a proper resume'. It is amazing!!!
<u>75.</u>	If you say you are going to cut programs because you do not have the money to keep them going without the school fees, then it can be argued that these programs are not necessary for graduation and you can therefore charge fees to keep them going. The only people who will be hurt by this whole process is the kids who we should be giving the absolute most that we can. I think you will find that most parents are willing to pay the school fees that they have been paying for years if it means the difference between cutting and keeping programs. It would have been nice if the person who brought this court case to court spending public funds to do so would have made sure there was not going to be a detrimental effect to our kids before he did it.
<u>76.</u>	School fees are inappropriate and unfair. Different schools based on where they are receive better funding from PAC's of parent fees than others. This is at the core wrong and FULL government funding of ALL programs is the only fair solution. That way lower income parents based on any factor such as gross income, municipal taxes or whichever way the school funds are collected are done across the board and not by the whim of a particular school board or administration. All students would then be equal and able to participate regardless of whether their parents can or choose to pay extra fees as has been the case in the past. SAY NO TO ALL SCHOOL FEES!!
<u>77.</u>	The problem I have with school fees is in most cases on your questionnaire I thought things like appropriate lighting, water fountains, fire extinguishers were already being paid for when I pay my property taxes every year. I am of the opinion that anything that falls into the category of core education then I have already paid for that funding with my taxes both personal and property.
<u>78.</u>	as a pac chair i know how difficult it can be to fundraise, garner support - the same 7 people do ALL fundraising at our school - i am afraid that we may not be able to meet demands if further were placed on us. as a parent i am comfortable paying fees for certain things - mainly elective sort of activities, supplies, etc.
<u>79.</u>	Ref: 2b Don't you mean, teach the parents' about the the "real world", as they will be the ones' that will actually pay. Ref: bb I didn't have access to an earthquake kiosk when I went to school, so if the school district ,(in their infinite wisdom), want's one ,they should pay for it. Ref: Entire survey I found the survey extremely biased and misleading. It seemed to invite a positive response to a re-introduction of school fees, regardless of the Supreme Court ruling. I have always believed that Education is the foundation of our future, and although Parental responsibilities should not be minimized, the funding of the education system should not be maximized to Parents', simply because the Government does not want to invest in the future.
<u>80.</u>	I have worked with all capacities of youth engaged in school, the barriers are the "haves" and "have nots" social peer pressures within the schools. The process of

	<p>"haves" and "have nots" social peer pressures within the schools. The process of fee's for courses and participation in programs identifies students in low socio-economic groups and further creates the impact of stigma upon a student and family. Equal access and opportunity should not have to be applied for, negotiated about one having to go through a "process" to achieve the same opportunities as families with no financial barriers. Being aware of the "Impact" of the process as a barrier short and long term should be substantial enough to ease the burden of fee's and no fee's decisions. RE: Question 2e: Teachers have a huge role in education, not only the academic responsibility, but the role of role model, leadership, and most often the largest impacting adult upon a child, often more so than parents in today's society. Understanding the gift of this is to be embraced. Teachers need more support, encouragement and celebrations from us all!</p>
81.	<p>I don't like the way a lot of these statements are worded. There is no easy answer for a system that once supplied everything - to the ever changing world and demands placed on the education system. One that is fair for all income levels would be nice. Kids should be able to go to school and expect that basic school supplies will be there. Every teacher has a different idea about what supplies a student needs - meaning they have to go out and buy it because it can't be supplied and in some cases if the child doesn't have the right supply - the project is affected and therefore so is the mark. That is not right. I could go on and on but basics should be supplied without cost. the rest - ???? *****</p>
82.	<p>I, myself do not have a problem paying school fees to help with my children's education. I feel it's part of my responsibility as a parent. I hope because of the ruling children are not meant to miss out on activities or classes because of it.</p>
83.	<p>I feel the school fee's should be paid by the parents so the money from the school district can go to more "school related" activities. However, if any parent cannot afford student fee's then the school district should help out and that child should not have to do with out. We have always paid fee's and it shouldn't stop now! The school district should use fee's for new computer's, smaller classrooms etc..</p>
84.	<p>User fees should be in place for extra ordinary activities. Such as out of Province trips, musical instrument rentals, and sporting activity travel. All other activities and equipment should be paid for with tax dollars.</p>
85.	<p>I disagree with the recent court ruling regarding school fees. Schools should be able to charge a reasonable amount to cover costs of extra-curricular activities and school supplies. The last thing I would like to see is current school courses or programs cancelled due to this decision.</p>
86.	<p>In an ideal world we could rely on parent/PAC fundraising to help cover funds lost through not charging school fees. But our world is not ideal. As Pac chair I know that parent fundraising cannot be counted on. In our school we have ten women who do the majority of the fundraising and repeated attempts to get help and support have been refused. I think by not charging school fees you are putting too much stress on the shoulders of fundraisers and as such are doing the children a disservice.</p>
87.	<p>The bias in this survey is evident. You have already decided that school fees should continue. How brainwashed are you people? If this were the health care system you would be screaming blue murder about extra fees to be paid to assist your child. It's like being if you should pay for the IV equipment that's disposable - tubes, needles, etc. when your child is being rehydrated due to diarrhea and vomiting. Just because something has been done for a long time doesn't mean it's right. If we believe that our children (all of the children of the province) deserve the best education we can afford them then it's time to insist that our school board join our voice and lobby the government hard to put more money into the system. As parents, we're being nicked and dined by this government. I can't afford the fund-raising that West Vancouver can do, but I want my child to have every opportunity to have that he can have in this system, including access to the things children in West Vancouver</p>

	can have in this system, including access to the things children in West Vancouver can have. I also notice that in asking for what things can be paid for, you have not included fine arts performances such as Young People's Concerts and performances at the school level. I find this all very disturbing. Why have you bought into the scare tactics of the school board. Why isn't the school board saying they will ask for more money from the government when we have billion dollar surpluses at the provincial level? Why are they not advocating for our children? If they knew we would stand behind them and add our voices to theirs, perhaps they might take that risk, but right now they're too scared they'll lose their jobs if they try to defy this government. Why are we allowing the government to bully school boards? Why are we allowing them to bully us?
<u>88.</u>	These are very hard questions to answer as nothing is cut and dried.
<u>89.</u>	I was not quite sure how to complete section 5 on the written survey. I did not know if required to comment on each section or just one so commented on certain ones then stopped. So I completed the ones I could.
<u>90.</u>	#7- All schools should have warm (full) lunch programs, no exceptions. (Our childrens health is important and cannot be sacrificed)!!! 5+5+5
<u>91.</u>	Your survey seems to indicate that you plan to pass over the extra costs over to the individual PAC's. I would recommend against that idea. Their mandate is to help raise money for out of costs items or events not normally covered by the district. Kamloops has a large demographics in population. You have schools that are in affluent areas. I have seen PAC's in affluent areas that don't have to work for their money (Parents are more ready to give money rather than help fundraise) and I have seen PAC's in lower income areas that have to work their buns off for every cent. Also try expecting the PAC to carry more of the financial burden could put some PAC's in a situation where the PAC will have control over the individual schools and where the PAC will be running the schools instead of the District or especially the school administrator (principal). Not a good idea.
<u>92.</u>	Less and less parents get involved in the PAC mainly due to the fact that what ever ideas are presented they are shot down, the PAC are "snotty know-it-alls". This has been discussed with many parents. Solution to find a way to bring parents together forming friendships or bonds even just for the children who play together. This can be done through fieldtrips, team 2 different parents together to supervise children instead of 1 parent to 6 or 7 children. Or at performances have it so that audience participation is required. when the class is doing a dance, they have to choose their partner from the audience. Let's get creative! Let's send out surveys on what parents think, may be a good fundraiser, get them brainstorming. This PAC needs help!
<u>93.</u>	I feel that the middle class families who don't live on the system are the ones who have a disadvantage because the less fortunate usually (felt sorry for) and don't need to spend as much. On the other side, the well to do families find ways to write off expenses or can pay them with no problem and that leaves the working/struggling middle class to juggle and balance these expenses with difficulty. Sometimes having to cut or miss other payment to fund school fees.
<u>94.</u>	It was to long. Some of the questions seem to repeat themselves.
<u>95.</u>	Strongly encouraging a science based curriculum at Kay Bingham!
<u>96.</u>	The people in this province are taxed to a point of poverty! The government makes 800 billion dollars a month on tabbaco alone, never mind fuel, liquor and all the other drugs the government sells. Do you think it's too much to ask that are children are educated to the highest level in the world? I do not! Fee's make children from welthier families more important than the children from lower income families. The people in this country are financially raped every time we leave the house, the least the government can do is educate all children on an equal opportunity basis

	opportunity basis.
<u>97.</u>	I would much rather pay school fees in September to cover costs of school supplies, rather than have to shop for the supplies. I would also like to see the children receive an agenda each year as this is a great introduction to personal planning and organization. The PAC's have enough to raise funds for, they should not be burdened to cover school fees. School fees are not unreasonable and we should continue to be charged for them.
<u>98.</u>	Lots of questions. Places where fees shouldn't be charged and PAC shouldn't need to pay as these are basic requirements and should be publicly funded. No problem paying for enrichment activities but would be nice to pay a flat fee and some assurance that those who can't afford to pay may have the fee waived discreetly.
<u>99.</u>	It is my opinion that all school related activities, courses and supplies should be funded by anyone other than parents as kids should be able to do what peers are doing. I for one would not be able to otherwise afford it. This would be equal opportunity.
<u>100.</u>	I believe education is crucial to developing a better world. It is a right and also a privilege. We are all responsible for our world regardless of whether we have children or not. Public schools should be limited and restricted to those who want to learn. There should be a dress code that doesn't allow a) tattered, torn, dirty clothing b) clothing that focuses on sexuality c) hair that is weird d) makeup that is hideous etc etc. Children who don't want to learn should go to special schools that focus on motivation, communication, what it is to be human- etc -cause and effect. Parents should be held accountable for their children. They are responsible for bringing them into the world so too should they be responsible for their behaviour and upbringing. There are things that are inherently right and things that are inherently wrong. When you blend the two under the banner of human rights or creativity or artistic freedom (you name it) and you remove God from the equation, you end up with chaos. Look around.
<u>101.</u>	I firmly believe that public education should be FREE of cost to students. We require certain things to graduate and consider those things important for further education... we should provide them.
<u>102.</u>	1d) Probably only parents would feel the deposit missing because they pay for it. not child,
<u>103.</u>	Kid need less school days off!! Teachers need to stop striking from Sept - June. There are way to many inservice/instruction days! Teacher's are sending messages to our children that striking illegally is okay - It is okay to put others on hold while teachers try to ask for what they say is equal pay - & job expectations. Well for every teacher that doesn't like their job, another teacher would gladly take over. !!
<u>104.</u>	I agree that school/parent/child fundraising is a good way to help with expenses relating to education, however I also believe that the government should be looking at children as a good investment into the future and that the government should fund all core and as many extra curricular activities as possible. The public pays taxes to fund public education, and I think that the government owes it to the taxpayers to provide that education. As a parent I don't mind paying for some things (eg band instrument, ski trip)(but it would be nice if they were funded) and I don't mind being asked to participate in fundraising, I do what I can. I also believe that children should be involved in activities that provide funds, in addition to selling items (eg bottle drive, car wash etc) to teach them that extra-curricular activities do not come free(eg skiing, band trip). If skating (for instance) is part of the PE program I think that the skating itself should be paid for, but don't mind that child has to provide own skates, or pay for rental. But I don't think that any child should be excluded because of a lack of these items or the means to rent them. I also believe that the government should be looking at ways to provide more funding for public education, rather than cutting it, maybe some politicians should give up their

	public education, rather than cutting it, maybe some politicians should give up their big fat pensions that they get after only a few years of service, and put that money toward all of our futures.
<u>105.</u>	I think no matter the income for the ones who cannot pay a large lump sum it should be allowed in 2 installments. I disagree with something each month it seems from the school with money for something. When school starts your hit with the fees which is a given, then a book club fee, pictures and then usually something else comes up. Its tuff when you have single parents who are just getting over back to school costs as is. Before I was working ft I did go out with my child in a fundraising adverts and yes ofcourse its good quality time and I dont object to it. I object to the parents havng to go out to raise money for the school when we should have say in what the parents have to do so the school has more money. More supervision is badly needed during playtime in concerns for safety including bullying. Not just outside but in hallways etc.
<u>106.</u>	1. Thank you for the survey. I can only hope that all responses will be incorporated into the results, not simply those which shape or support a particular perspective. 2. As much as I support the premise of a PAC, my experience however has been that PACs (and parent volunteer groups in general) are too often monopolized by a few individuals who profess altruistic intentions for both the school and all students, when in reality, their purpose is to protect and promote themselves, their kids, or their pet projects (eg., band). I understand that all school PACs encourage all parents to become actively involved. However this cliquish and self-seving mentality turns many good parents off - parents who otherwise would love to be active and contributing members of their school community. 3. Following #2 above, as much as I feel that extracurricular activities strongly enhance a student's academic experience, I have real problems with funding progams like band or drama. For example, every year at SKS, aggressive band parents come to PAC with hat in hand looking for more money for uniforms (how many more do they need?), band trips (kids still must pay hundreds of dollars even after they have used the "credit dollars" they've accrued for pie sales, volunteering, etc.), and scholarships (very often for kids who have parents active in the band program) - despite years of flat, tepid, or falling enrolment. There are some very clear reasons why the music program is in trouble and some very clear reasons why so many parents have written letters of concern. Beatty School now offers an enhanced fine arts curriculum. Perhaps it is time to finally turn off the SKS music program's ventilator and allocate those monies to other much needed academic courses such as AP chemistry, mathematics, biology, physics and english.
<u>107.</u>	I believe that the man who took this to court and won, was more interested in getting his "15 minutes of fame" than he was in the children of British Columbia. The current ruling, with no additional funding from the government will result in fewer field trips and other extra-curricular events which enrich our schools. It will also lead to a greater gap between the 'have' and the 'have not' schools.
<u>108.</u>	Thank you taking your time to give us parents a chance to give our thoughts and opinions freely without being judged.
<u>109.</u>	I think some fees are necessary - for example: in metal work if my son wants to use brass instead of ordinary metal for part of his project I am happy to pay extra towards the cost of the brass, but not for the ordinary metal.
<u>110.</u>	Survey was too long and confusing. One point I feel very strongly about is corporate sponsorship--definitely not a place in our school system. I have paid fees for my daughter in PE (\$10.00). It was never explained what for exactly but my daughter thought it was a "field trip" fee. They went bowling which I had to pay for, then at end of year went to beach and I paid for pizza. What happened to the \$10.00 that I paid?? I think it probably went into general funds for the PE department. These small fees that are not accounted for are something I'd like to see done away with. Agendas, too, are a big ripoff and I question how effective they are. I also paid a fee for a course workbook. I think developed by the teacher. It was just a duplicate

	<p>fee for a course workbook, I think developed by the teacher. It was just a duotang with standard paper, the subject, I think, was computing. A fee for zeroxing?? I believe there might be conflict of interest in some circumstances where teachers are providing materials, ie. sports equipment and clothing. I know of a teacher that is in the business of distributing athletic wear to schools and I'm sure he's not the only one.</p>
111.	<p>I think that if the survey says that the PAC should be more responsible for paying these fees then some parents better step up to the plate and be more responsible in the PAC. They always want lots to come from the PAC nad never are they there as a part of the PAC.</p>
112.	<p>Children should be taught academics in school. Throughout the school year we are charged fees for 'young people's concerts' we are requested to fund raise anywhere from 2-3 times a year we are then asked again to pay for winter sports programs these fees lead to wonder what my child(ren) are actaully learning? We can pay anywhere from \$75-\$125 for extra activities that I am told have social benefits to the children. It's not the school's job ensure they attend 'concert's, play's or participate in winter sports programs. I send my child(ren) to school to be taught academics such as reading, math,social studies, science, etc not how to socialize. This my jobs as the parent. Hence when teachers attempt to teach these skills conflicts arise because the teachers values may not always coincide with the parents. It is my job as a parent to ensure that they grow up to be decent likable human beings.</p>
113.	<p>This survey is way too long.</p>
114.	<p>if your child takes an elective where they are making a project the parents should have to continue to pay for the supplies</p>
115.	<p>Where parent fundraising is talked about I assumed PAC involvement. I may not know enough about what school fees were cut. I agree with a refundable deposit in band. The school, PAC and parents should all be involved in paying for kids to compete in things (ie: band, music, sports, etc) as these types of things show off school talent and spirit. Families who can't afford extras for whatever reason should have avenues open to them for funding - ie: school, school board, Ministry, outside funding programs, etc, PAC</p>
116.	<p>Thank you for taking the time and interest to prepare and advertise for this survey. It is very important!!! Tough decisions will have to be made, hopefully not at the expense of our children's educational experience. Thank you.</p>
117.	<p>I strongly disagree with fees that would exclude less fortunate families from discovering what their child might be interested in doing with his/her future. At the same time, I believe fortunate families should be able to help in their child's education. Perhaps there should be a scale. A form should be filled out, same as one would do for MSP reduction. This could be filled out at the beginning of each year.</p>
118.	<p>I believe that this particular survey contains far too many options for parents to waffle over to get the best result perhaps 3 options should be sufficient. I believe in school fees and removing them will certainly deplete options for all students. I am also aware that some families cannot afford a substantial fee but they should be encouraged to volunteer for fundraisers so that they too have contributed to the enhancement of their childs education. I also think that if a family wants to pay a fee it should then be allocated as a donation to the school in a foundation to enhance their neighbourhood school. I think it was a drastic step on the part of the government to abolish fees without providing a budget that could sustain what the parents have been able to fundraise or pay. I am certainly not prepared to watch our children's school do without extra fees as I know the consequences will be my childrens education. Parental support whether it be a school fee for activities or fundraising for playground equipment should never put away the power of a</p>

	fundraising for playground equipment should never out way the power of a community to support the Public School System. A concerned Beattie School of the Arts Parent.
119.	School through to and including post secondary should be funded exclusively by the government. Look at how well it has worked in moving Ireland from a have-not state, to a have state!
120.	It is perfectly acceptable for school fees to be charged for extra curricular activities as long as there are options for lower income families who cannot afford them. No student should be denied access to a program due to financial barriers. Many children would never have the opportunity to participate in music, art, sports, etc. if these programs were not offered in public school. Increasing fund raising is not the answer to eliminating school fees. Communities can only donate so much, especially in small towns or rural areas. If the government is going to limit how these programs are to be paid for then the government had better be prepared to cover these costs.
121.	There should be a flat rate school fee at the beginning of the year that includes supplies and field trips. If parents want their children to participate in extracurricular activities then the individual parents should have to pay extra. I don't mind fundraising but I think there could be more interesting things added to the agenda (like home decor items www.grammas-attic.com does fundraising.) The cookie dough fundraiser is a great idea.
122.	I would like to emphasize the importance I feel about adequate accounting of what money is collected, and what it is used for. There doesn't seem to be enough of a priority placed on this, and it makes me as a parent very nervous. I think the money has come too easily and not been accounted for closely enough.
123.	I feel that if a course is required in order for a student to graduate prepared for post-secondary education then all supplies and experiences associated with that course should be publicly funded
124.	We can't possibly get rid of school fees and still provide the opportunities that the children have right now. So many types of field trips would be gone. One of my children in high school finally likes gym because of going swimming, playing squash, etc and to remove that would remove her enjoyment of gym once again. How would the children be able to properly have home ec, cooking, woodworking, metal etc if we expect the school to pay the cost of these items. Band equipment alone would bankrupt a school so do we get rid of band as well! It goes on, and on. The system is working as well as can be expected right now - let's not cripple it completely!
125.	Min of Education should provide basic education to all students from taxation funds (some paying educational tax do not have children). Add'l programs (extracurricular trips and such) should be covered by parents with some subsidies to those on limited incomes. The families utilizing the apprenticeship program should be required to fund it as it is considered post secondary education. PAC funds should be utilized to fund the 'nice to haves' such as specialized audio visual or computer equipment or school sports uniforms, PAC's should not be required to fund basics such as workbooks, library books, pencils, and the like. I do not have an issue fundraising for the PAC, I do have an issue fundraising for basic educational tools such as agendas, lockers, paper, basic gym equipment textbooks and basic learning software.
126.	Core school courses, textbooks, and all capital expenditures should be fully publicly funded. I'm fine with parents paying extra fees for optional courses, trips, and special activities. I don't want to see awesome programs cut due to lack of financial support. However, schools need to actively encourage families who cannot afford school fees to identify themselves so that the school can cover all fees for these families -- for the year, not each and every time another trip/event/supplies needs to be paid for. I think most schools already operate this way and that's good.

	to be paid for. I think most schools already operate this way and that's good. I would appreciate a written letter/note sent home when extra school fees are requested by the school. Too often this year, my Grade 9 son has no written proof that fees are required, but he says that a teacher just says they have to bring the money. I have no reason to doubt that it's the truth, but I'd prefer a written request.
127.	I believe there are some cases where an extra fee might be considered but overall public education should be government funded for all students to have equal opportunity to achieve their highest potential.
128.	It is imperative that some form of supplementation of the school budget occur. I suggest this could be done by forming a charitable society for former fees to go to as a donation. This is what is happening at the private schools - fees, but also fees that are "charity" based. Tax receipt. Deductable off returns. If the fee decision is permanent, this might allow families to donate to the fund, avoid the onerous fund-raising option, yet get an enhanced standard of education for their children. I fear that without this option, we will lose families of income and high interest in the education being of high quality, leaving the public system.
129.	When you hear of the provincial surplus and see the latest statistics of Canadian CEO's incomes, it is offensive for Canadian parents to be asked for funds for public education. Something is not right when basics such as music, computer and physical activities geared towards healthy lifestyles (i.e. weight training, aerobics), not to mention library books and librarians--are considered 'frills'. This sounds really 3rd world to me.
130.	Parents should be given the option of paying fees for other than core courses by monthly withdrawal system, or post-dated cheques, to lessen the impact. If they are unable to pay the fees, then they must fundraise.
131.	Elective courses at the secondary level will be cut without school fees and this is doing a huge disservice to the majority of students. Graduation rates will drop drastically if electives are not part of senior secondary curriculum.
132.	I am a very active fundraiser at each of the schools that my children go to and feel that parent fundraising is not the way to go to cover school fees.
133.	I am in complete agreement with the ban on school fees in the public education system. All students should have an equal opportunity in the public education system and the ministry of education should fully fund the public education system. I also believe that parents should not be involved fund raising, although students, classes, groups or teams could be free to fund raise.
134.	A certain number of electives are required for graduation. There should be a specific amount designated for supplies for each student per grade. The individual student would determine how that is applied according to the courses they choose. If they chose electives that require supplies over the allotted amount then they need to supplement that themselves. Under no circumstances should there be fees for course workbooks.
135.	I feel that a public education system implies that there is equal opportunity for all. The more Pac's fund education the less dollars the government will give. They are more than happy to let the parents pay.... I might as well send my child to a private school.... fund raising is out of control.
136.	Education, including post-secondary, should be free to all students. For post-secondary, passing grades should be required for the funding to continue.
137.	I really didn't have an issue with how school fees were assigned to begin with. My only complaint was that schools in wealthier neighborhoods offered trips out of the country - to Europe, etc. My older son goes to Brock and he would like the opportunity to travel as much as any other student with good grades and his

	<p>opportunity to travel as much as any other student with good grades and his teacher's permission - there is much to be gained from that and children are more likely to open their minds when away from what is familiar to them. It would be excellent if some of the trips being offered by schools in the district were advertised to other schools for other students to participate in the fundraising and the opportunity. These trips should not be funded - are the parent's responsibility. The current situation leads to children being ashamed of the school they attend or labeling their school "poor" Kim Leslie, RN BSN 250-554-2507</p>
138.	<p>I felt that a lot of the questions were very broad making them difficult to answer as there were many variables to consider. I do feel that education should be equally funded across the board, and that it is the ministry of education's responsibility that all children receive a well rounded education. I do not however object to the collection of school fees as long as there is a waiver offered for those students that cannot afford certain costs. I appreciate when my child gets to participate in extracurricular activities, especially those that provide a learning experience. The ministry should be responsible for some of these costs but only to a certain extent and the activities they provide funding for should be educational, outlined and standardized for all (schools) students. If a school or class chooses to participate in any activities outside those funded by the ministry its costs should be the responsibility of either the parents or PAC fundraising efforts. I do not see a problem with certain school fees as long as it is within reason for any income level.</p>
139.	<p>What are w) sports academies? That's why most questions re these are blank. I'll be sending comments in a letter, there's not enough space here and most of your statements aren't simple agree/disagree answers.</p>
140.	<p>I feel most parents don't mind paying a set fee at the beginning of the year to cover stationary, pens pencils etc. I don't want to have to run around looking for specific teacher requirements. But I don't feel that every time a class goes out of the school for an academic related event we as parents should have to pay a fee.</p>
141.	<p>For question # 8, expenditures that I think PAC should fund - I agreed that PAC should/could pay for many expenditures, BUT not all of them all of the time, and not any of them without assistance from either school fees or public monies. I believe the entire focus/purpose of PAC will be seriously, negatively affected if PAC is to turn into a money making machine.</p>
142.	<p>Parents who paid school fees in September have not been issued a refund. District not forthcoming with information as costal communities have received refunds already.</p>
143.	<p>If it meant my child would not get to take part in something ie: cooking or shop etc. because we aren't suppose to pay the school fees and the school district won't cover it then I would like the opportunity to pay the fees so that the children don't miss out on some opportunities</p>
144.	<p>It is okay to charge school fees/have parents fundraise if the expenditure is secondary to the learning - i.e. an educational field trip that enhances classroom learning. If the learning can not happen without the expenditure then it should be paid for through core funding. A number of things that happen in schools are secondary and enhance learning but are not totally necessary thus fees could be charged. However, fees should be waived for those who are unable to pay. All students should be able to participate in the events that the school undertakes.</p>
145.	<p>My husband and I pay over \$22,000 per year in taxes, so shelling out more money for "student fees" is hard to swallow. Does \$22,000 not cover our child, as well as a few others???</p>
146.	<p>Regarding the question about what PACs should fund: PAC should be able to partially contribute to any school program, but shouldn't be the only source of funding for a specific program.</p>

<u>147.</u>	While I agree with the supreme court ruling, which in my understanding means that the school districts must provide a core education to all students, without costs (since core education is funded through our taxes), I do not take issue with paying additional amounts for extras. I relocated from Alberta, where the school fees and transportation fees are significantly higher. In addition, parents have to provide basic school supplies such as pencils, crayons, erasers and notebooks. The fees charged in BC were a refreshing relief from the fees charged in Alberta. I do believe that the schools need to be sensitive to the financial burden for some families who may be too proud to indicate the challenges they are facing.
<u>148.</u>	If people can not pay then they have to go to the principal. and ask for assistance. If that is not possible maybe apply to a board made up of 2 to 3 people.
<u>149.</u>	In general I strongly disagree with school fees. The government should be fully funding most school courses and principals are paid well to make their school accountable for the frugal spending of these funds.
<u>150.</u>	Education needs to be an equal opportunity This is not possible when the ability to pay school fees is not equal
<u>151.</u>	Charging school fees for those that can afford it, is much preferred over continually decreasing our children's educational opportunities.
<u>152.</u>	I think PAC is all about fundraising and there is a better way to distribute/allocate the funds they receive from gaming so all students in schools can benefit and not just a select few groups. PAC's usually do not have a variety of parents from the school, just a select few that do not always look at the students needs as a whole.
<u>153.</u>	As many parents work full time and pay taxes they should not be also expected to work after work to pay more to fund an underfunded educational system. Drop some administration if need be. Additionally I am irked that I paid a school supply fee at the beginning of the year for each child, only to have my oldest come home to advise they had to share textbooks, the pens don't work and they don't have enough workbooks. This was straightened out at the school level, but there seems to be a bit of hoarding going on. With the aging population, perhaps that is why there is not such a political appetite to maintain the younger peoples education. The politicians and general population must be reminded that well educated, exercised and engaged children are much less likely to get into trouble that costs on other levels.
<u>154.</u>	Students learn nothing from paying school fees, it's the parents who pay it. Families who cannot afford to pay schools fees should have all fees waived and the child not held back from anything. All money should be accounted for in the School District
<u>155.</u>	Students should be responsible for paying for supplies such as notebooks, pens, paper, etc. However, if part of course delivery, i.e. computer disk, this should be supplied by the school- same goes for art supplies at the primary school level.
<u>156.</u>	I don't have an issue with paying fees when appropriate. Such as material or thread for sewing, wood, educational field trips, etc. I do not feel parents should be charged for required materials(work books) or to participate in PE. I am fortunate to be able to pay fees. Families that cannot pay fees should be funded by the Ministry. Our children are already being affected by the cuts to various programs. It will only get worse. If the parents are not required to pay fees then it is up to our government to fund a full education in all avenues. Every individual learns in a different way, ie: auditory, visual, etc. Field trips can be a very rewarding experience. If the government were to manage taxes effectively, our basic needs of a well rounded education, health care & safety would all be met.
<u>157.</u>	I think that the public school system and the all levels of government should be doing everything in thier power to keep children in school. Not just regular school hours, but after class time with sports and clubs and groups. Give the children motivation and support to challenge themselves. Don't take every positive just to be

	motivation and support to challenges themselves. Don't take away positive just to be replaced with idle minds. Get the funding these kids need to stay focused they are the future.
<u>158.</u>	There needs to be an element of reasonableness surrounding school fees. I feel it is appropriate for fees to be charged for extra supplies and for special activities.
<u>159.</u>	I have not found a problem with the school fee structure in the elementary schools at this time. I do have issue with paying a fee for a class in the highschool, when what I find it is directed for, is paper and photo copying! I feel families should pay for woodwork supplies, art supplies, foods, sewing and that sort of thing. I have a huge problem with paying a fee for math, french , english and the classes where they sit at a desk and listen to and take notes from a lecture.
<u>160.</u>	I don't mind paying a few dollars for out-of-school trips, musical instrument rental fees, some activities, such as swimming, skating, etc.
<u>161.</u>	I think band instruments is an acceptable fee to be charged, as well as excursions for PE (bowling, swimming, skating), the only items that we were charged this year that I disagree with are a French Workbook for grade 8 at sahari - somehow I think that a workbook should be the same as a textbook and should be covered through the district and band music, if the parents are already paying for the instruments the school should supply the music.
<u>162.</u>	I feel You fail to realize that through our taxes we all pay for all of the core education regardless and for workbooks and textbooks those too are suppose to be included from our taxes. Education has lost it's meaning. If a child wishes to take additional classes other than English, Math and Science that is no longer a class that is necessarily aiding my child(ren) with their necessities of life. Too many students can NOT spell and that is not acceptable. Planning course is in some ways excellent and other ways a waste of time. To have a child having to break down their daily eating habits per serving is a little too much. To have a child figure out approximately how much they will need to survive for meals once at college or university is good. But not per serving. The course fails in some ways yet in others is excellent. It needs revamping. To have a student have to use a computer at home for homework for planning etc., to the degree they have to is disgusting and NO I will not have them print it ALL off MY computer. They should be able to take a disc to school and print it off there! They really should not have to PRINT anything and their computer usage should be limited to looking up facts and nothing more. I as a parent feel that the Dept. of Education is failing to recognize that parents already pay for their core education and needs through our taxes. If a student is spending more than 2-3 hrs a night at home doing homework in grade 10 then I have to ask what they are doing in class and how well that time is being spent! No wonder they go to school half awake! It is really beginning to make me question if they are doing so much of their work at home, why I am not home schooling them! Public Education is receiving a failing grade as far as I am concerned at this time. Organization is a key for both students and teachers. Using class time effectively is a MUST that simply appears not to be done at this time. NO NO NO to school fees! We already pay enough! School supplies (not fees) already run over a couple hundred each year per student! I will NOT pay any more for courses that are offered for a CORE EDUCATION!
<u>163.</u>	I see nothing wrong with PAC fund raising to assist in purchasing extra or specialized items for their schools but I feel the schools should provide all students with full access to any and all available programs within the students' home district as well as any required equipment or learning materials. As a student in high school I was aware of family finances and hated to have to miss out on things because the funds were not there, and we, as students were not asked to pay near as often as the students are today. I do not look forward to seeing my student avoid telling me about things because we are short of funds at the time, thereby missing out on some great times and memories; yet, as things are now, I am aware this will begin happening in the near future.

	happening in the near future.
<u>164.</u>	Keep the status quo. If extra cost like making a clock in woodwork instead of a small box, then let the parents pay for the nicer project. If students have to pay fees to go to bowling or swimming etc., then let them have the option instead of not letting students participate in these lifetime sports.
<u>165.</u>	I thought the status quo worked well enough. I fear that either marginal programs will be seen as "frills" and cut, or the PAC participants will be burdened with more fundraising to cover the shortfall.
<u>166.</u>	Personally I think a lot of the expenditures should be shared by the government and PAC such as playground equipment and trips to science fairs etc. But, I also believe the physical education, music and arts should be considered core programs in any school as well as computing skills and equipment. Therefore, all that money the government is taking from the taxpayers needs to be diverted from wherever they are diverting it to and back into the school system. With a good PAC in place, I see no reason why they cannot help raise money for certain supplies needed for such things as costumes, extra art supplies and towards field trips but they should not be 100% responsible because all those things should and need to be part of every school. Realizing the Minister of Education or the government in general will not fund anything other than the basic 'reading, writing and arithmetic' and certainly do little in the way of shopwork, drama, arts, and music, then it has to be up to the parents. Out of province field trips...I think those parents need to take on their own funding because the average child or child from a poorer background hasn't got a hope in hell of ever going so why should we put our very little money towards the trips of those who have a whole lot more.
<u>167.</u>	Things which are considered "essential" to education (and I know opinion will vary widely on what this is) should be funded by the Ministry of Education, not by individuals, fundraising, or the PAC. Things which are "nonessential" can be covered by assessing fees to individual families (with some way for families who are not financially able to have assistance), fundraising (although people have limited appetite for it these days!), and by PAC funds. Currently PAC gaming funds are limited to "non-curricular" items, it would be nice if these funds could also be spent on items which are curricular, but designated "non-essential" (i.e. for example, video equipment for a photography course). "Essential" items (in my opinion, for example, textbooks and computers) should be fully covered by the Ministry.
<u>168.</u>	I have a great deal of trouble deciding whether or not any school fees should be allowed, especially without knowing the options/consequences. I feel that fees are a slippery slope that can quickly make a school system inequitable (in fact, this is already happening to some degree), but I certainly don't want the quality of the whole system to suffer as a result of disallowing school fees. If the prohibition of school fees results in a down-sized educational experience for children, we can predict an exodus of financially able families to the private system – obviously not a desired outcome. I would like to see a fully-funded educational system where kids of all stripes receive the same, high-quality education regardless of neighbourhood or income level. The fair way to do this, of course, is through taxes, where income levels determine the amount of taxes paid. However, due to other equally important demands on the limited provincial cookie jar, taxes would have to be increased and specifically targeted to education. Is there any political will to raise taxes for education? My guess is no. So perhaps school fees are the lesser evil. Allowing the collection of fees while making it easier for economically stressed families to opt out of payment is a possible solution. The key point here is that no child should ever have to think about the fees associated with a specific course offering while making their selections. When students must weigh the financial impacts of their educational decisions, we will have failed in providing an equitable system. A side note: A system that has worked well in school meals programs is simply to require each student to return a payment envelope. How much money is in the envelope, if any, is not ever discussed. I am sure there are other creative ways out there to address the non-payment issue without requiring the humiliating "principals'

	address the non-payment issue without requiring the humiliating "principal's approval".
<u>169.</u>	I feel that the PAC's funding role should be limited to "scholarship" or "bursary" situations for students who are particularly in need.
<u>170.</u>	i am in favour of school fees and it is unfair to cut programs that enhance student experience because of lack of funds.
<u>171.</u>	We in BC have a Pulic Education system, that CLEARLY means that we fund this with public funds. PACs were never designed to be fundraisers but have become that way as our education system has been UNDER FUNDED and we as a public have allowed this to happen. Just as school fees have never been allowing in the school act we have allowed this to creep in. I have always said that my involment with the public education system has not been for my children but for all the kids who parents could not advocate, for what ever reason, for thier own children. DPAC and BCCPAC need to support Public Education and advocate for ALL parents in BC and ensure that fees are NOT charged in our PUBLIC education system. (I could go on and on but must get back to work) Starr Webb SaHali Secondary Parent
<u>172.</u>	I think in many areas it is appropriate to charge school fees, such as extra-curriculars, personal equipment/supplies and other "consumables" (like food for foods class if students are taking it as an elective). I think the ruling has gone WAY too far, and is going to destroy lots of programs in schools because they simply cannot afford to run them anymore (eg. shop classes, foods programs, etc.). What was that trustee thinking?
<u>173.</u>	Good survey. The school board needs to be properly funded by the Ministry of Education and the province of B.C. Perhaps the School Act needs to be changed to reflect the need to have core education properly funded by the province. Core Education would need to be well defined in Act.
<u>174.</u>	As a student a generation ago, I do not recall having to pay fees for anything (SD 44). The current state of fees is clear evidence of the decades of cronic underfunding of the system from a governmental source. There needs to be an acceptance of the ministry's responsibility to FULLY support the public education system which, when funded, works extremely well.
<u>175.</u>	Education starts at home! Our kids learn some more at school. It's important that we can all count on what parents can do about their own kids, how much they can lead them. Allowing kids to smoke is something that really worries me more than having to pay for education. Maybe it's time to start doing something about THAT! It's true that kids need recreation but that is not the reson why kids stav at school. Honestly a kid must go to school to learn, to do something that is not possible to do at home or something that parents don't really know e.g. Physics, Chemestry.
<u>176.</u>	When my kids were smaller and I was paying half my salary to a babysitter (4 children) so I could work and I was paying almost \$200 a month to the school for various things, including lunch programs, fundraising, school fees, field trips, etc. I don't think that just because my income is higher now I should be paying a higher amount of school fees. The trouble with asking the PAC to raise money is it is always the same small group of parents who do the fundraising and therefore it becomes a lot of work on a small amount of people. Again, I did fundraising for years, but I did it to benefit the entire school not just my children. I don't have a problem with it being a user based fee system, for example if a student is taking sewing then they buy their own material for projects. I don't mind paying for my son or daughter to play sports and I don't expected to be paid for gas when I take them to a tournament (which I believe some parents do). I will pay to let my child participate in whatever they want to, and I don't mind fundraising or paying a little extra so that someone who really can't afford to participate in extra activities can. But I think our government needs to give us enough so that every child in this province gets the same level of education, regardless of their parents income level.

province gets the same level of education, regardless of their parents income level.

Appendix 6: School Districts DPACs Participating in School Fee Survey

