

January 17, 2023

Dear Elizabeth School District Parents and Guardians,

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) is composed of staff and parent representation from all schools and meets regularly throughout the school year. The DAC's purpose as defined by Colorado State Statute 22-11-302 is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Education on a variety of topics including the district budget, unified school improvement plans, family engagement, and other projects as determined by the Board of Education.

Earlier this year the DAC developed and implemented a parent/guardian survey to gain a better understanding of the strengths, concerns, and needs of the district from the parent and guardian perspective. The survey was open for parent input for two weeks, and we received 580 responses, which is approximately one-third of our population. In December the DAC reviewed the results of the survey and prepared recommendations for the Interim Superintendent. A summary of the results can be seen below:

**Academics** – When asked about general academics in Elizabeth School District, parents continually demonstrated that they strongly agreed or agreed the district was preparing students academically. A difference was identified between the parents and guardians of elementary versus secondary students. Typically, elementary parents reported higher rates of strongly agree and agree than secondary parents. The differences ranged from 3% to 12% depending on the question. A few highlights include 76% of secondary parents and 84% of elementary parents indicating that the individual needs of their student were being met; 83% of secondary parents and 89% of elementary parents indicating that students were being prepared academically for the next grade level; and 86% of secondary parents and 89% of elementary parents indicating that teachers set high expectations for learning. A few of the areas that were identified for further consideration were preparing students for the next grade emotionally and with executive functioning skills at the secondary level. When asked if students were prepared for the next level with emotional skills, 71% of secondary parents agreed or strongly agreed, and when asked if students were prepared for the next grade relative to executive functioning skills, 70% of secondary parents agreed or strongly agreed.

**Counseling** – When asked about counseling supports offered in schools in Elizabeth School District, parents at the secondary level indicated their students knew how to access counseling resources at a higher rate than in elementary schools. These rates were 83% of secondary parents and 74% of elementary parents agreed or strongly agreed. When asked how aware parents were of resources that the counselors provide, elementary parents reported 69% agree or strongly agree while secondary parents reported 63% agree or strongly agree. A potential area for focus may be increasing the information schools provide to parents on available counseling services for students.

**Leadership** – When asked about leadership in Elizabeth School District, parents routinely indicated they support the leaders of our schools. When asked if leadership has high expectations for student achievement, 86% to 88% of parents agreed or strongly agreed. When asked if students and parents/guardians at my child's school are treated with respect, 88%-90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed. A potential area we will focus attention on is when asked if parents/guardians feel their opinions and concerns were given proper attention by school leadership, even if they may not always agree with the decision. In this case 79% of parents at both elementary and secondary indicated they agree or strongly agree.

**Safety and Security** – When asked about the safety and security of the schools in Elizabeth School District, parents and guardians repeatedly responded with high levels of support. When asked if their child feels safe at school, 90% of secondary parents/guardians and 94% of elementary parents/guardians agreed or strongly agreed. When

asked if safety measures at their child's school were adequate, 86% of secondary and 83% of elementary parents and guardians agreed or strongly agreed. Although we are encouraged by these numbers, we believe that we need to continue to focus on improving. Additionally, parents and guardians responded that they would like more attention to supporting students when they are being bullied at school.

**Operations** – Parents and guardians reported high levels of support for grounds and facilities being cleaned with both elementary and secondary reporting 95% agreed or strongly agreed. Likewise, both elementary and secondary parents/guardians reported 91% agree or strongly agree that students have adequate technology. Parents/guardians indicated that they agree and strongly agree, 83% secondary and 86% elementary, that the district provides safe and adequate transportation. However, comments indicated parents and guardians would like to see expanded routes and decreased occupancy on buses.

**Strengths** – Results indicated that parents and guardians reported similar strengths across Elizabeth School District. The most common responses included a small district community, the teachers and staff, and school leadership as the greatest strengths of the district.

**Needs** – Results indicated that parents and guardians reported similar needs across Elizabeth School District. The most common responses included increased teacher retention, teacher development, and improvements to facilities were identified as some of the greatest needs of the district.

Additionally, when asked to rate their school and the district on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was lowest and 5 was highest, parents and guardians rated both their school and the district with a 4 out of 5 on average. This indicates Elizabeth School District is in a wonderful place and can focus on some specific areas to improve in the future. On behalf of the Elizabeth School District DAC, we wanted to thank everyone for the time they took to respond to the survey. This feedback will be analyzed with staff feedback to provide the Board of Education with an annual report in March, which will aid in making recommendations for budget priorities.

A full summary of the results can be viewed at <https://www.elizabethschooldistrict.org/Page/3450>

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shannon Fonte, Parent and DAC Co-Chair

Mrs. Wendy Church, Parent and DAC Co-Chair

Dr. William Dallas, Interim Superintendent of Elizabeth School District