

Exchange Summary

Jonathan Konrad, Sturgeon School Division No. 24
April 8, 2021

What are the most important things that Sturgeon Public Schools are doing or should consider doing to improve student achievement in our schools next year?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



566

Participants



520

Thoughts



5,886


Ratings



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation

Please choose the grade level your thoughts are most closely connected to:

%		Answer
1%	(8)	Pre-Kindergarten
6%	(29)	Kindergarten
7%	(37)	Grade 1
7%	(39)	Grade 2
9%	(45)	Grade 3
8%	(41)	Grade 4
8%	(44)	Grade 5
7%	(39)	Grade 6
10%	(52)	Grade 7
8%	(41)	Grade 8
4%	(20)	Grade 9
6%	(29)	Grade 10
5%	(24)	Grade 11
4%	(23)	Grade 12
10%	(52)	n/a



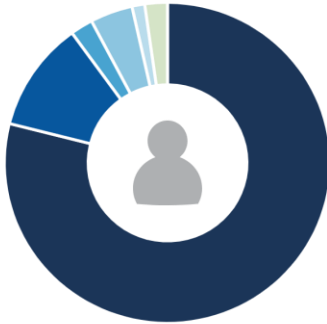









PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



What best describes your role within your school community?



%		Answer
80%	(411)	 Parent or Guardian
11%	(59)	 Teacher
2%	(9)	 Educational Assistant
4%	(19)	 Administration
1%	(8)	 Other Staff
2%	(9)	 Community Member



WORDCLOUD
Top Rated





THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Menta Health for Teachers Teachers need healthy bodies and minds to help support our students. It's challenging to pour from an empty cup.

4.4 ★★★★★ (14 👤)
Ranked #1 of 520

Promoting a well-rounded approach to education such as community projects, wellness activities, outdoor classroom, etc. This helps engage students in their learning and builds a connection to our community.

4.3 ★★★★★ (23 👤)
Ranked #2 of 520

Give teachers more support. Students are at so many different levels and need extra help to help all students succeed.

4.3 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
Ranked #3 of 520

The class sizes ensure each child gets the assistance they need. A very positive environment where each child is encouraged to blossom. Elementary teachers play a huge role in shaping how our kids feel about learning for the rest of their lives. I appreciate the our teachers.

4.3 ★★★★★ (20 👤)
Ranked #4 of 520

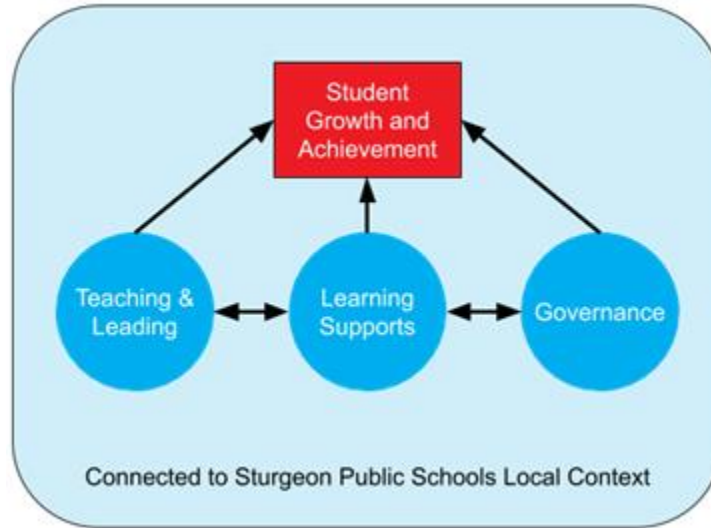
Adequate communication with parents to ensure parents know when there are project due. Or if a student is struggling with a concepts. If support and time is not available in class, parents can step up and help at home or get extra help outside school.

4.3 ★★★★★ (19 👤)
Ranked #5 of 520



Assurance Domains

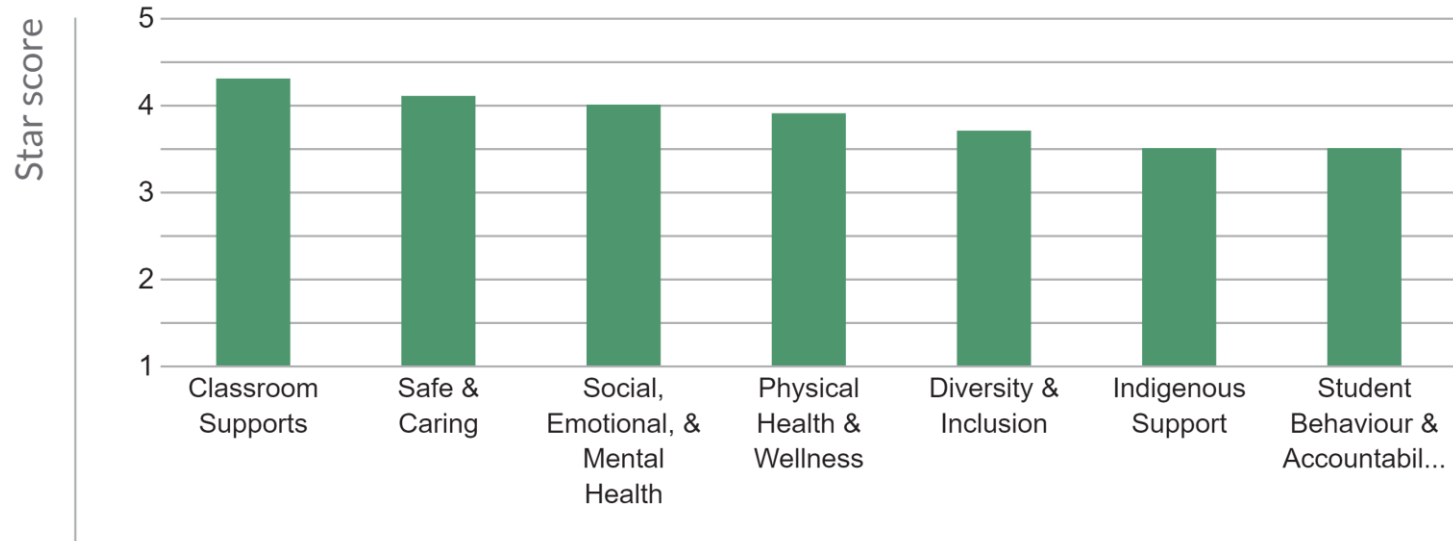
Thoughts were organized into the five Alberta Education Assurance Domains
Then themes were recognized within each domain and ranked.





LEARNING SUPPORTS

Top Themes by star score



Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Classroom Supports



Give teachers more support. Students are at so many different levels and need extra help to help all students succeed.

4.3 ★★★★★ (21 👤)

Opportunities for students who are below grade level to get extra support from a support teacher or EA Having a small groups work on individual needs is beneficial to student learning.

4.3 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Additional Supports This will ensure all students are reached in large classes of 28+ students with 6+ IPPs/LPs/Behavioural Plans

4.3 ★★★★★ (15 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Safe & Caring



The class sizes ensure each child gets the assistance they need. A very positive environment where each child is encouraged to blossom. Elementary teachers play a huge role in shaping how our kids feel about learning for the rest of their lives. I appreciate the our teachers.

4.3 ★★★★★ (20 👤)

During covid the school has gone above and beyond with their teaching whether it be online or in person It's important for kids to feel safe in their learning environment and to know their teacher(s) are looking out for them.

4.2 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

SPS continues to have caring staff that are dedicated to working with their students to be successful. Relationships with students, getting to know their strengths and areas of need, and knowing how to work with students at their needs is crucial.

4.2 ★★★★★ (8 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Social, Emotional, & Mental Health



More inclusivity & mental health check in's needs to remain on the forefront even more through this pandemic. Mental Health is declining in young students and not only are teachers,parents burnt out but students are lost.

4.3 ★★★★★ (15 👤)

I think it important to highlight mental health in our school Now more than every student needs the mental health support and strategies to build their resiliency for now and the future

4.1 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

When planning classes for next year I believe it will be important to consider placing friend groups in the same class cohort. The mental health of our children is fragile, especially now, and having the comfort of a few good friends in their cohort is important.

4.1 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Physical Health & Wellness



Get outside It's safer and great for kids to move freely

4.1 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

School Sports students need school sports to be able to release energy

4.1 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

More time spent outside Fresh air and less time in front of screens

4.0 ★★★★★ (23 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Diversity & Inclusion



- Diverse needs** The children need more EA support in the classroom especially those with diverse needs. They also need more support from the CLT to meet their goals 4.1 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
- Anti-Racism Education** In a rural, majority-white district, it can be difficult for BIPOC students who face prejudice and bullying in schools every day. We could do more 3.8 ★★★★★ (13 👤)
- Inclusion matters** Inclusion promotes mental health by building relationships,creating safe environments,connection&building confidence.Confidence builds preformance. 3.8 ★★★★★ (13 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Indigenous Support



First Nation, Métis, and Inuit supports Indigenous students tend to achieve below white students, and the Indigenous community has hesitancy about Eurocentric public education.

3.8 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

Indigenous Education Following the TQS for inclusion of FNMI content into curriculum is an important part of truth and reconciliation

3.1 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



THOUGHTS

Theme: Student Behaviour & Accountability



Make students more accountable Because that's how life works

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)

I think that having students being more accountable for having their assignments handed in on time. I think students should be held accountable daily to show what they accomplished in the block rather than doing nothing.

3.8 ★★★★★ (7 👤)

I believe cell phones are distracting many students with social media and gaming during the day, and should not be allowed in our school buildings. Phones are often a source of cyber bullying. Gaming distracts students during instruction and impedes appropriate class participation.

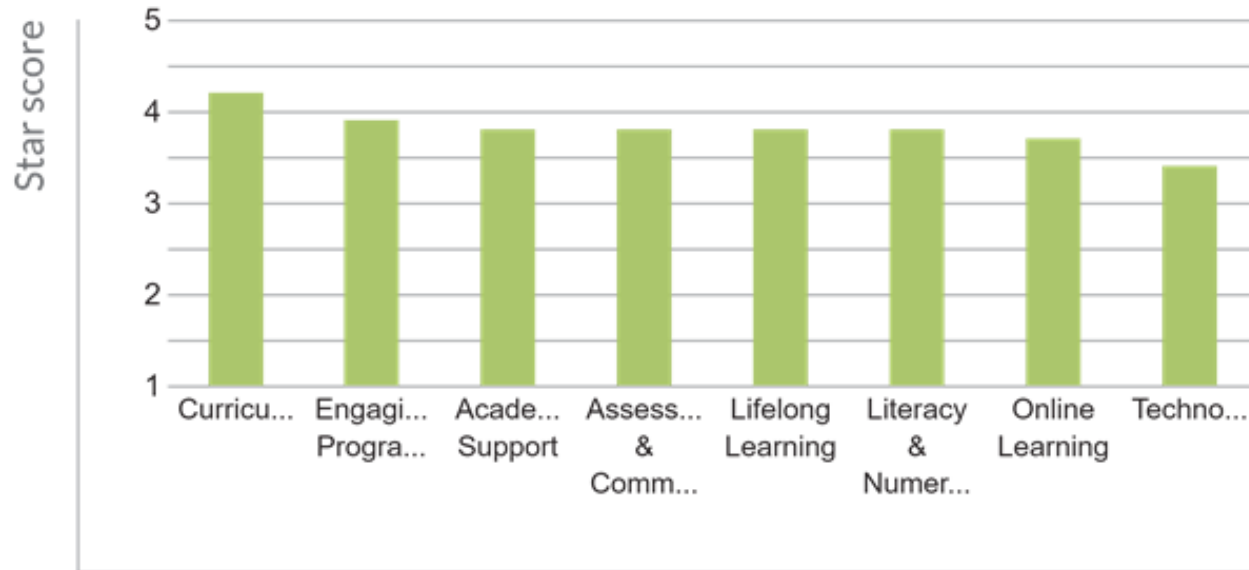
3.7 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

Domain:
Learning
Supports



STUDENT GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT

Top Themes by star score



Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Curriculum



Not participating in the curriculum pilot was a wise decision. This would have been an added stress on students, parents and teachers that was unnecessary.

4.3 ★★★★★ (15 👤)

Schools should not be imposing political ideologies at primary and elementary grade levels. Children should be taught the 4 core subjects of math, english, science, and social studies (history/geography) without a political bias.

4.1 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

I think the curriculum should be child-appropriate. It is important to ensure that our children's minds are not traumatized or skewed by developmentally inappropriate materials.

4.1 ★★★★★ (15 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Engaging Programming



I love that Namao School spends time outdoors. It was a thing pre COVID with walks, run-athons, lose parts play ground. Now with increased regulations or restrictions the children get to spend more time outdoor with gym classes, and regular classes expanding out doors

4.3 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

Stick to strong academic principles. Provide innovative programs. Create a strong community environment.

4.3 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

Hands on learning opportunities and projects Engaging for students

4.3 ★★★★★ (13 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Academic Support



Need more help for kids that are on the cusp of failing Success is important for all

4.1 ★★★★★ (13 👤)

Extra help for my child.

3.9 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

More support for kids I would like to see more support for kids who are struggling with reading and numeracy, like small groups with a teacher where they learn basic skills

3.8 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Assessment & Communication



Adequate communication with parents to ensure parents know when there are project due. Or if a student is struggling with a concepts. If support and time is not available in class, parents can step up and help at home or get extra help outside school.

4.3 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

More access for parents since Covid has been a good thing Prior to closures/online learning I only had a vague idea what my child was learning. Now I can access my child's work online & make sure it's done.

4.2 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

communication with home keep parents connected to what's happening at school

4.0 ★★★★★ (21 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Lifelong Learning



Better prepare students for University The difference in the workload between a high school student and a university student is astronomical! My daughter was completely overwhelmed

4.1  (23 )

CTF courses designed to help students grow their own passions Develop life long learners

4.0  (13 )

Students should have more career exploration. Helps motivate them to do well in class when they have a goal or purpose. Having career insight allows them to see the means to an end!

3.9  (14 )

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Literacy & Numeracy



- Provide targeted interventions for literacy instruction.** Students that are far below grade level in their reading and writing need additional support to enable them the opportunity to catch up to grade level 4.1 ★★★★★ (22 👤)
- Guided math** learning math through centres and games 4.1 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
- Help students become strong readers as soon as possible** Because this sets kids up for success. 4.0 ★★★★★ (23 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Online Learning



SPS has provided great options for learners unable to be in a regular classroom. This is important because these options may fit a learner or family better than more traditional options.

4.1 ★★★★★ (8 👤)

I feel one important thing Sturgeon School Division is taking care of student learning through synchronous online learning platform. This is important as it helps to keep students on track, attending and staying on top of their learning day by day.

4.1 ★★★★★ (7 👤)

For some of my children this online form has been an eye opener in understanding what type of learners they are. My children having the ability to learn in a quiet environment, less noise and distraction. Their mental and physical health greatly improved

4.0 ★★★★★ (7 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



THOUGHTS

Theme: Technology



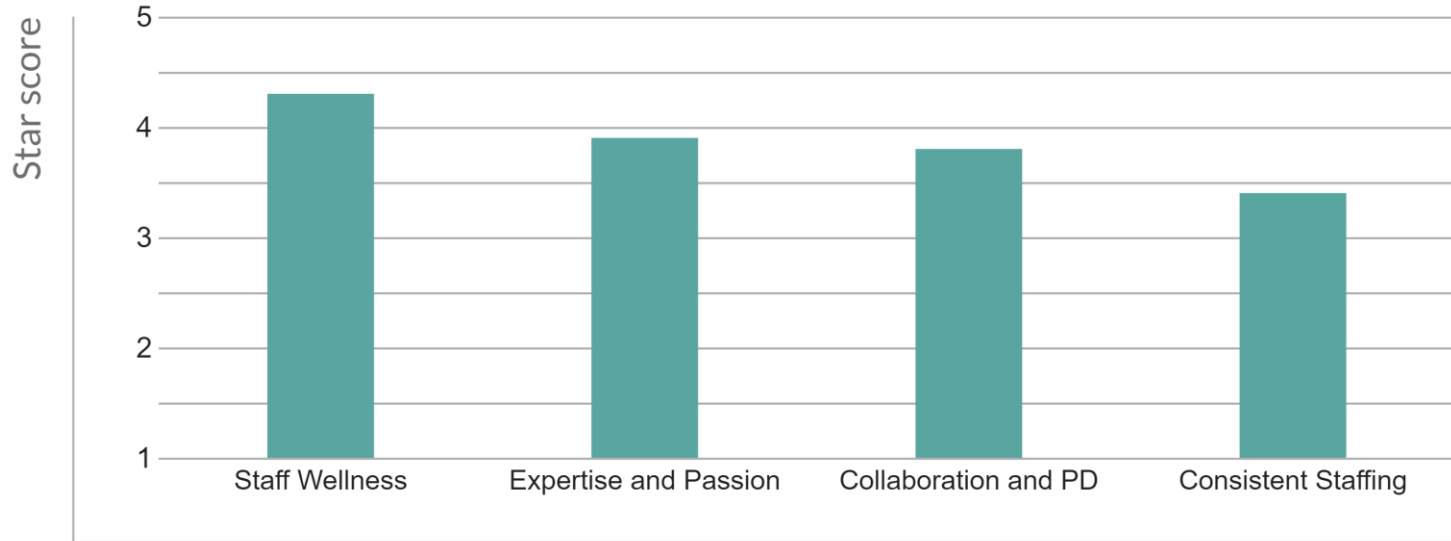
- Technology Reliability** Technology needs to work well and efficiently if it is going to be an asset. We can't be trouble shooting problems in the middle of class. 4.3 ★★★★★ (15 👤)
- Chromebooks** Especially this year it was important to have technology easily accessible for students. We are almost at a 1:1 ratio for our population. 3.9 ★★★★★ (13 👤)
- Promethean boards are out of date and quickly dying.** We appreciate the support and plan in replacing and updating tech in the classrooms so that students can see and hear the material being presented. 3.9 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

Domain:
Student Achievement



TEACHING & LEADING

Top Themes by star score



Domain:
Teaching and
Leading



THOUGHTS

Teaching & Leading / Staff Wellness



- Menta Health for Teachers** Teachers need healthy bodies and minds to help support our students. It's challenging to pour from an empty cup. 4.4 ★★★★★ (14 👤)
- Staff and support team wellness should be at the top of the list of priorities for the division.** Teachers and support staff are the only constant part of the equation for student achievement. Well cared for staff will lead to student achievement. 4.2 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
- If you want student achievement, start by taking care of your teachers. If you do this, the students will succeed.** Teacher burnout, cutbacks, lack of support, and a lack of respect all add up to stress, illness, and teachers thinking about leaving the profession. 4.1 ★★★★★ (10 👤)



Domain:
Teaching and
Leading



THOUGHTS

Theme: Expertise and Passion



Ensuring teachers that have both expertise and passion for the subject are teaching the subject. It's awesome to hear my child come home and share stories that show the teacher's passion for the subject. It makes kids more engaged

4.1 ★★★★★ (10 👤)

Train, support, and maintain quality staff.

3.8 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

They should hire fresh new teachers who want to teach. Those teachers who have a lower grade average overall due to lack of teaching should retire. It's important for students overall.

3.2 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

Domain:
Teaching and
Leading



THOUGHTS

Teaching & Leading / Collaboration and PD



collaboration between teachers improves teaching and learning in the classroom

3.9 ★★★★★ (10 👤)

Staff work very well together - there is lots of collaboration and sharing of assignments and units. Sharing is a part of learning and being a team player. These are skills that can be applied to future grades and later, jobs.

3.9 ★★★★★ (8 👤)

Self-assess regularly Some things are going to work beautifully and some things are not. Be open to that. Strive to improve, modify, add to, change as needed.

3.8 ★★★★★ (8 👤)



Domain:
Teaching and
Leading



THOUGHTS

Theme: Consistent Staffing



- Consistency** Consistency of staff is important to achievement. The board needs to stop shuffling administrators between schools **3.8** ★★★★★ (10 👤)
- Continuity of administration in schools.** Turn over every year is stressful for students and staff. It does not create a positive atmosphere when everyone is waiting for the next change **3.5** ★★★★★ (8 👤)
- Maintain the staff currently in our Headstart Program** The team working at Ochre Park are absolutely the reason I have seen so much improvement in my son's speech and social skills. **3.2** ★★★★★ (6 👤)

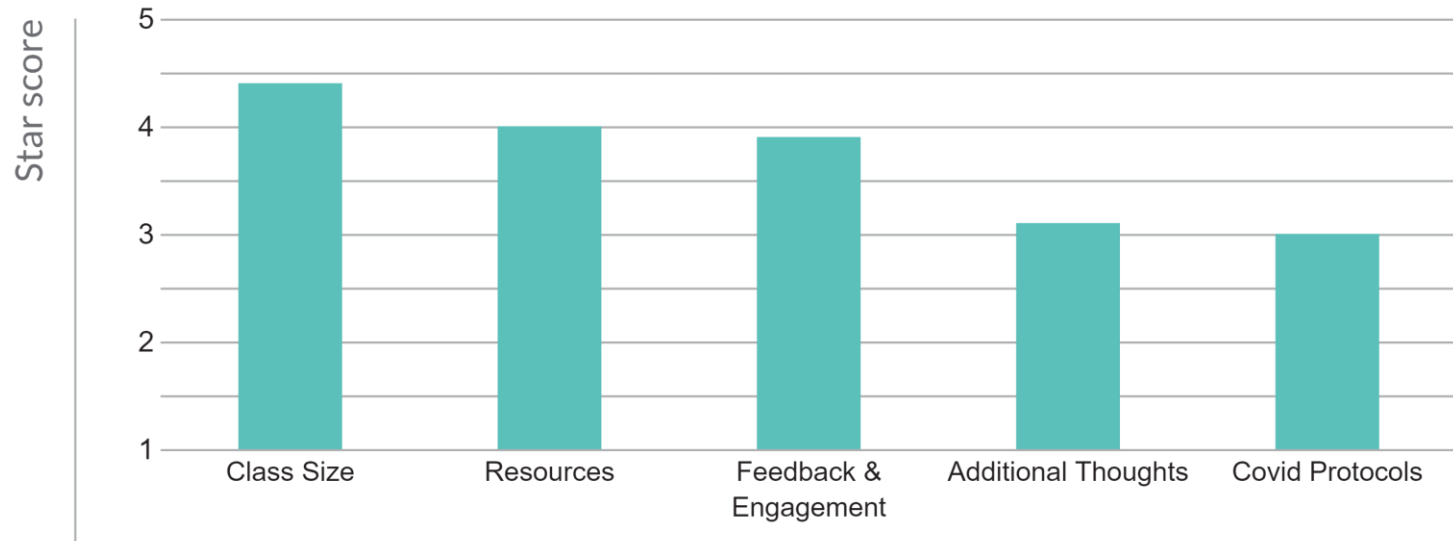


Domain:
Teaching and
Leading



GOVERNANCE

Top Themes by star score



Domain:
Governance



THOUGHTS

Theme: Class Size



Keep kids classes at manageable sizes so teachers can properly assess the students.

Students will slip through the cracks if concept understanding is not checked.

4.3 ★★★★★ (18 👤)

Small class sizes. Teachers cannot provide additional supports to students when there are 30 students in a class. It is also impossible to maintain social distancing.

4.3 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

Small class sizes continued Large class sizes result in cluttered classroom environments which does not facilitate learning and is overwhelming for students.

4.2 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

Domain:
Governance



THOUGHTS

Theme: Resources



Focus should be in classroom, not cutting budgets. Public school is for the kids, and the people who teach them. Take care of our teachers, and they Will take care of our kids.

4.2 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

More money for help, for all staff from EA'S , office staff to the custodians, they are the slaves who work hard and are not paid for it enough !!! Those staff do it all those schools would not run without them, they go above and beyond what there job descriptions are and they are taken advantage

4.1 ★★★★★ (13 👤)

Providing more access to resources and ideas to help with students achievement success. When teacher's have access to good resources it makes it easier for them to plan and have a students learning more knowledge.

4.0 ★★★★★ (15 👤)





THOUGHTS

Theme: Feedback & Engagement



Thank you for asking for parental feedback! Nothing is more important to me than my child's education: these are her stepping stones for the future. I appreciate you asking for our comments:)

4.2 ★★★★★ (11 👤)

Requesting Teacher Feedback It would be beneficial to the students if teachers were able to provide meaningful feedback (like this!) to improve future years.

3.9 ★★★★★ (15 👤)

Thanks for inviting [dialogue.it](#)'s appreciated. It's important to be able to discuss these things openly, rationally and critically.

3.6 ★★★★★ (6 👤)





THOUGHTS

Theme: Additional Thoughts



SSD should continue to provide transportation services to rural students who have attended Sturgeon Public Schools their entire student lives. Many will have no option but to uproot our children from the only community and peers they've ever known, AND while experiencing a pandemic. Disgusting

3.4 ★★☆☆☆ (2 👤)

Focus on general ideas instead of ideology in school. I think it's important that kids learn how to think rather than what to think. I think that teaching kids this will help them.

3.3 ★★☆☆☆ (3 👤)

Improve ranking Fraser Institute: EMPS was rated 2.8/10 vs Camilla which was 7.4/10. EMPS has had a downward trend for several years

3.1 ★★☆☆☆ (12 👤)



Domain:
Governance



THOUGHTS

Theme: Covid Protocols



A thoughtful, well laid out, well executed plan to begin the the year! A superb job handling tracing and cases. Excellent communication. Helped with determining our family direction.

3.8  (12 )

When a classroom is isolated, siblings who go into isolation should be offered the same learning opportunities as the isolated class. When siblings are kept home, to prevent potential spread to other classrooms, they are not given equal education, and aren't marked as self-isolated.

3.5  (16 )

Find ways to allow for activities and events for the kids around potential restrictions

With everything else so restricted there it would be nice if there were options for clubs during lunch (lego,dance, art, etc)

3.5  (6 )

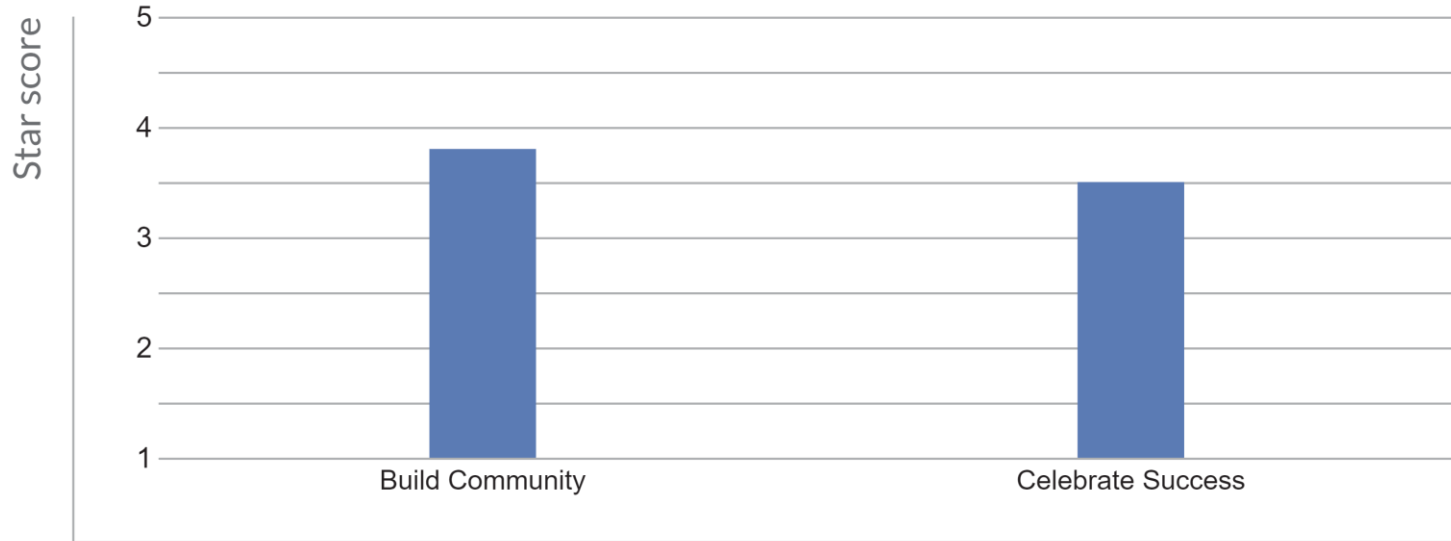


Domain:
Governance



LOCAL & SOCIETAL CONTEXT

Top Themes by star score



Domain:
Local & Societal



THOUGHTS

Theme: Build Community



Promoting a well-rounded approach to education such as community projects, wellness activities, outdoor classroom, etc. This helps engage students in their learning and builds a connection to our community.

4.3  (23 )

I think it is important to allow parent volunteers, student teachers and practicum students into the schools to help the teachers. Especially in light of a reduction of teaching staff, an increase in students per class, and budget cuts. The schools and teachers need all the help they can get

4.1  (13 )

Community Connections allows students to feel a part of something bigger than just their home or there school, that they can all be connected in some way

3.7  (14 )

Domain:
Local & Societal



THOUGHTS

Theme: Celebrate Success



Celebrate student GROWTH Each child grows and develops at a different rate. We need to celebrate learner growth, not just "grades"

4.0 ★★★★★ (18 👤)

Celebrate ALL learning styles and successes Student achievement isn't simply receiving high marks in the core subjects. We need to celebrate the arts, STEAM, creativity, etc.

3.9 ★★★★★ (18 👤)

Rewards and recognition for effort and improvement . Not all kids will be able to achieve a certain academic standard, however, everyone is capable of improvement and this should be celebrated.

3.8 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Domain:
Local & Societal



WRAP UP
Next Steps

Thanks for participating

