

# NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168



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February 19, 2016

(Summary was requested by Steele County Times who was not present at the 2-16-16 Board Meeting)

The School District's strategic planning work is off to a great start thanks to more than 500 respondents who completed the School Board's survey in January. The survey results will provide important data and information to be used in developing a revised strategic plan for the School District including facility planning.

Of the 509 respondents, 26% represented employees in the School District. 48% of all respondents have children currently attending one or both schools in the School District. At the February 16, 2016, School Board meeting, Sue Peterson from School Perceptions presented a summary of the survey data to the School Board. While a more detailed data analysis will be reserved for the work of the Strategic Planning consultants and the District Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, a few general findings from the survey results include:

- 90% of respondents rate the School District's overall academic performance equal or better when compared to neighboring school districts
- 40% respondents rated the District's facilities as better or much better when compared to neighboring districts
- Preferred means of communication by parents included e-mail, school website, school and District newsletters, the local newspaper, and automated phone notification
- Preferred means of communication by non-parents included the local newspaper, school and District newsletters, and the school website
- 84% of parents believe the District is effective in providing timely and meaningful information compared to 68% of non-parents, although almost 20% of non-parents responded with No Opinion
- 84% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied overall with the School District

When examining how well the School District is doing in a number of areas ranging from curriculum and instructional delivery to being fiscally responsible with resources; employees, parents and non-parents identified Technology, Safety, and Delivering a High-Quality Educational Experience for students as strength areas.

When asked to identify what one believes should be the School District's highest priorities in order to provide a quality education for all students, respondents identified the following:

- Preparing students for life after high school including college and/or career
- Recruiting and retaining high-quality staff
- Maintaining small class sizes
- Increasing student achievement in literacy
- Maintaining and/or improving school facilities

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of importance and how well the School District is doing in a number of curricular and skill areas. When comparing the difference between the level of importance

***Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent***

***David A. Bunn, High School Principal***

***Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal***

with how the District is doing in each area, a “gap analysis” was calculated which provides the District with an indicator of what the respondents believe are areas the School District should prioritize and target for improvement. Preparing students for after high school including college and career readiness; critical thinking & problem solving skills; communication skills, personal finance, and reading/writing showed the greatest gaps between what is believed to be most important and how the School District is doing.

The survey asked several questions about the facility needs of the School District as the School Board is interested in learning more about the response by voters that resulted in the unsuccessful referendum in June 2015. 37% of the respondents had supported the referendum, 41% did not support the referendum, and 22% of respondents did not vote. The survey results showed:

- Majority of respondents believe the School Board should explore a referendum to update and renovate the schools
- 77% of respondents feel the School District should address facility needs within the next one to five years
- Adding and remodeling classrooms including Science labs, improving school security, and improving air quality through dehumidification were identified as priorities
- Majority of respondents who were not in favor of the June 2015 referendum identified the proposal for a new gymnasium and the tax impact as important to their decision

The School Board would like to thank those who responded to the survey. The data will be extremely helpful to the strategic planning process and ongoing planning to address facility needs.