

# 2013-14 SY Operating Budget Development: Staff Feedback and On-Line Survey

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The Olympia School District Board of Directors requested staff input conversations and a public on-line survey to assist in understanding staff and community priorities as they consider development of the 2013-14 SY operating budget. The full report is available on-line, and contains summaries of conversations by school staff and results of an on-line survey that attracted over 1,000 respondents. This one-page summary distills both sets of results.

## *School Conversation Feedback Summaries*

Schools held a voluntary meeting to discuss staff priorities as we look ahead to the upcoming year. Specifically, staff were asked to answer:

- What aspects of school operations and student support do we value the most?
- What system (school, level, operations or staffing) enhancements will best contribute to the mission?

The conversations were intended to be unstructured. Several themes were common across the elementary, middle and high school level. Below is a short summary of these themes.

### **Focus on students that need additional supports in order to raise achievement:**

Focus on interventions in the early years (including free full-day kindergarten) and on schools with high numbers of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch (FRPL), lower class sizes (including for PE and music), and restore staffing cuts that still remain for the middle and high schools. Alternative learning schedules and designs were requested for high school students.

**Focus on mental and emotional health and nursing care:** Staff requested enhanced mental health supports for students; some conversations focused on counseling and social supports. Enhancements in counseling staff were requested to help ensure that current counselors can focus more on student emotional health, and less on tracking graduation requirements. Nurses were identified as a priority, as many schools have nurse coverage for only a few hours per week.

**Staff development:** It was highlighted in several school conversations as a priority, but there does not seem to be consensus about the form of the staff development. One school noted that centrally-delivered content was desirable, another requested more time with colleagues for collaboration. Late starts vs. early releases were a topic of debate. Other schools requested more instructional coach time.

**Bell schedules:** One school requested that the bell schedule be returned to the 2011-12 schedule. Another school requested that the current bell schedule be retained (7:45 a.m. start time). A third school requested that start times be standardized; which would essentially restore the 2011-12 schedule. One school asked that bell schedules be revisited to permit night school at the high school level, and for better coordination for students that pursue educational options (IB, music, running start, New Market Skills Center).

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**Activities for students:** This was an expressed priority, in several forms. Staff requested debate, CISPUS (outdoor education), extended weight room hours, an activity bus.

## *On-Line Survey Design and Results*

The purpose of the survey is to identify the instructional investment and operational investment priorities of our staff, parents, and community. Two sets of surveys force respondents to choose between two important investments and a natural ranking emerges across 64 questions.

The premise of the survey is that all of these investment items are a worthwhile investment that will improve our delivery of education. All of these options contribute to the district's vision and mission. However, all are not attainable for the 2013-14 school year. By forcing respondents to choose between each item against each of the other items, the School Board will know which items are the highest priorities in our community.

Several topics are purposefully not covered in the survey, largely because other processes drive the district's focus on these items: salary levels, staff development, technology investments, school security cameras, and curricula adoption.

The following tables display the survey results through May 6, 2013. A ranking tie is possible, and does not indicate an error (ties are shaded). Respondents were permitted to self-identify with multiple groups, so responses exceed 100%.

### **Instructional Items**

Number Responded	Percent	Respondent Self-identification	Reduce Elementary Class Size	Invest in At-Risk Students (Counseling, Social Services)	Invest in Music & PE	Restore Secondary Staffing	Invest in Training for Reading, Math, Science	Full-day Kindergarten	Expand Intervention for Struggling Students	Invest in Athletics and Activities	Invest in Elementary Highly Capable
305	23%	Teachers	1	2	4	5	7	3	6	8	9
22	2%	School Administrator	5	1	7	2	4	6	3	8	9
13	1%	Central Office Admin.	<b>4</b>	1	6	5	3	<b>4</b>	2	7	8
21	2%	Operations Staff	2	1	5	4	3	7	6	9	8
146	11%	Other School Staff	2	1	7	3	6	5	4	8	9
846	64%	Parent	1	3	2	5	4	6	7	8	9
84	6%	Student	8	2	3	4	1	6	9	5	7
50	4%	Other	2	3	4	5	1	7	6	8	9
259	20%	Community Member	1	2	4	3	5	6	7	8	9
<b>1,320</b>		<b>All</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>

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### Operations Items

Number Respond	Percent	Respondent Self-identification	School Nurses	Improved Security	Technology Coaches & Technicians	Building Maintenance	Expanded Office Support	Restore Bell Schedules	Improve Grounds Maintenance	New e-mail System
305	23%	Teacher	1	5	2	4	3	6	7	8
22	2%	School Administrator	2	1	5	3	4	8	6	7
13	1%	Central Office Administrator	2	1	5	3	7	6	6	4
21	2%	Operations Staff	4	1	3	2	5	7	6	8
146	11%	Other School Staff	1	2	5	4	3	7	6	8
846	64%	Parent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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The full report can be found on-line at: [http://osd.wednet.edu/media/2013\\_on-line\\_budget\\_survey\\_preliminary\\_4-15-13.pdf](http://osd.wednet.edu/media/2013_on-line_budget_survey_preliminary_4-15-13.pdf). The on-line survey closed May 6.