

# Moorhead Area Public Schools

## Community Survey (Random Sample)

### Full Report

The School Board of Moorhead Area Public Schools commissioned a planning process to assess the current status of the school district and to develop a strategic plan for the district's future. During the past few years the school district has seen many changes, including significant building projects and the implementation of major educational enhancements. This fall, for the first time in over a decade, the school district has experienced growth in student enrollment. Now is a good time to assess where the district has been, where the district is at, and where we would like the district to go in the future.

The school district is using Chainsaw Planning, a bottom-up process that begins with input from the individual stakeholders and moves up to the final strategic plan approved by the School Board. The process is designed to be efficient and allow school districts to focus on continuous improvement efforts.

As a part of that process the district conducted a random survey. Community members were also able to respond to a survey online or request a survey from the Superintendent's Office. The results of the random sample and the self-selected sample are compiled separately. The survey had two basic types of questions. One set of questions asked for community members' perceptions of the school district. The other questions allowed for the sharing of opinions about what the school district is doing or should be doing.

#### Demographics

Total surveys mailed: 2,486

Total respondents: 221

Percentage returned: 8.9%

	Number	Percentage
Parent PK-5	34	15.4%
Parent 6-8	17	7.7%
Parent 9-12	28	12.7%
Parent K-12	38	17.2%
Business Person	15	6.8%
Citizen	32	14.5%
Elected / Appointed Official	6	2.7%
Senior Citizen	42	19.0%
Other	3	1.4%
Demographic Unspecified	6	2.7%

**1. Following is the mission statement of Moorhead Area Public Schools. A well-crafted mission statement should clearly and succinctly describe the primary purpose of the school system.**

*“The mission of the Moorhead School District is to develop the maximum potential of every learner to thrive in a changing world.”*

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Agree	91.0%	97.1%	88.2%	96.4%	86.8%	
Needs revision	4.5%	2.9%	–	3.6%	7.9%	
Other	.5%	–	5.9%	–	–	
No answer	4.1%	–	5.9%	–	5.3%	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	86.7%	93.8%	83.3%	90.5%	100.0%	66.7%
Needs revision	6.7%	3.1%	16.7%	4.8%	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–
No answer	6.7%	3.1%	–	4.8%	–	33.3%

**Suggestions for mission statement revision:**

***Suggestions***

- The mission statement of the Moorhead School District is: “To provide positive learning opportunities for our students from which they may develop their potential and thrive in an ever changing world.”
- The mission of the Moorhead School District is to develop the potential of every learner to thrive as a citizen of a democratic society in a changing world.
- The mission of the Moorhead School District is to teach students about their world and enable them to thrive and impact positive change in their world.
- ...is to assist all learners in developing their maximum potential to contribute to the good of society.
- The mission of the Moorhead Minnesota School District is to develop the maximum educational and moral potential of every learner to thrive in a changing world.

***Statement Wording***

- Statement doesn’t read well.
- Question the word “learner.”
- Change learner to child / young adult.
- “Maximum” is too grandiose.
- “In a changing and challenging world.”
- Why “potential”? Don’t make it an “if,” make it a reality. Use the word “ability” or something else concrete. “Potential” is a cop out if it doesn’t happen.
- “...to thrive in a changing world” sounds too much like to do whatever fits in, not “what is right.”
- Don’t like word “thrive.” Want the schools to teach my kids how to learn and to have a curiosity and to seek knowledge. What they will do to support themselves and family later is a natural branch of them seeking knowledge.

### ***Mission Statement Concepts***

- Needs attention to ethics, democracy and civic responsibility.
- What about character development?
- Shouldn't the focus be on learning?
- It's a good mission statement. Now implement it.
- Needs to be implemented to higher degree.
- The mission statement is good on paper. I question the follow through in practice.
- Is it measurable?
- How old is it?
- Focuses on student instruction - not other community based wants, such as economic development.
- Add create learning to enhance interest of students with special needs / different ethnic diversity.

### ***Academics***

- District should pursue service learning for middle and high school classes.
- Need smaller class sizes.
- I hope the students are being taught to speak English as well as other languages.
- To develop their maximum potential requires an exposure to many areas, not the block program for 9 and 10 grades.
- This is a grand aim but actual practice and the whole testing regime says we are after a "minimum bulk standard."
- Leaders (principals, etc.) also need to change as well as teaching students to thrive. All goals need to be the same with each leader.
- But it should be available in all schools.
- It's OK but does any mission statement really make any difference? It's just PR in my book.
- I feel that teachers also need to change teaching styles to adapt to all students.
- Then you must ensure that your teachers are utilizing teaching methods and practices that enable children to thrive. This isn't always happening.
- I think education is important to make it in this world.
- Resources are tight, so need to be allocated in significant part to the most efficient learners. The school system needs to be mostly in education business.

**2. Moorhead Area Public School District has a good public image.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	75.6%	67.6%	64.7%	82.1%	81.6%	
No	7.2%	11.8%	23.5%	–	7.9%	
Not sure	13.6%	20.6%	11.8%	14.3%	10.5%	
No answer	2.7%	–	–	–	–	
Yes, No	.9%	–	–	3.6%	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	73.3%	65.6%	100.0%	81.0%	100.0%	66.7%
No	6.7%	6.3%	–	4.8%	–	–
Not sure	13.3%	25.0%	–	7.1%	–	–
No answer	6.7%	–	–	7.1%	–	33.3%
Yes, No	–	3.1%	–	–	–	–

**Comments:**

***Class Size***

- Elementary classes too large. – 2 comments
- Class sizes too big. – 2 comments
- Not enough 6th grade sections.
- Need more teachers to support students and district’s commitment.
- Image declining because of large class size.

***Behavior Perceptions***

- Poor image due to behavior problems, bullying, no discipline, racial intolerance. – 4 comments
- Problem with gangs. – 2 comments
- Junior high has a reputation of fighting, drugs and bullying.
- Horizon has achieved bad reputation in dealing with racial intolerance.
- A decade ago the perception was that Moorhead schools had more gang trouble.
- Moorhead has an image of being a “tougher” school than Fargo, DGF and W.F. schools (perhaps from the mid-90s gang shift).
- Middle school has more violence than most / crime and drug use associated to the school.

***Academic and Extracurricular***

- Good academic reputation, educational opportunities. – 2 comments
- Good special education. – 2 comments
- Need equity in all academic areas, especially the arts.
- More publicity needed of students’ accomplishments.
- Positive image especially in certain areas: hockey, orchestra, theater.
- Average to poor on results / academics.

- Strong music and theater opportunities.
- Not enough support from the district for non-athletic programs.
- Our new/remodeled buildings reflect the quality teaching and programming of our schools.
- Good education / environment for gifted/talented.
- Needs of average students not being met (large class sizes).
- Block scheduling is adversely impacting academic success.
- Need full day kindergarten to compete with other schools.

### ***Buildings***

- Proud of new buildings.
- Heard of inappropriate posters at high school.
- Neighbors prefer home schooling or parochial schooling instead of junior high.
- Positive image on the outside.
- Perhaps visiting schools would find it easier to locate entrances if they had proper signage located above north side doors.
- Good image from facilities perspective.
- Parents go to extreme lengths to prevent their children from going to north Moorhead schools (use south Moorhead daycare so north Moorhead children can go to the new school).
- Experience with the elementary school has been good.
- High school has negative image.
- Schools are too big, should have neighborhood schools.
- Good public image to people that look at new buildings but does not necessarily mean a better education; smaller neighborhood schools throughout the city is a better image to most parents.

### ***Staff***

- Have experienced and heard concerns about the teaching staff at the middle school.
- Superintendent is doing a great job and has a good public image.
- Teachers only concerned about certain students.
- Perception is that Minnesota pays teachers better and therefore the better metro teachers teach in Moorhead.

### ***District Perceptions***

- Yes and no. – 3 comments
- Generally good. – 4 comments
- Good image in media, conversations with parents show a poorer perception. – 2 comments
- Upset with way the district handled the new schools.
- A few negative impressions remain.
- Excellent image.
- Even people out of the area (Twin Cities) are impressed.
- Citizens don't pay close attention.
- Image of overspending/wasting money.
- Proud of school district.
- Image has improved over the last 10-15 years.
- Heard comments on the strengths of the system.
- Good image in Moorhead and Minnesota, but Fargo / West Fargo residents don't think as highly of Moorhead Public Schools.
- Can't have positive image when parents are frustrated.
- Maybe our board members and superintendent aren't getting enough photo ops.

- Haven't been here long enough to know for sure.
- It has improved with the ongoing discussions between the schools and the city administrations.
- Fair.
- Heard neither good nor bad things about the district.
- Image is better than it should be.
- Image is that Moorhead Public Schools are dedicated with Minnesota's educational reputation and are willing to spend the \$ needed to best educate our students.
- No children or grandchildren in the system.
- Hear many Moorhead students attend Dilworth, etc. because they have a better school.
- School has changed and curriculum has changed a lot since when I went school.

**3. Overall, the Moorhead Area Public School District performs well academically.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	71.5%	73.5%	64.7%	75.0%	63.2%	
No	3.6%	2.9%	11.8%	3.6%	7.9%	
Not sure	21.3%	23.5%	23.5%	17.9%	28.9%	
No answer	3.6%	–	–	3.6%	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	60.0%	78.1%	83.3%	78.6%	100.0%	33.3%
No	–	–	–	2.4%	–	–
Not sure	40.0%	18.8%	16.7%	9.5%	–	33.3%
No answer	–	3.1%	–	9.5%	–	33.3%

**Comments related to above item:**

**Testing**

- Some groups do not achieve adequate yearly progress. – 2 comments
- Some “no child left behind” issues and minority integration problems.
- With NCLB and AYP requirements increasing, Moorhead is doing a very good job.
- If the results of the student body without the special ed component were publicized it would help.
- Concerns with our Hispanic and special ed. state scores.
- Glad to hear the scores are coming up.
- Smaller area districts perform higher in most key subjects.
- Test scores indicate one thing, but are our students suffering in certain areas due to emphasis on scores? The academic rigor in the district, particularly at the high school, is disturbing.
- Published results show average - poor performance.
- Moorhead doesn't seem to meet standards on MAP tests overall.
- Standardized testing scores look okay.
- Basic math is one area the district needs to improve test scores.
- Standardized test scores, from the MCAs to the ACT and SAT's , show that our students do not perform

well academically. We have a small core group of high achieving students.

- Test scores on paper are improving but how does that compare to practical experience? We teach to the tests.
- Test scores could be a little better.

### ***Academic***

- Performance in written expression is below where it should be.
- Need to stress effective writing skills.
- Concerns about spelling and vocabulary.
- Concern with push for vocabulary building in ineffective ways – vocabulary note cards and lists do not build vocabulary.
- English should be the first language.
- Students need options for functional classes – blue collar occupations.
- Daughter complains about having to do 3 pages notes every night.
- Lots of kids cannot read.
- If you compare Moorhead to other school districts in greater region – they do fairly well – but that is a poor standard. Youth are entering college and workforce without solid skills in the basics – writing, math and ethics (way too much plagiarizing)
- Students are doing well but could be better prepared for the future with greater attention and time.
- Any follow-up of Moorhead High School graduates support the quality of their academic background.

### ***Class Support***

- Excellent teachers. – 2 comments
- Class sizes too big.
- Block scheduling a problem at high school. Student unable to take AP classes because of music.
- Are students and faculty happy with block scheduling?
- Need more aides in elementary classrooms.
- Thanks to some very fine teachers and parents helping their kids with homework. Otherwise it would be doubtful. Not enough individual help and time at school.
- Concern if teachers passing kids because they hand in their work on time and put forth effort.
- Need to get rid of block scheduling.
- Unconscionable load on teachers particularly at the secondary level (i.e. teacher-student ratio).

### ***Differential Learners***

- Do well with motivated students / gifted students. – 2 comments
- Special needs children are given help.
- Average children fall through cracks.
- Yes, especially considering we get the special ed kids from North Dakota because there are more educational and social benefits in Minnesota.
- Maybe publicize the number of AP offerings.
- Have heard (repeatedly) Moorhead does not perform well, except for accelerated classes.
- The school does well with children performing below the curve, but little is done to keep above average pupils progressing at the high speed they crave.
- It seems like some are, but what is happening with those that are falling through the cracks?
- Only because the schools do everything they can to make the “smart” kids even smarter.

### ***General***

- From what I see with my children. – 2 comments

- Minnesota is regarded well overall, but not sure where Moorhead ranks.
- We can do a lot better.
- Administrators and some teachers seem to need additional motivation.
- Good overall, but “well” is subjective.
- I think we do well overall.
- Compared to other schools. Are we satisfied that we perform well for enough of our students?
- It would be nice to hear more about it.
- As far as I know.
- Every time I hear a story on the national media about crises or problems in many other school districts I am thankful for the opportunities our children have had in the Moorhead Public School system.
- For the most part, but it is confusing when we get reports in the paper grading schools.
- Perception that it is a strong academic school.
- Could be even more rigorous.
- Keep it up!
- Impressive that the majority of graduates continue to further education.
- Seems to do well but no first hand experience in recent years.
- We hear different things about how some students, like athletes, are up for awards for their excellence.

**4. Overall, the Moorhead Area Public School District provides students appropriate opportunities in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	71.5%	64.7%	82.3%	60.7%	81.6%	
No	9.0%	2.9%	17.6%	25.0%	7.9%	
Not sure	13.1%	23.5%	–	10.7%	7.9%	
No answer	4.5%	2.9%	–	3.6%	–	
Yes, No	.9%	–	–	–	2.6%	
No, Not sure	.5%	2.9%	–	–	–	
Yes, Not sure	.5%	2.9%	–	–	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	86.7%	75.0%	83.3%	59.5%	100.0%	66.7%
No	–	6.3%	16.7%	7.1%	–	–
Not sure	13.3%	12.5%	–	21.4%	–	–
No answer	–	3.1%	–	11.9%	–	33.3%
Yes, No	–	3.1%	–	–	–	–
No, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–
Yes, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–



## **Comments related to above item:**

### ***Arts***

- Provides exceptionally fine opportunities in drama, music, athletics and others also. – 2 comments
- Especially impressed with the music and theater programs.
- Music and art/theater are getting the attention and money they deserve.
- It would be nice if there was more funding for the arts, music and theatre departments as opposed to the sports departments.
- Results of the non-athletic activities always need more directed publicity.
- Block scheduling does not allow students to take the courses or co-curriculars (choir) they need,
- Horizon Middle School has so many more facilities for sports and no adequate theater facility.
- Orchestra, band, vocal music, theatre arts are all very strong in town.
- More integration – perhaps when Trollwood moves to Moorhead there will be an opportunity to offer more for students – i.e. year round arts ed.
- Block Scheduling is making it hard for students trying to participate in more than one music program (band, choir, orchestra) and get all the other requirements in.

### ***Athletics***

- Excessive emphasis on athletics and spending for them.
- Everything is sports related.
- Over-emphasis on funding for sports while lack of support for academics. Ex: coach bus for hockey and b-ball teams but poor funding for forensics team and no transportation for Spanish Immersion program.
- Too much is spent on sports. The people that play sports should pay for it, not everybody.
- I believe the Arts (music, etc.) are taking a back seat to sports. Sports are very expensive and is it necessary for the sport teams to be funded so heavily.
- Reduce emphasis on sports
- Some sports over funded, others receive none to little, rules not the same for all.

### ***Opportunities for All Students***

- Need more opportunities for students who like sports / arts but are not the most gifted in those areas. – 2 comments
- Many students want to play football, but the same students play both sides – why?
- More opportunities need to be provided that allow participation regardless of talent, i.e. sports programs at Horizon that included everyone of all talents should be provided at the high school.
- Love the addition of the intramural sports that are just for fun, not school “varsity or JV.” ex. Dodge Ball – 2 comments
- Only a few “chosen” seem to be involved.
- Many more students interested in participating than space available for many sports and enrichment activities.
- Needs to provide all students equal opportunity in extra curriculars?
- All kids should have a chance.
- Certainly for the talented. Not sure for those who “don’t make the team.”
- Extracurricular activities (i.e. school sports , Jr Great Books) are too limiting – not provided to enough children – always the same groups of kids that are given the opportunity to excel.
- Encourage participation by – even recruit – minority students.
- The “opportunities” are provided but participation is selectively limited to a handful of talented students.
- Too large now, too many don’t get to participate in high school sports.
- Those students who do not attend public school are not allowed to participate – per my conversation with athletic director – even though we pay taxes.

### ***Suggestions***

- Competitive sports should start earlier than 7th grade / available to 6th graders. – 2 comments
- Need soccer at Horizon.
- Need more opportunities at the middle school level especially 6th and 7th grade.
- Early Childhood Special Education students (particularly ages 3-5) need more opportunities for inclusion.
- Graduating students need to have more exposure to careers – job shadowing, career counseling.
- I think we could supply more if the high school had the current hours of the middle school.
- More opportunities for students other than athletics are needed. After school film and computer clubs are of interest to students.

### ***General Perceptions***

- Exceeds opportunities in neighboring districts.
- District excels in this area.
- Moorhead has a strong tradition of helping students understand the benefits of being involved!
- Basic education should be the number one issue. Extracurricular is important but we in Moorhead put too much money into it.
- At times this tends to be over-emphasized.
- Our 4 children have participated in a wide range of extracurricular activities, from theater/speech, to sports, to academics to clubs, and we have always appreciated that, as different as our children are from each other, they have all had wonderful opportunities and choices in their extracurricular activities.
- Sports offerings good, music excellent, other clubs and activities good (Knowledge Bowl, Writing, Newspaper, Debate, etc.).
- We have found some great opportunities for our kids with musical and athletic talents.
- Opportunities are provided.
- Opportunities and programs great!
- Limited afterschool activities.
- Extra-curricular programs ranging from sports, music, arts and especially drama are excellent.
- Enrollment size and geographic location puts much pressure and expense on travel needed to get appropriate competition for participants.
- I have found the scholarship programs quite useful for my own children.
- Maybe we offer too many especially if membership is below ten for example, gymnastics.
- Limit afterschool transportation.
- Yes, esp. at the elementary and middle school level.
- Yes, if you have the money to pay.
- Some programs are not run to provide a good experience.
- Some students do not feel they can afford to participate due to the amount of homework given.
- I was in after school gym when I was in elementary.
- Several extra and co-curricular activities overlap and students need to make a difficult choice between two or three activities – missing an opportunity for growth in other areas.
- We don't have personal experience yet, but my impression is good.
- Kids are not school age yet.
- My daughter is a 2nd grader, and hasn't been in many extra activities.
- Extremely well done.
- Sometimes I think too much emphasis is put on extracurricular activities – especially those that require after school and Saturday participation – leaving no times for family meals together which is so important.

**5. Overall, the Moorhead Area Public School District operates efficiently.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	48.0%	47.1%	70.6%	39.3%	44.7%	
No	12.7%	11.8%	17.6%	10.7%	13.2%	
Not sure	34.4%	41.2%	11.8%	42.9%	39.5%	
No answer	4.5%	–	–	7.1%	–	
Yes, No	.5%	–	–	–	2.6%	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	60.0%	37.5%	66.7%	52.4%	66.7%	16.7%
No	13.3%	15.6%	16.7%	7.1%	–	33.3%
Not sure	26.7%	37.5%	16.7%	31.0%	33.3%	33.3%
No answer	–	9.4%	–	9.5%	–	16.7%
Yes, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–

**Comments related to above item:**

***Class and Program Support***

- Need smaller class sizes. – 4 comments
- Large class sizes, from elementary to the high school. Not efficient for students!
- Need more focus on early childhood and elementary. Brains are being developed early!
- Improvements have been made to decrease the bottom line negatively affecting classroom size.
- Block scheduling – not efficient!
- Do not like new block schedule. Kids cannot get into classes – if AP cannot get into vocal.
- They should look at the violence between students and do something about it. More than detention. Kids need to look at themselves and not blame everything on their parents and teachers.
- Again all leaders need to be on the same page especially when dealing with discipline issues.
- When children are pulled from classes to form new classes and teachers seem to be needed from one year and not the next – that doesn't seem efficient.
- Late start on Wed. so that teachers / administrators could meet and plan is waste of academic learning time. Operating efficiently would include using all available instructional time effectively.
- Inefficient to hire substitute teachers so that teachers can hold planning meetings during instructional time.
- Not sure because of an overbalance in special ed at the expense of regular classroom teachers.
- There is far too high a teacher absentee rate.
- Too much busing, busing is a lot worse then it should be because of the new south elementary school is on the wrong side of the highway (poor planning).
- Too much money spent on sports.
- Too much of a different between what is spent on sports vs. what is spent on music or academics. What lasts a lifetime isn't sports.
- Could provide more bus routes for children.

- I called in and asked why a K student was not being picked up on time. The secretary told me there should be no reason why the bus would be late today. The bus company called me back and said K classes were not being held that day. The bus comp. was right. The school sec. was wrong.
- Money wasted on buses, gas, unnecessary big fancy buildings.
- I think they should go back to when they pick up all students at same time.

### ***Buildings***

- You close existing schools and tax us to build new ones. Bricks and mortar do not provide better education.
- Why not have buildings available after hours (students / classes) for citizens to use – weekends open – summers open and used.
- I think you should go after the original contractors to finish work they didn't complete. Like the floor outlets in Senior High library computer rooms with no wires run to them.
- Spending big dollars for a front entry at George Washington School one year and demolishing the school soon after was not very efficient or wise planning.
- Heard can't heat and cool Horizon with wall of glass. New school should be built efficient to operate not fancy for looks. There was nothing wrong with the old schools.
- Money is spent on frivolous aesthetics and not books.
- I am very disappointed that you used all that money to renovate the district office building instead of putting that money back in the schools. Administrators don't need to have luxury offices.
- Are you operating in the best possible manner and not building new buildings when they could be remodeled with much less tax dollars?

### ***General Spending Perceptions***

- I would need to see some numbers, not enough information to respond. – 4 comments
- There's always room for improvement - ways to improve efficiency. – 3 comments
- I think there is a lot of waste.
- I haven't heard anything in the news about waste of resources or grossly overpaid administration.
- Children have all graduated and have lost day to day contact.
- Even according to the politicized measurement of our governor.
- As I understand, Moorhead operates with one of the lowest per student costs in Minnesota.
- Do not have financial information / detail to know how much spent in classrooms vs. admin vs. operating.
- Don't know all the inner working of the district's financial office but I see waste – in administration, in the buildings themselves, in use of resources. More money does not mean better education. We do not have to follow federal mandates on education – it is purely voluntary (constitution) and eliminating a lot of their programs and paperwork would save a lot in personnel and resources.
- Any extra money needed should come from those attending or families that may attend in the future.
- Appears so.
- We are very happy with our move from Fargo here (to Moorhead).
- It appears to operate efficiently, but there is still a lot of bureaucracy – no change, improvement, initiative can happen quickly.
- As someone who has observed student teachers in the district, I believe the schools operate well given the financial constraints.
- MPS are very well managed.
- Superintendent appears to be a solid leader and advocate for Moorhead.
- Wouldn't have any idea – financial issues/reports are not conveniently available to the public that I know of.

- Major operational inefficiencies by lack of partnering with other organizations. Ex: New soccer fields versus working with city on sharing soccer fields.
- Top heavy salaries for a few. – 2 comments
- Too many administrators paid excessively.
- Too much spent on administration and administration facilities.
- Confident that Board of Education and District Administration would see that this is the case.
- I'm sure there are ways to operate more efficiently, i.e. why are teachers and administrators guaranteed a raise every year that exceeds the CPI?
- The amount of money spent on administration in this district is ludicrous. How much money does the superintendent make? And our School Board? How are they able to justify their raises while our teachers remain underpaid? Everything positive happening in this district is a direct result of our teachers. Yet they continue to watch others get raises while they do all the work. Every time the district needs something they hire a consultant because they can't figure it out themselves. This district throws money at cosmetics – not improving education.
- District should buy office supplies, computer supplies, etc. locally.
- I keep hearing about an imbalance of money being spent.
- I don't follow finances real close but seems to do OK.

**6. Moorhead Area Public School District receives sufficient state aid to adequately support the school system.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	16.3%	14.7%	11.8%	17.9%	10.5%	
No	35.7%	29.4%	52.9%	35.7%	31.6%	
Not sure	44.3%	55.9%	35.3%	42.9%	57.9%	
No answer	3.6%	–	–	3.6%	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	13.3%	34.4%	–	9.5%	33.3%	33.3%
No	40.0%	31.3%	50.0%	40.5%	–	33.3%
Not sure	46.7%	31.3%	50.0%	38.1%	66.7%	16.7%
No answer	–	3.1%	–	11.9%	–	16.7%

**Comments related to above item:**

***Class and Program Support***

- Student activity opportunities are getting too expensive.
- More aid would help lower class size and help the average student.
- Students need books to bring home for their studies and not rely on the Internet.
- More dollars are needed to support students and teachers in achieving district and school goals.
- Teachers need more support in the classroom – paras or others to work with students that don't qualify for special services, but need more support.

- Need more state money so children are not told that education programs are full, even though they are falling behind.
- Caseworkers for IEP students are too busy. Rushed with students and sometimes don't have time to follow through or communicate with classroom teachers.
- Decreased state funding has had a significant impact on staffing.
- Better food choices for kids, no more junk.
- Title I should be available to all schools no matter what.
- All students should be bused to school to prevent kidnapping or other dangerous behavior.
- Need more to reduce class size below 26.
- We need more state funding for all areas of programming.
- I am sure a district could always use more funding to establish additional programs and opportunities.

### ***Legislature and State Funding***

- State aid isn't distributed equally throughout Minnesota. – 2 comments
- MN needs to review where and how they give school aid.
- Legislators should work hard to get more in state aid so our property taxes don't raise.
- Challenge of governor and no new taxes needs to be changed.
- Republicans are the problem – in the statehouse and legislature.
- Has been underfunded to deal with inflation and cut back too much due to Pawlenty and Republican legislative policies re. local gov't aid.
- If Pawlenty did not hate public education, I am sure Moorhead would have had enough funds.
- Apprehensive about state funding in the future. I hope our lawmakers will realize the importance of maintaining support in the future.
- Need to keep the pressure on the state to increase funding per student – needs to keep up with inflation.
- More should be done by school district to encourage parents to contact elected officials about the problems.
- All schools in the state should receive more financial assistance / aid from state coffers.
- The state needs to fund mandated programs adequately.
- I would question both state and federal mandates that lack the financial support for the district to follow through.
- MN has work to do at the state level to increase funding to our education system.
- The state needs to put all the extra revenue into the public school system.
- Local news coverage concerning the upcoming Legislative Session suggest there are many “hands” outstretched. Money from tax revenue always seem to be in short supply. Are “mandated” programs adequately funded?
- State should return more monies to the school system in order for better education to keep up with the rest of the world.
- No increase for state but local taxes raised. Need to for appropriate supports to students and families – needs continue to grow – state funds little or no increases.
- If a public school performs well in standardized testing that school should be given progressively more flexibility by the state to pursue academic excellence.

### ***General Perceptions***

- Don't have enough information, not aware of state aid, district finances and needs. – 7 comments
- Probably not sufficient state aid. – 3 comments
- Increased state aid would enable a possible reduction local school taxes. – 2 comments
- Would assume it does.
- Quit taxing us.

- Any extra support should come from students and/or families of students.
- Do not want taxes I pay to the state to go up if state aid does increase.
- Finances are not a clear picture for me.
- It seems the district is always asking for more aid.
- Cost of materials, utilities, and maintenance will always exceed budgeted support because they are months apart – example cost of fuel!
- Perhaps “a day late and a dollar short” better describes state aid for Moorhead School District #152.
- There is never enough money allocated for children.
- What about grants? West Fargo does great. We do not!
- Seriously, who knows the honest answer to this question?
- I believe Mhd schools spend \$5,000 + per pupil which is a good amount.
- Not a fault of Moorhead. We need more federal \$\$ too.
- Need to manage it more wisely.
- I think that our school district leaders do a great job of using our funds – inadequate as they are – wisely.
- Why did you build new schools without assurance of state help so we have to pay high taxes when not getting the state aid?
- They need more money.

**7. Moorhead Area Public School District receives sufficient local tax revenues to adequately support the school system.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	44.3%	41.2%	41.2%	46.4%	50.0%	
No	10.0%	8.8%	23.5%	7.1%	10.5%	
Not sure	41.6%	50.0%	35.3%	42.9%	39.5%	
No answer	4.1%	–	–	3.6%	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	53.3%	53.1%	33.3%	35.7%	–	50.0%
No	6.7%	3.1%	–	14.3%	–	16.7%
Not sure	40.0%	37.5%	66.7%	38.1%	100.0%	16.7%
No answer	–	6.3%	–	11.9%	–	16.7%

**Comments related to above item:**

***Buildings***

- It provides adequate funding for buildings, but bricks and mortar doesn’t educate kids.
- High school needs upgrades in its science labs but will not receive it, yet our school board sits in a state of the art board room.
- On the basis of new school spending alone - yes!
- See the likelihood of another elementary school. New buildings – SGR seems too full.
- I believe so. We supported an increase in property taxes to fund the district projects, etc.

- School district made its own bed when they pushed through the last building project.
- The referendum passed a few years back.
- We have no problem with the last bond issue, as long as this money is spent wisely and not on unnecessary items.
- Probably not, but the local tax level is difficult to raise, especially since the passage of the bond issue.

### ***Community Support***

- I think that the district can be proud of the Mhd citizen's support of the school district.
- I don't think a single person should be required to support the school system but added taxes / expenses should be shared by those attending school.
- The community seems to place education high on their list of priorities. Again, I hope this continues in the future.
- Would support more local taxes when the bond for the capitol improvements are paid off.
- We would be willing to pay higher taxes to support our school system. Do not assume that senior citizens are opposed to tax increases that are well explained and justified with facts that illustrate needs.
- Willing to pay higher taxes locally to support continuing excellence in our schools.

### ***Class and Program Support***

- Need extra books.
- Transportation. My child has to walk next year and there are no sidewalks in front of my house!
- Need a levy to hire more teachers to reduce class size.
- I am sure a district could always more funding to establish additional programs and opportunities.

### ***General***

- Don't have enough information. – 4 comments
- Current local taxes have reached a level that should not be increased. – 3 comments
- Quit taxing us.
- I would assume it does.
- I think so?
- They receive too much.
- You keep raising our taxes, do you spend it wisely?
- With decreased state funding, I would support an increase in local taxes to provide high quality education.
- Never enough money allocated for children.
- Property taxes continue to rise because of schools' need to make up deficiency in total funding. County property taxes are also increasing while city's are decreasing.
- Moorhead citizen workers ave. annual salary is ~ \$34,000 and most folks can not and should not have to pay more than they already do in property taxes.
- State wanted the general educ levy – they've got it. State's responsibility. Enrollment is heading in your desired direction. Appreciate your economies of scale. You've already stated your argument for that. I cannot permit the district to be on both sides of the issue.
- There is no control over spending.
- District is not following through with what they stated they would do.
- If we received more from the state we wouldn't need as much from local taxes.
- I wish we had more / better local control and input to match our taxes (vs. state and fed).
- It always seems we have to limit what we can do for kids because of lack of adequate funding. Don't know if shortfalls are state or local – they seem to me a national disregard for the importance of education.



- I am not convinced, partly due again to cuts to local govt aid at state level. (Shame on the Pawlenty administr.!)
- Moorhead needs to keep our population growing – no new taxes.
- We’ve noticed our property tax increase significantly.
- I know my taxes have gone up, and how is that doing for us seniors, who are on fixed incomes?
- Spend it more efficiently.
- Recommend that all school district employees reside in Moorhead.
- Eliminate administrators and hired help to help local tax base.
- I will always question any increase in the taxes I pay.
- The public school system should receive as much as is possible.
- I think the city should pay more, the farmers have paid their share every time the taxes go up, and students at college campuses should not be allowed to vote on that agenda like the one year.

**8. Moorhead Area Public School District provides quality school facilities.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	86.4%	79.4%	88.2%	96.4%	89.5%	
No	5.0%	8.8%	11.8%	3.6%	7.9%	
Not sure	4.5%	8.8%	–	–	–	
No answer	3.2%	–	–	–	–	
Yes, No	.5%	2.9%	–	–	–	
Yes, Not sure	.5%	–	–	–	2.6%	

  

	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	86.7%	78.1%	100.0%	88.1%	100.0%	66.7%
No	6.7%	3.1%	–	–	–	–
Not sure	6.7%	12.5%	–	4.8%	–	–
No answer	–	6.3%	–	7.1%	–	33.3%
Yes, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–
No, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–

**Comments related to above item:**

***Future Planning***

- New school is overcrowded already.
- The only problem is we will run out of room very fast. We left ourselves no room to grow without going to the taxpayers.
- For now facilities are adequate, but planning must continue for long range growth.
- Buildings are nice, but overcrowding is a serious problem in the elementary schools.

***Class Support***

- Need to decrease class sizes in elementary.

- Quality means smaller class sizes for K through 12.
- Need all day K.
- More opportunities and smaller class size 28 max.
- Too much – more should be spent on quality teachers than large and impressive schools.

### ***Building Specific Comments***

- In terms of buildings yes; the basement of the high school was like a windowless dungeon which was not very conducive to learning.
- The elementary and middle school facilities are attractive and well-maintained.
- High school could be improved for visitors / guests. I frequently see trash at the entrances.
- Replace the 2 year old dead trees in the middle school.
- Tennis courts at Moorhead High School need resurfacing and expansion.
- The Early Learning Center needs a handicap accessible door where buses load / unload. Currently there is not a button on the door utilized, which makes it difficult for children in wheelchairs to enter the building. The ELC needs better lighting in the hallways. The classrooms and lockers need painting (lockers are very rusty).
- Lunch Room / Theater at Horizon is ok but crowded – as a result you get a lot of clicks and “groups” – even ongoing scenes from the movie “Mean Girls.”
- Schools could be kept cleaner.
- Few improvements – paint / cleaning to the Moorhead High entrance.
- Horizon Middle School is beautiful. However it is glaringly obvious that the building needs an auditorium. The middle school play has to be put on in an overused high school facility. We need more facilities for the arts to keep up with the Fargo schools. The cafetorium is not a comfortable place to watch a concert. My kids’ grandparents can’t even sit there.
- Too much time, money and effort was put into architectural aesthetics and not enough was put into functionality and student well-being (ex. lack of drinking fountains in Horizon).
- New middle school has 3 gyms and a weight room, but not a proper theatre or cafeteria. The music and theatre programs are certainly strong enough to warrant proper performance facilities.
- Cafeterias need to be more conducive to a student social environment and more relaxing for them. Recess should be before lunch so they eat better.
- More attention to cleanliness and neatness in the buildings and on the grounds is needed. Enlist students and staff in this effort.
- Middle school need more centrally located restrooms (public) and water fountains.
- There is mold in Robert Asp. I have a child that is extremely allergic to mold. The district failed to inform me of the mold. Since the beginning of the school year my child has been ill. It was his teacher who finally told me. Now I spend \$40/month for allergy medication so that my child can attend school and still be able to breath and function.
- What about the Reinertsen classrooms with only 3 walls, open to hallway noise? Do we need a “No Classroom Left Behind” initiative?
- Space at Reinertsen is a joke (cafeteria, library and gym setup).
- Happy to see improvements to the high school in recent district plans. I think some of these improvements were a bit overdue. We are especially pleased with the improvements in the theater / music depts.
- Except our high school – the older rooms are to dark – no windows. It would be nice to build a new HS.
- I am only familiar with the high school, but I feel it is one of the better facilities in this area.

### ***General Perceptions***

- First-class facilities, top notch facilities. – 4 comments

- Yes, after last two years of remodeling and building. – 2 comments
- Facilities are looking the best they have ever looked. – 2 comments
- Absolutely!
- Best decision ever was the new schools.
- I'm sure there was plenty of fluff in the \$64 million spent on new schools.
- Upgrades and new schools was a wise and wonderful decision to help our future students.
- We do not agree with the district tearing down Voyager and George Washington not too long ago and now there's talk of building a new building in north Moorhead or north of Moorhead.
- The bond issue has gone a long way in improving our infrastructure.
- Bold move to build new / rehab existing schools!
- Wonderful new middle school and good and useful re-modeling throughout.
- Exceedingly so. And expected, given the \$64 million bond referendum for capital projects.
- More than is necessary and I am all for education not sports. I hear this new school has 3 gyms (waste).
- New schools are beautiful and thoughtfully designed.
- The changes and additions to the schools have been a great change – ex: new middle school.
- Buildings are well maintained and modern.
- Miss the neighborhood feel of the elementaries.
- Thanks for two new schools HMS, Reinertsen.
- We don't need any more new buildings.
- Keep them updated!
- Awesome new/remodeled facilities! We can all be proud of!
- The new schools and upgrades are a great improvement and I believe are bringing new families to Moorhead.
- Simply because we have new buildings doesn't make them quality.
- Recent spending achieved this. However fancy buildings are not an indicator (nor provider) of educational performance, people are.
- Not sure. Many classrooms are very noisy – fans run constantly, blow papers off desks and make students cold.
- We were fortunate to pass the last referendum which has made significant improvements to our schools with ripple effect benefits to the entire city.
- Especially after the referendum passed!
- For the most part, I think my kids have a quality school to go to.
- The remodeling and new buildings have helped significantly.
- Seems some schools have a nicer facility than others within the district.
- Now! Not in the past.
- Buildings are very good but there are too few schools.
- But has all of the new buildings been the best answer?
- Far more than necessary.
- Some facilities are overly provided.
- The building and remodeling program just completed was long overdue. It had a very positive effect on the entire community.
- They should for what its costing the taxpayer.
- We are blessed with excellent school facilities. Moorhead has always been a strong supporter of and proud of its educational system.
- Don't forget there is a north side of Moorhead. The south side gave you the votes for new buildings, that's how it passed.
- New schools are nice.

**9. I would recommend this school district to other families.**

	All Respondents (n=221)	Parent PK-5 (n=34)	Parent 6-8 (n=17)	Parent 9-12 (n=28)	Parent K-12 (n=38)	
Yes	78.7%	79.4%	70.6%	75.0%	81.6%	
No	5.4%	2.9%	11.8%	7.1%	7.9%	
Not sure	12.7%	14.7%	11.8%	17.9%	10.5%	
No answer	2.3%	–	–	–	–	
Yes, Not sure	.5%	–	5.9%	–	–	
No, Not sure	.5%	2.9%	–	–	–	
	Business Person (n=15)	Citizen (n=32)	Elected / Appointed Official (n=6)	Senior Citizen (n=42)	Other (n=3)	Demographic Unspecified (n=6)
Yes	80.0%	75.0%	100.0%	81.0%	100.0%	66.7%
No	6.7%	6.3%	–	2.4%	–	–
Not sure	13.3%	18.8%	–	9.5%	–	–
No answer	–	–	–	7.1%	–	33.3%
Yes, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–
No, Not sure	–	–	–	–	–	–

**Comments related to above item:**

**Staff**

- Have experienced fantastic teachers and opportunities for our children.
- Have cautioned others about the high class sizes. Overall, we have an exceptional teaching staff that has worked to overcome this.
- Moorhead teachers overall seem dedicated to their students.
- The teachers who call education their passion are truly outstanding!
- The teachers and administrators are dedicated and outstanding. The district has high expectations and works diligently toward achieving them. We live in Moorhead rather than Fargo, West Fargo or surrounding MN communities because of the quality of the schools.

**Behavior**

- Not well disciplined enough.
- The gang problem concerns me.
- Not until kids get treated equal treatment in every form – sports, grades, disrespect, color, etc.
- I used to but now if the family is not 100% Caucasian, I do not feel Moorhead is good for them, I hear much better things about Fargo schools.

**Class and Program Support**

- Especially special education – superior to Fargo. – 2 comments
- It used to be our special ed was so much better. Now I don't know. We really don't have anything special here.

- We have many areas that could be improve. My friend is a teacher in this district and is constantly paying for many of her classroom supplies out of her own pocket. Very sad.
- Too large class sizes and not enough opportunities or choices.
- Would caution other families that some class sizes are too large.
- For high school – Block Scheduling! A big negative.
- I thought Moorhead was a good district but now think Fargo is doing a better job. More schools, smaller class sizes, more programs, better facilities.
- The band program is embarrassing. I talked to a parent who was interested in band as a transfer to the community and they were going to look into Fargo because of Mhd’s lack of offerings.
- However now Fargo is building new theaters on high schools. This will draw more families there.
- We always recommend Moorhead because of the Spanish Immersion Program and the High School drama program.
- I hear good things about the Spanish Immersion program and would like to see more interesting programs like this.
- Class size is too big, especially at the K-5 schools. Fargo, Hawley, Barnesville all have lower teacher student ratios.
- Moorhead school district offers many opportunities from athletics to academics for the students.
- If their kids excel in everything and are very confident and they like big schools. Otherwise no.

### ***General Perceptions***

- Absolutely / Definitely. – 5 comments
- Great value! Major community asset and draw for new families.
- I’ve encountered no evidence of big district / big school downside. We expect efficiencies and small (intra) learning communities.
- I am happy, for the most part, with the education my children are receiving.
- That why we moved to Moorhead from Connecticut, clean and no crimes (little).
- Already have!
- If given the opportunity, I do recommend the Moorhead Public School system over all other local districts. I encourage people with school-age kids to choose Moorhead.
- I always tell my Fargo friends that Moorhead schools are great!
- I would struggle – I have seen too many problems over the years. I strongly feel the emphasis on productive learning has been lost because of constant reorganizing and building projects.
- On local basis – yes; on state / national /world basis – no.
- I highly prefer Moorhead over Dilworth schools (I live in Dilworth but in the Moorhead school district) but not over homeschool.
- How can you “recommend” to someone in Fargo? Taxes are less there and that’s why they’re there.
- Moorhead’s big plus right now is lower property tax than Fargo. We do pay it on the other end on income tax.
- It was one of the factors that some of our relatives considered when moving here.
- No as to elementary schools.
- Not sure as to Horizon and high school.
- A few years ago I would have, but now that I have 2 kids in the high school NO WAY!
- Very fortunate here in Moorhead. We wholeheartedly support the Moorhead Public Schools.
- We have lived in Moorhead for 55 years. Our two children are products of the local public school program. We are proud of them and proud of the education they received.

## 10. What positive things are being done within Moorhead Area Public School District that should continue?

### *Staff*

- Hiring quality teachers and keeping them. – 3 comments
- Many good teachers. – 4 comments
- Many teachers are very proactive.
- Many awesome, excellent teachers. – 7 comments
- Superb teaching.
- Outstanding teachers and support staff – good hiring!
- Families could do better though – need more enthusiasm / participation in PTACs.
- District-level administration and school administration provide positive, effective leadership. The School Board also seems student-focused.
- Highly qualified, professional, caring teachers and staff.
- Good leadership at the elementary schools and a positive attitude and school environment.
- Positive and dedicated teachers and staff! – 2 comments
- Nurses on staff – good to continue. – 2 comments
- Continue to provide my students with quality and committed teachers.
- Very good math and science teachers at the high school (not so good at the middle school).
- A hard working and caring staff, but I'm afraid we're starting to lose them. What incentive do they have to stay?
- Strong school administration and board of education leadership.
- I believe that we have strong leadership with our superintendent.
- Almost all of the staff we have had for our children have been dedicated, caring teachers. They have had the interest of helping our children do their best work but most importantly grow into better people. We have a special needs child who is in the classroom almost all day throughout his 6 years. The staff (teachers and homeroom and case managers, OT, speech) have helped him tremendously and been very accommodating so he can succeed. We also have a 10th grader in all Honors or AP classes who has had mostly excellent teachers for 9 years.
- Teachers are well prepared and do a great job with the kids.

### *Buildings*

- New/renovated buildings are very nice, updated/quality facilities. – 13 comments
- Keeping our schools/infrastructure in good condition, up to date. – 5 comments
- The recent investment in remodeling the district and buildings.
- Nice clean schools.
- Facility upgrade was very visionary. It looks to be promoting overall growth in Moorhead and should provide our students a great foundation from which many positive learning outcomes will evolve in the future.
- Trying to increase enrollment by building new schools. I know that's one of the reasons we chose to move to Moorhead vs. Fargo.
- The new schools are a very positive for the growth of Moorhead.
- "Pods" seem to be a good alternative to smaller sized schools.
- Small learning communities for the ninth graders are excellent.
- We like that the 9th grade has their own section of the school. Also like the "house" system at Horizon. Makes a "big" school seem more like a "smaller" school.
- We love Horizon, the school is beautiful. I am very impressed with the climbing wall and weight room.
- The new buildings are a very positive addition which should attract newcomers to the school.

- Freshman wing a good experience.
- New buildings and new equipment.
- The configurations within the new buildings are good.
- I think the move to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 has been a good one.

### ***Academics***

- The commitment to excellence and helping all students achieve.
- Identifying problems with individual children quickly and providing positive remedial training when needed.
- Excellent meeting the needs of children.
- Academically, it has been a great school for our 4 kids (ages 25, 21, 15, 12).
- Focus on excellence.
- Focus on standards / goals.
- Emphasis on academic excellence. – 2 comments
- Students continually rank high academically.
- Good to concentrate on academic areas keep these going.
- Concentration on reading, math, geography of our country – a lot of students – even high school – don't know the relationship of one state to another.
- Provide for needs of all students (Educationally).
- Keep elementary class sizes down.
- Class size is too high.
- Challenging curriculum.
- Well-balanced curriculum.
- Improvement in Math std test was great to see.
- Going back to the basics to make sure everyone can graduate and meet the basic requirements.
- Late start for high school on Wednesdays for C or above students – sophomore and above.
- My children have received a well-rounded and standards driven education.
- Grade schools are especially successful it seems. We were most impressed with our 3 kids' experience in the grades and least at the high school.
- However, we must do our best to provide reading and math skills to our early age pupils. Will English be the basic language in our learning process? English Immersion should be in place of Spanish Immersion. I read with interest – Fargo Forum, Tuesday, January 2, 2007. A \$50,000 educational grant. The summary indicated this grant could possibly be used to insure that our pupils have the necessary skills in reading and math as they continue in school.
- Honoring students for positive achievement in areas other than academics and athletics.
- Praising our students.
- Opportunities for staff to collaborate when attempting to improve instruction (late start Wednesdays at H.S.). This could be looked at for the middle school and elementaries as well.
- Scholarships.
- Elementary teachers seem to be teaching in groups or “stations” that more meet the various needs of children.
- Focus on reading in elementary schools.
- Excellent standards and expectations with caring teachers.
- STEM and any and all pursuits of excellence, with equal opportunity.

### ***Programs***

- Community Education (strong, innovative program). – 5 comments
- Opening buildings for adult ed.

- ECFE classes.
- Early Intervention Services.
- Vocational, Advanced Placement and Post-secondary options.
- Secondary education in high school.
- Variety of AP classes – keeps kids in the school and involved in school (advantage of PSEO) and spotlights strength of faculty. – 3 comments
- AP courses - liked the system better before block scheduling – very hard to get all AP courses and options. Lots of down time.
- Accelerated programs. – 2 comments
- AP and honor programs along with special needs programs are excellent.
- Great academic opportunities (i.e. AP classes and good relationship with area colleges).
- I would like to see the MAPSD continue with strong academic offerings, i.e. honors and advanced placement courses and accelerated learning opportunities for advanced students at the primary and middle school levels.
- Honors classes – opportunities for advanced students.
- Many opportunities for everyone to take advantage of.
- The variety of courses offered at the high school is great!
- Providing services at both ends of the spectrum – students who need more repetition as well as those needing more of a challenge.
- Enrichment opportunities for “gifted” children / gifted and talented program. – 3 comments
- Discovery program and Junior Great Books (great programs). – 3 comments
- Variety of courses offered at the middle and high schools. Please do not cut.
- Multi-cultural education.
- Continued outreach to multicultural sects of our population.
- Great services to kids with mental health issues.
- Teaching ethnic pupils the English language.
- Special needs education.
- Resource room.
- Efforts to address special needs learners.
- Mainstreaming those with learning disabilities and handicapped.
- Homeless liaisons and homeless transportation services.
- Zero tolerance and acknowledgement of dealing with bullies.
- Total spectrum of services, from ADA and special ed to gifted ed and college prep.
- Should continue ESL classes, DD and EBD services and programs, which really need more funds to better these services.
- Student Support Services (special education services) are top-notch.
- Helping the kids whom need help learning.
- The extra classes they give to help the slower kids get up to rest of class.
- Extra help for students who need it. Enrichment activities for students who are more advanced.
- Counseling services.
- Gym and music every day. – 2 comments
- Art, music, PE in elem. school.
- More of a focus on healthier eating habits in the cafeteria.
- Removing soda machines from cafeterias/keep the ban on pop/soda. – 2 comments
- Excellent lunch and breakfast program (appreciate being able to have breakfast at school) good food and price.
- The program with the dog.
- Keep all programs, with quality.



- DARE Program. – 2 comments
- School Resource Officer at the school is good idea – shows support / good role model. – 2 comments
- Programs to help kids succeed (Excel, Junior Great Books, Summer School, etc.).
- Programs to promote citizenship (such as K-Kids).
- After school care with Youth Commission.
- Bus service and food service have worked well for my children.
- Moorhead Healthy Community Initiative; Linking Up (with Concordia).
- Love the conferences with all my daughter's core teachers at once, 9th grade – 3rd floor.
- Block scheduling.
- Block schedules for Jr. and Sr.
- Special Education is a high point in Moorhead. Our son was given every opportunity to be successful in his learning years. Keep up the good work!
- Providing extra learning classes for those with a need for them.
- Great IEP program.
- People to watch over our kids for safety but we need to work on making it a place where kids want to come.
- We also have a child with a disability and have been pleased with the team that we work with for her IEPs.
- The importance placed on physical education, music and art. There is more to learning than just academics and Moorhead schools seem to have incorporated that idea.
- The longer lunch hours provided to children.
- Think you have good programs for advanced learners as well as those who need a little extra help.
- Athletic and academic support.

### ***Arts Programs***

- Excellent arts and music programs.
- Wonderful music program. – 5 comments
- Music – esp. the orchestra program.
- Extremely impressed with the music, theater and speech programs.
- Orchestra program (keep going, phenomenal). – 5 comments
- 5-8 orchestra is great.
- Keep strong funding for nonsporting extracurricular groups: band, choir, drama, theater
- Arts education. – 2 comments
- MHS Drama department. I would like to see more productions by the MHS drama department, their shows are college level quality. Perhaps they could include a yearly play which is appropriate to take children to.
- Fine art opportunities.
- Theater program. – 5 comments
- Speech program. – 2 comments
- Wonderful theatre / arts.
- Excellent music programs (choir, band and orchestra). – 2 comments
- Opportunity to participate in top quality music and theatre programs in elementary and middle school.
- Great music program at high school – plenty of opportunities for growth. Open and very cooperative to homeschoolers use of programs.
- Theatre: Extremely demanding with positive results.
- Orchestra: The teacher is amazing.

### ***Extracurricular***

- Quality, variety of extracurricular activities. – 7 comments
- Sports / athletics. – 5 comments
- MHS Cross Country – it's the best.
- Fargo people tell me our hockey program is one of the best (South parent with three boys)
- good opportunities in extracurricular activities for both males and females
- Athletics have strong support. – 2 comments
- Opportunities in drama, music, athletics and others.
- The availability of extracurricular activities is positive and enhances the image of the school and community.
- Keep it up and expanded when there is interest.
- All inclusive extracurricular activities at the middle school.
- Writers club that Horizon has is wonderful as well.
- The schools have great after school programs housed within the school - Campfire, sports, morning programs.
- Wide variety of clubs/sports/organizations for involvement.
- Intramural sports.
- Destination Imagination. – 3 comments
- Most sports and theatre opportunities at middle school and high school levels. Good opportunities for academic teams (speech, knowledge bowl, debate, etc.).
- The teacher does a great job with K-Kids. This is a great program.
- The extra-curricular and music opportunities are excellent.
- Academic extracurricular activities.
- Service oriented activities (SADD, Builders Club, Mentoring, Key Club).
- Allowing Bible clubs to meet in school buildings.

### ***Spanish Immersion Program***

- Spanish Immersion / program and teachers are terrific asset, unique, outstanding. – 16 comments
- Know student who was in the program 6 years and after she was done has had no use of it since and is losing interest – was it a waste – no follow up.
- Language education is so important in today's world – economically, socially and otherwise. The program should be expanded; more grades, more languages. The American education system is far behind the rest of the world in this regard (languages). We need to catch up. Families have moved to Mhd for these classes.
- Language Immersion – if you really want to prepare children for the changing world, it will be imperative for them to be multi-lingual. The program should be expanded to middle school and include more languages.

### ***Citizen Input***

- Continue citizen input; inclusive nature of planning efforts. – 2 comments
- Student involvement in decision making.
- Surveys like this to get input from the “Average Joe,” rather than the so-called “community leaders,” some whom have a financial interest.
- Asking for public input. That's positive. Otherwise count on more parents choosing private schools or even (gasp!) home schooling.

### ***Communication and Technology***

- Communication with residents / excellent communication between the district and the public. – 2 comments
- Good communication with the public about student progress and school efforts to improve achievement.
- Good Web site. – 2 comments
- School announcements on Web site.
- Progressive and accessible technology infrastructure.
- PowerSchool to communicate with teachers, keep up to date on what is going on / love the Internet access for parents to monitor grades and homework. – 6 comments
- It would be nice to be able to add to lunch accounts online.
- Access to technology. – 2 comments

### ***Community***

- Great community image.
- Partnerships with community.
- Continue to push the Spud pride and community involvement.
- The use of one mascot. Students get a sense of unity, belonging and community from the time they enter kindergarten.
- Continued collaboration with community agencies.
- Working with city and county gov't entities. Planning city growth.

### ***General***

- N/A - 2 comments
- Nothing is being done.
- “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!!”
- No information on which to base opinion.
- This is our first year at Moorhead so am not familiar yet with everything that goes on.
- Very efficient.
- Visioning and future planning – great job!
- Dress codes are important. Feel that the school needs to restrict the extreme low plunging necklines, the bare skin midrifs.
- To continue to give the children the best education they deserve and need.
- I am still not happy with the way we were treated in the past, but the past is the past and I try hard to remember that a good education is the most important gift we can give our children.

## **11. What less than positive things are being done within Moorhead Area Public School District that should be discontinued?**

### ***Academic***

- Class size too large. – 10 comments
- Class size creeping up. – 2 comments
- Fix class size at the middle school and high school. I’m tired of hearing about “average” sizes. Cap all classes at 25 – that would show you are serious about having kids learn.
- Consider full day kindergarten instead of half days – the “K” get to school and in 2 hrs get ready to leave.
- Extremely short kindergarten day.

- Do more to create better writers and readers. Students graduate from MHS with inadequate spelling and writing skills.
- Less sports and more reading, writing and math.
- I don't feel any of our children are proficient at writing – I think they fall behind their peers in other districts.
- Do not discontinue advanced classes or art or music or language opportunities.
- More technology education.
- More choices at the middle school level.
- I'd like to see more phy ed, more health education and a laptop on every desk (start at the high school).
- Too much testing, but this is federal problem.
- Vocabulary cards.
- Start.
- I will be happy to see grad. standards become a thing of the past.
- Create learning needs to be added into curriculum.
- Need to emphasize more on academics and learning. These kids need to know the value of an education and less on sports and less on what their status is with in the community.
- Discontinue late start to classes on Wednesday mornings “church” time or do extra classes / electives during this time on Wednesdays (mornings). No reason for everyone to twiddle their thumbs for an hour each Wednesday a.m.!
- Too much concentration on numbers and statistics. There is very little concern about the individuals that make up the numbers and statistics. I have sought assistance for my child for over 5 years now – because his test scores fall within a certain range – it does not seem to matter that he fails his classes on PowerSchool.
- I've also heard high schoolers watching Polar Express during math class?!?
- The No Child Left Behind program – you have students who suffer because of the language barrier, which leads back to English being first language.
- Title I. They have students in there that are so bored. All day they have math and English only. What happened to sciences and geography? I'm seriously feeling to get students in private school even if I have to take out a loan to do it.
- 6th grade science text is too advanced for the majority of learners. Pigskin Geography is parent homework. It is too difficult for the majority of 6th graders and we don't see the benefit.
- School leaders and some teachers need to realize that each class is different and that they need to give each class a chance. Forget what previous classes did.
- Perks and incentives for just the “smart” kids. It makes for a better district “report card” but does nothing to help the average students do better.
- The new math that was introduced created a big hurdle for some parents (including myself). It was helpful to have “adult classes” to help, but should have been introduced earlier to us. In my case, my son fell behind and it was very difficult to catch up. I'm not saying the new math should be discontinued, but earlier help was needed to educate parents so they were on board earlier. It also posed difficult for students that had some learning difficulties to begin with.
- Mandated general music at middle school for students already in band, choir or orchestra.
- The varied language programs in the middle school. Allow children to choose one language and stick to it.
- More help for kids.
- Technology being stressed because of No Child Left Behind.
- Acceptance of mediocre performance from students.
- “Mandated programs” which are not fully funded create problems. Special Education is an expensive

program. Educational programs which are created by political mandates always seem to take a lot of time and cost a lot of money. Learner programs should be developed by educators, not politicians.

- I am not a fan of so much testing, but that is more an artifact of No Child Left Behind than the district's doing.

### ***Staff and Staff Development***

- Teachers should be limited as to number of days absent. After an appropriate number of sick days, the cost of a sub should come directly from their paycheck. More should be done to hire and keep quality subs. ISD 152 is far below out-state average for sub pay.
- Poor partnerships (unrealized opportunities) because of senior district officials' attitudes.
- Failure to correct poor employee performance and school district theft, even when reported to district officials.
- Sharing of personal political viewpoints by teachers.
- Not making the teachers accountable. I firmly agree since my child has had a couple poor teachers that they are the major reason our children fail in certain areas of learning.
- Leadership at all buildings is weak. It's time to recognize that and do something about it.
- Time spent on staff development that is not related to curricular goals. More time is needed for teachers to collaborate on teaching strategies and curriculum development.
- The Wednesday morning teacher collaboration meetings are a good idea, but I believe should be conducted before or after school – not during.
- Perhaps a survey should be given to people who work at the high school ranging from past employees to present. The survey should be managed by someone outside of the high school to get a true picture of the situation of the high school.
- More controls and supervision is needed over the teachers and bus drivers.
- High salaries.
- Incompetent teachers should be replaced along with those who are so tired and frustrated that they are more concerned about their paychecks than the students education.
- Too many "administrators" – especially at Senior High level.
- Guaranteed raises to faculty and adm. It should be based on performance appraisals, with the public involved in those performance reviews.
- Giving the teachers the ability to request teachers (often the best teachers) for their children and not allowing it for the average parent. That is from elementary, middle school and amazingly even into high school the majority of teachers' kids are in the same pods (houses) or on the same floor. It is not coincidence. Often those students don't need the best teachers and other kids do not get placed in those classes! That could really help an average student be above average.

### ***Buildings***

- My child's classroom is not a classroom at all, but an open area that used to be a neighborhood area. I have my reservations whether it is appropriate for learning. I expressed my concerns to the principal and his teacher and they assured me it is fine. I still think all teachers and students deserve a real classroom.
- Almost too efficient. We went from 4 elementary schools to 3 and now it appears we need 4. I greatly miss the ability for most kids to walk to school.
- I think we need more security at all the Moorhead schools. I think that accessibility to area schools is just too easy.
- Building a middle school with 3 gyms, 4 outdoor fields and no adequate auditorium space for presentations for student body, music performances and the school play.
- Taxing us for bricks and mortar which doesn't enhance "education." It might enhance revenues with increased enrollment, but that is not your mission.

- Stop building new schools we can't afford it and we don't need it! Education not sports.
- I know that building a new school is expensive but you didn't have to gold plate the new school. The money could have gone to more education.
- Not keeping up schools that are getting older and not always building new ones.

### ***Schedules***

- I'm concerned about the small amount of time students have to eat and the lack of recess time.
- Need more time for lunch. – 2 comments
- The staff at Horizon is adjusted on a yearly basis. The concept of the middle school was “sold” to taxpayers on the basis that there would be 15 core sections per grade level and Horizon was built for that purpose. Horizon needs to be fully and consistently staffed each year!
- The middle school starts too early in the day for the age of the children.
- Not enough time for recess or gym class. Days are too short and packed with lessons to leave out a healthy break for young kids to move around, play and stay fit.
- Need more time to work on homework; kids need to be nurtured, not stressed out.
- Current schedule at middle school. The fact the district is comfortable leaving those children home alone after school is criminal.
- Stop dismantling the “house” system at the middle school. Each year another section gets cut. Keep the 5 core classes with exploratories intact. It was an excellent system and it is becoming compromised.
- Changing of the music program at Horizon. When the new building was moved into, the music classes (we are in band) went from 50 minutes to 28 minutes (what an odd number). The program has deteriorated and it is very frustrating for the kids. The schools were hugely talked about for their music program before. Since move to Horizon it has declined significantly. Kids barely have time to play and only once get together as a whole band!
- Lack of breaks; improve quality and variation of food; allow water to drink at lunch.

### ***Behavior***

- I am concerned about the “face” of RRALC. The racial mix seems very off when considering the general school population.
- Discrimination from some administrators. Equal treatment, equal punishment for all.
- More should be done in helping deal with racism in school.
- More drills in case of terrorist attacks (lock downs) and anyone coming into the school building to create havoc and destruction.
- Too much emphasis on cultural diversity. Get back to teaching. Restore order to the schools.
- Very little respect seen at the middle school level for the students and between faculty – rude, discourteous, disrespectful.
- Do not lose focus on the total student body. Do not allow less fortunate students because of economic or personalities to be bullied or discriminated against. Do not pigeon hole students.
- It seems to me that the high school's answer to any problems that arise with the students is send them to the RRALC. Very foolish!
- The discipline process seems almost overly strict. Even the “good” kids are punished. I think faculty and staff should listen to the kids more. Make exceptions for being 5 seconds late to class.
- Calling parents with small problems that should and could be solved at school, push and resolve the major problems early.
- Any program that promotes political correctness (or whatever everyone agrees is right) over absolute right and wrong values.

### ***Spanish Immersion***

- Cut the Spanish grade school classes. This is the United States of America. We speak English. As the students get into senior high then offer foreign languages.
- Spanish Immersion Program should be stopped.
- Spanish Immersion Program. Money could be used for programs that would benefit all students.
- Spanish Immersion Program – costly, not needed, poor image.
- I'm not sure the Spanish Immersion program is an overall positive program for the district. It seems to put groups at odds (teachers parents, students) within each group.
- Spanish immersion programs should not be funded with tax dollars.

### ***Block Scheduling***

- Block scheduling at the high school. – 3 comments
- My 10th and 12th graders do not like Block Scheduling because it limits the opportunities to take more classes.
- The block schedule is also destroying quality education. How can reducing time spent in core classes by 25% be a positive? The block schedule must be reviewed.
- I am still not convinced that block scheduling has met the goals/positive outcomes that were the reason it was implemented.
- Block scheduling has been interesting. I do not like the time students have off in their day due to lack of courses to fit into this type of schedule. This is not an efficient use of our children's time.
- Block scheduling doesn't allow for 2 music classes and Honor / AP class. Music is an essential part of a high school curriculum if we are to foster people that will either go into the Arts or at least have made it a part of who they are. Music is not an expendable part of education. Music at the middle school has been cut back way too far. I support increased taxes to improve this situation. Block scheduling is prohibiting my college bound child from being able to take all the classes she wants to be able to take including foreign language.
- The block schedule at the high school level does not allow for many electives. A better balance needs to be found.
- The block schedule needs some modification. Too many good students end up with only three academic courses because of band, choir, or/and orchestra – sometimes these students can only attend 1/2 of their 4th class.
- I have strong feeling that the block program is not giving students adequate exposure to many areas that might be of interest to them if they were given experiences in these areas. 9-10-11 grades should have shorter classes. Seniors block program OK.
- The block scheduling doesn't seem to be popular with teachers or students. Limits students' ability to take certain classes. Feedback from teachers and students is not positive – with the exception of some science teachers.
- Block scheduling at the high school level. Not only do some parents and students dislike it, but there are teachers who feel the same way.

### ***Extracurricular***

- Too much emphasis on sports – not enough on academics, theater and music programs.
- High school extra curricular fees are high.
- Athletics administration seems to be just coasting. Needs to be more communicative / cooperation with City of Moorhead Parks and Recreation. Good to see that most of the coaches are positive with the kids. If not, then administration should take corrective action.
- Would like to see my child involved more, so maybe more effort from organizations to get the students involved and want to join and participate.

- Kids being left out in sports activities because their parents don't have money. And they don't have a parent (male) to say something. They can work their butts off, be there all the time, have good grades, not get into trouble and they still get left behind.
- Certain sports are funded 100% by the district yet others receive little or no funding (i.e. Dance line, skating).
- Treatment of some sports. We gave a donation to a girls team to pay for mats – the donation returned because A.D. felt unnecessary. We gave a \$500 donation and it was returned to buy safety equipment – team can not travel even when gas funds raised.
- Children of alumni shouldn't have priority in sports, etc. Good way of chasing off new residents!
- I'd like less fee associated activities. We can afford it, but I don't like the poverty stigma associated with those that can't. Perhaps encouraging (establishing) a fund that those of us can contribute to that teachers can pull from to pay for students that can't pay.
- I don't feel the athletic director is aware how sports coaches are running their teams (i.e. soccer, football, hockey). We need to provide more extracurricular activities for our children.
- Although I previously expressed my gratitude for our children's extracurricular opportunities, I do feel there are still real inequities between programs, specifically between boys varsity and girls varsity sports and between boys varsity sports and just about every other extracurricular activity there is.
- Acceptance of unsportsmanlike conduct at MHS football and hockey events. This reflects poorly on our school and community. Our Homecoming activities need to reflect pride in our schools and community. We need more adults involved in planning so that events are organized and classy.
- Over-emphasis on some activities and sports, including funding, at the expense of others.

### ***Communication***

- Better communication with parents when things start happening with a child. For example, it wasn't until October of my son's 3rd grade year that I was informed he was up and down a lot. With our help together (parent / teacher) we stopped his behavior.
- Need better, more direct communication with parents (conference notices higher grades, timely correspondence – back to school, etc.)
- At school conferences did not like where the teachers were sitting outside their classrooms, very hard to hear with other teachers and people talking.
- I was not pleased with the way 6th grade conferences were conducted. I much prefer the elementary style or the 7th grade open house style. Sixth grade conferences were a waste of time since we did not have an opportunity to meet with any core teachers.
- It is sometimes difficult to reach a person rather than an answering machine at the schools. Emphasize good pr and ready access at all levels – perhaps encourage e-mail rather than phones?
- Superintendent's secretary is an example of the BEST in public relations!

### ***General***

- Not sure. – 9 comments
- Do not know. Children are grown and graduated from Moorhead Schools.
- Not close enough to situation to comment. – 3 comments
- The idea that the taxpayers don't need choices, that you know more than we do. Well, the south side has its new elementary school. What you did to get here left deep scars. You will have a hard time because of this getting any money from us. You need a lot more than 51% of the taxpayers to get the job done. Treat us smarter in the future.
- Not sure of anything totally wrong / none that I know of. – 6 comments
- Annexing land from other school districts.
- Higher taxes.



- Nothing right now. Everything is great.
- The high school graduation program is a joke. Absolutely no respect from horn tooting parents or ball tossing students. The video highlights the 10 most popular students – show it at rehearsal and save the rest of us the sheer hype and boredom.
- Fewer buses.
- Charging parents to attend middle school and lower grade programs.
- Focus on Christmas in the schools with other religions / beliefs not being addressed. Suggestions include being equitable to everyone or celebrating winter with secular decorations and songs and homework (snowmen, snowflakes, Jingle Bells, etc.).
- Is there anything which might deal with the drain of student population caused by: 1) Private schools, 2) Home-schooling, 3) Open enrollment??
- Seems a waste of money to send so many buses into the country to pick up. Why can't 1 bus pick up all grades?

## **12. What things are not being done within Moorhead Area Public School District that should be started?**

### ***Class and Program Support***

- Reduce class sizes. – 5 comments
- Reduce class sizes in K-5.
- Full day kindergarten. – 5 comments
- Provide everyday / all day kindergarten – this would really impact enrollment!
- Helping the individual not the percentage “maximum potential of every learner.”
- After school homework hour. My mother is a 4th grade teacher in Brookline, MA (premier public school district is U.S.), she said the after school homework program is fabulous. An aid staffs the program, PTA pays for it, and they wrote a grant!
- The art program could receive more attention from the ground up.
- Extended hours at MHS for media center M-F and three days a week at Horizon.
- Books in the media center need updating. They have few chapter books and series that the kids are interested in.
- Program to help kids stay fit. We do everything for sports – how about teaching them to lose weight and be healthy and active. Only few can actually afford and have talent for sports. To learn and be productive – you need to be active!! Can't always be sitting for entire day. 10 min recess isn't enough.
- Financial responsibility over use of credit cards without thinking of the usury charged when falling behind on payments.
- There needs to be a better balance of academic services for the average to low average students. Add programming for struggling students who would likely succeed if given an extra boost.
- More homework groups for kids who struggle. Excel is for additional learning not always homework.
- More education on Christianity.
- Focus on writing at all levels K-12. My middle school child has had only 2 one-page writing assignments all year!
- Educate teachers and parents and students about the changes needed in education to meet the needs of the future. Language education for example is not embraced by staff – they must not have access to the studies which show how it benefits a student to be bi-lingual at an early age. Benefits include better ability to learn math, music and other languages.
- Possibly teaching all children Spanish upon entry to school. I think we as a country should be required to be bilingual.
- Strengthen geography classes.
- Emphasize academic and arts achievements more.

- Early childhood focus – the special education dept. speech.
- Offer more classes for advanced students. It seems we are catering to the small percentage of students that do not make the grade on standardized tests (NCLB). We must maintain AP classes, more languages, music and theatre, physical education opportunities for our top kids in order to compete with other countries.
- Offering some classes in Spanish in the middle school. START time is helpful, but not adequate or academic. When advertising for middle school positions, include a clause for Spanish speakers desired.
- The band program is very bad. Other schools in the area have multiple jazz bands, good pep band. Moorhead is poorly represented in All State Band, Youth Symphony. There could be theory and composition classes (Fargo has these). The talent is there, the teaching and leadership is not.
- More languages. Perhaps Japanese?
- More opportunities and options for above average students or accelerated programs - not enough emphasis on this group – compared to remedial programs.
- Challenge Day – a program similar to the retreats, was used in Detroit, Michigan.
- We need to make sure that every child who needs help with education issues get that help. We need to check each child who moves into this school district tested to make sure that they are at the same level that there classmates are at. If they are not give them the help to get them there. Even if they are not a minority or Sp Ed.
- Continue AP.
- Offer more music options.
- Stop block schedule.
- I would like to see a second language program that is for all kids, 1-2 hours a day. For ex, all kids starting in 2nd grade get one hour daily of Spanish (instead of the immersion to only a few kids).
- Summer school for students who want additional education opportunities.
- Inclusion for special needs students ages 3-5.
- More languages!
- More businesses helping out.
- A much better gifted learner program for K-8.
- There needs to be some program for extra help with children not completely “special needs.” but still struggle in the general classes over. Fargo has a program for what I think of as the “in between” kids.
- 2nd languages need to be offered in young years to ALL students.
- Technology needs to be available to all students with appropriate skills being taught.
- I don’t know if there are any special art or music programs for elementary students, but if there aren’t I would like to see those added.
- Study periods, continue school later in the afternoon, so parents are more likely to be home shortly. Students have too much unsupervised time home alone now when they get out of school so early. Go back to 9 to 4. This would eliminate a lot of problems. Schools could have study periods 8 to 9 and 2:30 to 4.
- More Spanish Immersion curriculum in middle and high schools. – 2 comments
- More options for pre-school / kindergarten readiness classes.
- In kindergarten readiness classes, more learning / educational activities rather than just play time (ABCs, counting games would be helpful).
- Sometimes I don’t think there are enough textbooks for the students in each class.
- Title I in every school. Maybe a bus service to open enrollment so the parents don’t have to drive them or drop them off on there way to work.
- I believe after school help has started, but needs to be there on a continuous basis. Being a big school has both advantages and disadvantages. I think at times it’s easier for kids to fall between the cracks

when schools are big. Teachers simply don't know the kids as well, nor on a continued basis.

- No skills development classes such as Title Reading and Math are provided at the middle school for those students who need intensive skill development but do not qualify for special education services.
- More experiential learning opportunities.
- Service learning activities.
- More help in grade school class rooms to aid in teaching. More consistency with grade school homework from class to class (within same grade).
- Enhance foreign language instruction. Add German and Latin...
- Middle school programming. Teachers need to work together better; students need more electives.
- Maybe more exposure to construction related classes. There is definitely a shortage of young people entering construction related careers (carpenters, electricians, plumbers, concrete masons, roofers, heavy equipment operators, etc.).
- There needs to be a program for "average" students that motivates them.
- More push for high school students to take AP classes.
- More home support for children, parent educators for struggling families.
- A better job at college prep, scholarship, counselors visiting with students.
- Children with diabetes need to be treated like all the other children in the classroom. There is no reason why someone in the classroom should not be trained to help them (whether on an insulin pump or injections) without leaving the classroom each and every time and missing classroom time.
- More flexibility for students to seek help from teachers before and after school.
- Have students required to give back to the community in the form of volunteerism as a requirement of graduation.
- The service (community projects) component could be pumped up. Kids have big hearts and should have more activities to share their time and talent. It will breed more adult community involvement.
- There should be an initiative to get students involved in volunteer activities.
- Full years of foreign language study.
- Maybe access to checking out math manipulatives or computer time? (outside of regular school day).
- More teen-created programs. Let the students tell us what they need and let them create the programming as much as possible.

### ***Buildings and Schedules***

- Small amount of time students have to eat and the lack of recess time.
- They should prepare more food at Horizon so they don't run short of food at least 3 times a week. When the children pay for a lunch they should be able to have what they want.
- Getting out earlier in spring.
- Recycling. With the global environmental concerns that are at the forefront in today's society, this is a responsible and necessary action. It also teaches our kids to think ahead, think globally, and to be good stewards of our earth.
- Renovate current buildings when necessary to meet needs.
- Address the short lunch hours that are crowded at Horizon and High School.
- Year-round school?
- Year-round Arts school.
- More buses.
- Better busing system.
- It seems class sizes are already starting to creep up. Already? After building these new schools it shouldn't be an issue so soon. Start looking into building a new school.
- The block schedule at the high school level does not allow for many electives. A better balance needs to be found.

- A healthier lunch program (article included with survey) that includes daily options for vegetarians (other than PBJ every day as it is now), and ideas the article mentions. [Article summarized here: New York's Ross School lunch program is model of regional, organic, sustainable and seasonal food. ... effort based on premise that when kids are connected with the source of their food — when they can experience food hands-on from seed to table — they are more likely to choose these same healthful foods in other settings. ... program has moved menus from 95 % processed foods to 90% foods made from scratch, salad bar at every school, trans fats and high fructose corn syrup eradicated from menus, no fried foods served, milk contains no synthetic hormones, locally produced hot dogs and hamburgers, fresh fruits and vegetables are sourced locally, seasonally and organically whenever possible. ... Goal to provide organic milk. .. Fruits, vegetables, herbs are integrated into lesson plans in kitchen classrooms.]
- Lengthen the school day especially at the elementary and middle school levels.
- Transportation for Spanish Immersion students.

### ***Behavior***

- Comprehensive discipline plan that is enforced by administration!
- Efforts to divert the use of drugs and alcohol for students who are in their last two years of high school.
- Possible security guards in school buildings (future).
- We need more supervision between classes at the middle school. Too many negative things happen with this age group between classes.
- Restore order to the school.
- Institute stricter dress standards. – 2 comments
- Zero tolerance should be enforced for any racial slurs even if those are coming from a teacher or anyone else in authority. Zero tolerance should be strongly enforced for all.
- Some greater sensitivity to cultural, ethnic and religious differences and needs. Ex: Labeling pork for Moslems and Jews, on school calendar not only Christian ‘special’ days, but African (Kwanzaa), Moslem (Ede), Hannuka, etc. and have teachers be aware that it may be best not to have major tests or big assignments due on or just after these special days. Demonstrating some extra sensitivity – even if small can go a long way toward bettering a sense of fairness.
- Since we do not know the make-up of the pupil population of the future: Should we immerse them in an English language program – learn the necessary skills to function in a regular classroom setting? Will we have enough tax revenue to provide “multi-lingual classrooms”? Will we have to provide special facilities for different ethnic groups? e.g. – “A Prayer Room”? What “Basic Skills” should every pupil carry with them into our classrooms? Teachers are trained to teach the 3R’s.
- Use the Mhd police liaison more visibly.

### ***Extracurricular***

- More intramurals.
- A cross country ski team would be a great plus for teaching kids fitness and character.
- Adequate before and after school programs at the schools.
- More extracurricular activities for our children.
- Passes should be provided to all grandparents for athletic events regardless where they live. My father, a resident of Moorhead for 43 years, was upset when the intown grandparents got passes and he was turned down as he lives in DL. It is important to be fair and consistent. Our elderly are important for our children’s future.
- Activity busing. The MAT bus system is nice but my child has to take several buses to get home from after school activities at Horizon.
- Equal treatment for extracurricular activities (Boys hockey taking a coach bus to West Fargo).
- Soccer at Horizon.

- We could demonstrate our appreciation to senior citizen taxpayers in Moorhead for their support of our schools by offering free admission to activities / athletics for those over 65.
- Equalize male/female sporting teams.
- I really miss the after-school funding through MHCI. Perhaps encouraging (establishing) a fund that those of us can contribute to that teachers can pull from to pay for students that can't pay. Perhaps MHCI could be involved in the establishment/advertising of such a fund.
- I would like to see expansion of the athletic programs for those who cannot attain the level of competitive sporting programs.

### ***Staff***

- Giving elementary teachers time during the school day (like the high school on Wed.) to collaborate.
- Making teachers accountable. Have the parents rate the teachers performance, etc. at the end of the school year. A sort of report card of some kind.
- Teachers need more time during staff development to plan/share curriculum strategies to meet learning goals. Staff development should focus more on specific learning goals teachers can implement to improve student performance. Teachers need more time to collaborate on curriculum.
- Monitor teachers in classroom success.
- How about surveying the district's staff? Has anyone asked them what to do? Has anyone listened?
- Pay our teachers ... seriously.
- Hire and retain the best teachers. Develop better ways to file complaints / concerns about teachers that are not good.
- Get rid of teachers that are not performing.
- Checking your teachers.
- I think they are doing a great job. Possibly more benefits provided to teachers – they deserve it.
- Many teachers better learn how (to teach!)
- All educators should be required to turn in weekly (daily) lesson plans as is required by both Fargo and West Fargo School Districts. Parents should be able to view their child/children's daily schedule online. Principals should require and enforce lesson planning.
- Performance reviews and appraisals for all employees.
- Create opportunities for volunteers and liaisons at the upper levels. This would save administrator expenses and show students community volunteerism.
- A better teacher evaluation system. A coach (sports) evaluation system and training for them.
- Possibly more collaboration time between teachers within same grade levels and above/below grades for better alignment. Not sure if this exists already.
- Top teachers as coaches.
- Flexibility to use alternative materials and tap into teachers' own skills and passion beyond standard testing requirements.

### ***Communication***

- Televised (Channel 12) School Board meetings. If cost is an issue, ask Moorhead Public Service to sponsor the telecasts. MPS has seemingly the money and the justification for many things. I want televised recordings of MY school board's proceedings. The current method of "meeting notes" are inadequate and fail the definition of "minutes."
- Listening and doing what you say you will – promises made in areas that aren't kept – see block schedule.
- Sharing results of survey.
- Better communication with parents and the community.

- Periodic “town hall” type meetings where citizens and parents can express their opinions, concerns and appreciation.
- Difficulty in communicating with educators. Some are very responsive, while others don’t return e-mails or phone calls.
- When was the last time you asked students for their opinions? In the long run, they are the ones who know what is and what isn’t working. I think their input is greatly undervalued and often filtered through teachers who have their own agendas.
- More newsletters / communication from schools to parents.
- Perhaps discover ways to involve the public in being advocates for the district with legislators. They seem to hear of needs closer to the Cities.
- Make public reports on how each teacher and their students are doing academically so we can see what progress is being made.

### ***General***

- I think the students have been given many opportunities.
- Not sure. – 6 comments
- Not close enough to situation to comment. – 4 comments
- I think an interdisciplinary approach to teaching might reach many students who don’t do well in the traditional “back to basics” classroom. We need to take our students to the next level and I think Moorhead could do it if it thought outside the box.
- Take a good look at your spending and figure out how to cut back. Cut waste.
- Stop looking for money and fame. And start being there for the kids.
- For the most part, I think Moorhead Public Schools do a wonderful job, so I don’t have an answer for this question.
- All too often educators come up with “hair-brained” ideas on how to better the system only to end up discarding them anyway. Again, “if it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it”!
- Need to facilitate monies generated in towards learning and books and not on sports.

### **13. Please provide any additional comments that you would like school district officials to consider in their strategic planning process:**

#### ***Academic and Program Support***

- Reduce class sizes. – 7 comments
- You will not be able to maintain quality with large class sizes.
- I strongly believe in very small classes (size wise) in kindergarten through second grade to provide the best possible start for each child, and that those teachers use multiple approaches so each child can discover that learning can be fun as well as a necessity.
- Spread out kids so schools not so crowded.
- I am concerned about the subtle class size rise. After the referendum we were led to believe that class size would stay down. If we are to compete with Fargo and be true to our taxpayers the district must keep class sizes down – 30-32 students are way too big!
- All day kindergarten. – 2 comments
- The teachers, especially in the elementary schools, are over-loaded with students.
- Give more weight to teacher input on math placements as it has an impact for 3 years at the middle school – possibly into the high school years.
- We have an EXCELLENT school system. I am, however, a little concerned with “rumors” that I hear about the alternative school ... once in, can never get out, etc., inadequate resources such as books, art supplies, computer.

- The higher standards you set for the children the higher they will achieve.
- Elementary students should not be given homework. Many studies have shown it is not beneficial and is merely a waste of time and energy.
- I feel too many students are graduating without an idea of what they are interested in for career possibilities. A better balance between academics and electives needs to be found.
- The Spanish Immersion program has not been the “incentive program” it was touted to be to increase enrollment. Therefore, why continue this program? It puts a burden on the English speaking classrooms with larger class sizes compared to the S.I. numbers. Also the native speaking teachers hired for this program are not of the same quality we need to ensure high test scores for AYP.
- SCHOOL BOOKS – Stop relying on the Internet for learning and give these kids the books and tools they need to study at home – not everyone can afford the Internet. [Parent added two-page letter summarized here: ... money needs to be allowed for school books for each and every subject. Teachers all stick to a curriculum and given time to get it submitted so the correct books are gotten in time for all these children. ...less emphasis on sports and more on what these kids are being taught and how the teaching is being conducted. ... not everyone can afford the Internet, some can't even afford a home telephone. ... Instead of filling the athletic pockets why don't you buy the books that are needed so all these kids can get a good education.]
- Consider students in MS and HS who were in Span. Imm. in elementary – what next?
- Thank you for allowing me to participate in the Community Survey of the Moorhead Area Public Schools. My first reaction would be that the Moorhead Public Schools are providing a quality educational / extracurricular opportunity to the district student population. I am not totally familiar with the list of courses or activities. However I do know that the programs (reading and math, e.g.) and personnel are periodically evaluated. This might give us an opportunity to be proactive – keep and improve the best staff possible – make sure our pupils are given the necessary “Basic Skills” (reading and math) so they will be successful in the classroom programs we offer.
- Keep expectations high for students so they achieve more. Continue to provide opportunities for advanced students so they don't get bored in school.
- Place less monetary emphasis on both ESL and Spanish Immersion programs. Consider more funding for K-1 students needing programs in rdg/math.
- I really feel that all children are equal and teachers and other staff members need to intervene when a child complains of being bothered or picked on. It really affects the self esteem of the child being picked on.
- Curriculum needs to be more sequential. The Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum needs to be more accessible and ensure that structured and sequential curriculum is followed in all academic areas in K-12.
- With no kids left behind children still need to learn fundamentals – need to adapt teaching styles to enhance their learning ability.
- Put more emphasis on the basics – reading, writing, arithmetic – less on social issues. Use better quality texts that teach facts and truth vs. political correctness and acceptance of all! Distortion of history. I've seen teachers teach their strong political views vs. teach history and facts and let kids discover their views.
- I would like to see more of a focus on basic math and English. A higher level of comprehension needs to be attained before a student can advance.
- My child currently only has 2 classes (math and phy ed). When my child went to add a class my child was told there was nothing open. No student should have this much time off during the school day. There is too much free time in the current system. This shouldn't be allowed. There's got to be something they can learn instead!
- Please keep after school activities housed within the elementary schools.

- More rigorous math and science.
- Advanced classes superior to N.D. – keep them strong!
- I am bothered with the number of fights that occur. There is bullying that takes place even though the school does not tolerate that behavior. I am also saddened by racist actions or words that are spoken. I don't believe this is only a school issue; I believe this is something that needs to be worked on at home first and supported at school and on school buses.
- “To thrive in a changing world” our students need to learn foreign languages at all levels of their education (and not just Spanish).
- Focus on education and make sure the teachers are not buried in busy work.
- The level of required parental involvement has gotten out of control. It is fostering a strong sense of dependence and irresponsibility among young adults that has far reaching consequences.
- Could we work on the lunch program with ideas from the article (included article with survey)?
- Much more cultural diversity awareness for teachers, principals, students.
- My concern is for the children that don't come from supportive parents who may need a little more attention or encouragement in school. The young ones starting school that should have probably some head start programs or other pre-school. I think we have to salvage these children early on and make education fun and exciting.
- Look at options of what students need in the real world of work – dress codes – respect of others – functional everyday skills like relationships and labor/professional classes not just precollege classes.
- There needs to be ongoing commitment to teaching our youth the dangers of drugs and alcohol as they prepare for college and adult life.
- Greater emphasis on environmental awareness as a school, community and individually.
- Extracurricular fees / expenses keep underprivileged kids from participating. Even though fees can be waived, it's humiliating to have to ask and many just won't participate because of this.
- More tie-in with local colleges – immersion courses, etc.

### ***Transportation and Schedules***

- The length of the school day needs to be longer. Re-negotiate the contract with the teachers regarding this issue – it hasn't been changed in years.
- Longer school year.
- Seven-page letter enclosed with contact info. Summarized here: Annual schedule (more days, shorter breaks), Daily schedule (morning break and longer lunch), school age requirements (start younger with full-day kindergarten, students after age 17 done – offer two tracks), use teachers as coaches, busing – valuable resource, don't put drivers on buses that hate children and cannot cope with child's mentality, class sizes below 25, narrow curriculum and teach more in depth, flexibility on materials with individual teachers skills / interests to achieve same end result, teach foreign languages for five years minimum, preferably for 10 years; establish strong links with business for financial support, mentors, cooperative projects, work experience; schools need to be judged against world standards.
- It would be nice if the high school was the school that started earlier than the others. Elementary and middle school age children are still growing and need to get more rest.
- Provide transportation for Spanish immersion program (discriminates against people who don't live in Hopkins district by not providing).
- I would like to see the younger kids start earlier so the Horizon kids could start later. 6-8 graders need more sleep than K-5. The busing schedule is backwards in this area.
- All children should be bused to school. There are weird, dangerous people out there and I don't think that a 6 year old should be walking by themselves. You wouldn't let them walk through a store by themselves because it's not safe. That's a closed building. Walking they are out in the open. Who knows what could happen.



- We picked living in Moorhead with old high school scheduling. Wish this would have continued.
- Close high school campus. Too much time between classes.
- Improve cafeteria environments in elementary schools and recess before lunch. Recess before lunch shows documented benefits.
- You can create a schedule that is better for all learners. I'm tired of hearing about busing – that should not run this district – fix it!
- The students only go to school 180 days a year. That is FAR behind other countries. A couple extra weeks would really help students improve.
- We are not in favor of year round school schedules. Kids and parents need the summer months for family activities.
- Hire and fill Horizon Middle School with all houses with 5 sections not 4. This already happened with the Pod system.
- Discontinue Block Scheduling. It limits – my daughter had to choose between Spanish and choir this year and is juggling biology and choir during the same class period!
- Busing – my daughter gets a ride with us each morning because it gets her to the school tardy or so close to tardy she refuses to be late.
- Less breaks (like Christmas break we don't celebrate) and if we didn't we would have a longer summer break.
- Don't extend district boundaries for Ellen Hopkins south of I-94.

### *Staff*

- Make teachers accountable.
- At the high school, the principal sometimes can be offensive with assumptions that leave the children with negative feelings of themselves and him.
- There should be more people of different races in positions of authority to maintain, or first achieve a sense of checks and balances in race relations.
- I feel an elementary phy ed instructor needs to move on. The teacher is very intimidating, plays favoritism, and hard on the children (to a point of emotional abuse in my opinion).
- Please train teachers to accept all students and to ask specialists questions when they have problems or issues. We've experienced their naiveté resulting negatively on our IEP child.
- Teachers and paras need to be trained in medical emergencies of the children with diabetes, recognizing the signs and symptoms of high blood sugar and low blood sugar. These children and parents need to feel safe while in school. Diabetes is becoming increasingly common in children.
- I think this is a terrific school district; great staff and resources. Be sure they know they are appreciated.
- Be sure to evaluate all employees at every level to ensure high standards. One or two incompetent employees can leave a negative impression of the whole school district.
- Disproportionate number of music and PE teachers per elementary school versus art, dance, drama teachers in elementary schools.
- When a sub is hired they should have to work at all five schools and not pick and choose where they will work. Or they should receive less pay if they won't work at all schools.
- School board members donating part of their salaries. Coaches don't get a meal stipend for 3 day tournaments and our board members make \$7,000 – and they're OK with this?
- Encourage retirement when a teacher is “burnt out” and not effective anymore.
- Is it possible to pay teachers for performance? It has never seemed right to me that the best teachers are paid the same as the worst (assuming same years of service and education).
- It would be nice if substitutes wouldn't laugh at students when they are failing. Often substitutes seem underqualified and antagonistic.

- Give teachers more time and money to collaborate and plan for teaching / learning that can improve student performance.
- Who are the Board members? Let us talk with them. They sometimes work in a vacuum (including the trappings and buzzwords provided by consultants like Chainsaw) rather than listening to real people. (Dare you relay this Chainsaw!!)
- Grant writer position!

### ***Buildings/Facilities***

- Put more money into existing structures as well as new developments. Don't let what you have that is working go into disrepair. Don't forget operational budgeting when planning for new structures.
- The high school needs a self-contained classroom outside of Outreach to meet the changing needs of the population.
- The district needs people who have better knowledge to plan ahead as far as building needs.
- Tennis courts at Horizon Middle School and renovation of courts at MHS.
- Upgrading the high school baseball/softball fields. They are an embarrassment.
- Enjoyed soccer at MHS. Hope you are providing facilities to encourage this sport as it is something MANY (boys/girls) kids can participate in.
- New High School.
- Take a look at the murals in the old commons – discriminating – let's separate the cultures a little more.

### ***Communication***

- Moorhead Public Schools could promote itself better to larger public (non-parents). Really show the community what an asset we have here.
- Consistent communication from home to school by teachers using e-mail, web page and PowerSchool
- Listen to what parents have to say.
- Use taxes wisely. Communicate with the citizens when you need funding.
- PowerSchool has been a great addition for parents. Continue to provide this form of communication and improve it by adding more information if possible.
- You have and should strive to maintain a reputation for both access and excellence. Continue to provide high-quality academic and co-curricular opportunities while maintaining operating efficiencies where possible. Continue to inform, engage and affirm stakeholders: students, parents, staff, patrons and broader community.
- Something to help parents understand better what the student needs as far as credits to graduate. Every few years it seems to change – would be nice to be able to keep up with those changes.
- Use Power School to full extent possible (Make this mandatory for teachers).
- Keep Web site updated, informative and pertinent to parents and students.
- Ask about 75 students to fill out this form and you'll get a true picture of the district (Jr and especially High School level).
- Many promises were made in order to get the bonds passed to build new buildings. I think those comments that were made need to be re-evaluated to see that those promises are being kept.
- Thanks for the survey. Continue soliciting opinions via surveys. – 2 comments
- Need a “healthy” way for people to share concerns / even criticisms when the need arises.
- Thank you for this opportunity. Many of these comments, suggestions, opinions I have felt for a long time. Perhaps I should have found a way to share them before now, but thank you for encouraging me to do so. I hope the planning committees will seriously consider all responses.

## *General*

- I think the schools get plenty of money. First have to conserve everything you buy. Also shouldn't be getting more salary for any. Have to economize like the rest of us. Taxes too high now.
- Please try to combine your school elections with the November general elections. It would be a large fund saver. Also primary if needed.
- Treat every kid the same no matter shape, size, money, no money, grades, no grades, looks, no looks. They are all God's children and we need to treat them that way. When we don't bad things happen.
- Overall I enjoy the schools and feel confident that my children are receiving the best. But with every great thing it leaves room for area to improve that all schools find challenging - like exercise (play time for young kids to help their minds).
- Respect for our flag and country.
- Do not tax people with no children.
- I am not a parent and I have no involvement with the school district so I know nothing about the school district. My only possible involvement with the students is when they speed by my house every day.
- I would personally like to thank our super for the passage of the bond referendum. It was the impetus for the growth the city is experiencing.
- Up to the 7th grade we have been extremely happy with the education our son has received.
- RE: the previous bond referendum: Because school district officials did not disclose that the state's debt service equalization formula would provide decreased dollars in response to the desired community growth (broadened tax base, etc.), you may expect increased scrutiny if you try to go to that well again.
- I just want to remind you that there is a north side of Moorhead also. I don't think my child needs to ride in a bus for more than an hour to get to school.
- Overall I think everyone is doing a terrific job. Two thumbs up from us.
- We need to be given an idea on where we go from here. When are we going to need another new school. Poor planning in the past put us in a situation where you are going to have to come and ask for more space. Give us time to make choices that we all can live with. After all education is the most important thing we can give our children.
- I have no information relative to the operation on which to base an opinion.
- During the Christmas holiday we should not be afraid to say "Merry Christmas" or sing them in our music rooms. If Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa are said I expect everyone to say Merry Christmas. This is the U.S. and we should not be afraid to express our Christianity. If we were in another country we "Americans" would be hiding our Christianity. The other country would not be intimidated by us.
- I cannot comment on statements from 2 through 13. I am a senior citizen approaching my 87th year and not knowledgeable of the quality of educational opportunities offered by the school district.
- We cannot answer what we don't know anything about. We retired here from another area of Minnesota.
- I suggest a serious look at recent research and trends in education in general. It seems long overdue to alter the ways in which we deliver education. It could be much more effective. We need to be open to changing models, structures, policies, calendars – whatever it takes to be creative and responsive to the needs of all kinds of learners.
- Better planning for the future to ensure space as Moorhead grows.
- I am no longer actively involved with district functions, but when our children were attending I felt the district was the best in the area.
- Overall, great school district!
- Keep up the great work and high expectations.
- School taxes too high!
- Good work.
- You should be able to answer this better than me.

- Our experience with the public schools is limited as we only have a kindergartner. We have had a good experience so far and cannot really say yet on things that are not being done or being done poorly.
- The children in this area have a good chance at a good education. With the good shelters and housing – who’s families cannot afford a home at this time. They can better themselves for a good future!!
- Pay teachers well, accept nothing less than spectacular, give our kids the best. Be proud of what we offer!!
- My opinion matters don’t just use the ones you like and throw away the ones you don’t like! Cut back on spending the taxpayers are paying too much.
- I think the district is quite strong, but the areas I’ve cited, if improved upon, will make the district even better.
- I do not agree with giving schools less money if they fail. Many factors determine success or failure. Education should always be the highest priority not sports.
- I can’t provide any answers to the questions on this page. I don’t have a child or grandchild attending Mhd Public Schls. I haven’t heard negative comments – so am assuming everything is OK. (I’m 90 yrs old).
- Please pardon the delay. I am an 82 year old person with Parkinson disease. My children had successful experience at Riverside School. All are college degrees grads.
- The amount of money spent in the district for education perhaps should show better results. Less spent on buildings and wasted trips. Salaries, pensions, etc. seem to be more than adequate. Develop more co-curricular, extracurricular and intramural sports to give more students a chance to continue being a part of a team through their high school years when they really need things to help build their self esteem and self worth. Too much emphasis is placed on always having to win, not enough on fun - enjoyment its OK not to be the winner all the time. [Included two-page letter summarized here: Thank you for including us in your survey. ...residents since 1960...lived near Riverside where three children attended... I wish I could brag about the bigger new schools but our experience and what we have seen, bigger is not better. .. daughter had hard time at South Junior High...kids and grandchildren work hard and get cut from sports. ..few intramural sports to give them a chance to play the sports they enjoyed. ... I know of two kids that became A students after they attended Sylvan for a year. Why can’t our public schools give our kids the kind of education Sylvan has done for countless students who were failing in Mhd public schools. ... School day from 9 to 4 with study periods at school... kids having to ride buses for long periods, our kids used to be able to have fun walking with their friends to and from school. I feel their needs to be an adult on every bus besides the driver to watch so no child gets bullied. ... large schools where kids get the feeling no one really cares about them anymore? Is it true 11 freshman on sophomore volleyball team? Is it true sophomore girl cut because seconds short of making the mile run, another because she got a bad sideache and couldn’t complete the run in the time allotted. Feel that we are very fortunate to have very fine teachers who are trying hard to do their very best, but because of all the single parent homes, many different cultures, kids becoming more aggressive, harder to discipline in the room, the number of students in a classroom needs to be decreased.]