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Hundreds respond to Citizen Survey on Schools

Nearly 400 Falls Church City residents responded to the school division's recent survey on schools. The Falls Church City School Board will use the results to help craft its next, six-year comprehensive plan for the school division.

The survey indicated the top three most positive attributes of the school system are small class size and student-teacher ratios (73.9%), a high quality teaching staff (71%) and parent support and involvement (69.4%). Respondents also indicated that it is important for teacher salaries to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions (91.2%).

When it comes to the school division's aging facilities, survey many respondents placed importance on renovating or replacing older facilities in the next 6 to 10 year (60.5%). Many respondents also indicated a willingness to pay more taxes to support the schools (59.8%).

The FCCPS received mixed reviews regarding curriculum. At the elementary level, more than half of the respondents indicated the FCCPS curriculum and course offerings appropriately challenge elementary students (50.9%), fewer people had the same opinion of the middle school level (35.9%) and the high school level (34.5%). Additionally, survey respondents indicated that the curriculum and course offerings sometimes, but not always appropriately challenge students at the elementary (25.6%), middle (19.9%) and high school (14.6%) levels.

Prior to the citizen survey, the school board received data from a staff survey and from several focus groups. For complete aggregated results of the citizen survey on schools, go to www.fccps.org/html/2006Survey.pdf.

To see an overview of the school board's public input process and strategic plan timeline, go to www.fccps.org/html/2006SurveySummary.pdf.

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