

2019 ECS PCO Parent Survey Summary

The Steering Committee is grateful for your responses to the PCO Parent Survey this Spring! The committee takes your feedback seriously and will use your opinions to guide decisions about PCO activities in the coming year. Please find below a summary of survey responses.

A total of 180 respondents completed the survey (ECS student body = 675 students), and 84% of the respondents have a child in K–3. (The percentages below indicate the proportion of the total responses to a particular question; total responses to a particular question might be less than the 180 who took the survey.)

Volunteering and Donations

- 76 respondents (43% of those who responded to this question) are happy with what the PCO asks, 42 respondents (24% of those responding to this question) would like to do more, but don't know how or haven't been asked, and 3 respondents (2% of those responding to this question) feel the PCO asks too much in money or time. Approximately 56 respondents (31% of those responding to this question) had no opinion or answered "other."
- 170 respondents (95% of those responding to this question) say it would be reasonable for the PCO to ask each family to give 2 hours of volunteer time, and 137 respondents (77% of those responding to this question) say they could likely meet this goal.
- In the past year, 140 respondents (86% of those responding to this question) have sent in classroom party supplies, 89 respondents (55% of those responding to this question) have helped at a classroom party, and 44 respondents (27% of those responding to this question) have volunteered in another capacity in the classroom.

What should the PCO prioritize?

High priority

- 153 respondents (88% of those responding to this question) said "[Raise money to support academic pursuits](#)" should be a high priority.
- 116 respondents (66% of those responding to this question) said "[Provide staff appreciation gestures](#)" should be a high priority.
- 105 respondents (60% of those responding to this question) said "[Organize family-focused social events](#)" should be a high priority.

Mixed bag

- 95 respondents (53% of those responding to this question) said "Holding monthly meetings with topical speakers" should be a low priority (83 respondents) or not prioritized at all (12 respondents). 80 respondents (46% of those responding to this question) said this should be a high priority.

Low priority

- 156 respondents (87% of those responding to this question) said "Organize evening/weekend adult-oriented social activities" should be a low priority or not prioritized at all.

"How can we improve PCO meetings?"

Timing and Location: there is no one time that is good for everyone (shock!). In general, weekday evenings are the most convenient for the most people, but there is interest in having opportunities to gather at other times

and days on a rotating basis. There is also a desire for different or more-central meeting locations within the larger city footprint. There is also interest (84 respondents; 47.2% of those responding to this question) in having the meetings available to watch online.

Participation and Organization: Some respondents expressed a desire to have administrators and teachers present at meetings and to have an agenda available ahead of time.

Communication

A total of 61 respondents would be interested in private Facebook groups, at the grade level, not run by the PCO. There is interest in more face-to-face communication and systematic email communication from the PCO.

What can we do better?

Families feel we can do a better job of reaching out to one another and of creating a welcoming atmosphere for existing families who have not previously been engaged with PCO activities. There is an interest in having fresh ideas and voices but concern that it is not always clear how to get involved, or that new voices will be welcomed.

Overall Goals to Strive for in 2019-2020 and beyond

- Create a more welcoming environment for our new and existing families
- Downsize by refocusing our time and support on doing less so that each event is outstanding. Concentrate our efforts in relation to how they are valued by the community
 - Valued as a high priority by a large majority
 - Academic support – i.e., purchase library books, musical instruments, classroom technology, playground equipment; fund projects in the classroom and extracurricular activities like Bike ECS and 3-on-3 Basketball
 - Provide staff appreciation gestures
 - Organize family focused social events
 - Valued as a low/no priority by a slight majority of 95 respondents
 - Hold monthly PCO general meetings with topical speakers
 - Valued as a low/no priority by a large majority
 - Organize evening/weekend adult oriented social activities
- Improve the logistics of meetings and activities, including alternate times, days, and places for meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities.
- Take another crack at including Administration and Staff in the meetings and events
- Improve communications with the Community
 - Publish a clear and concise agenda for each meeting prior to meeting
 - PCO email summary to include upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, mini-grant summary, financial update, minutes from last meeting, and family and staff spotlights(?)
- Recruitment more visibly and inclusively for the PCO Steering Committee