

Sandy Elementary

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Sandy Sharks,

I want to thank all of you who participated in a recent survey that was sent out to our families and stakeholders last month. Although we did not hear from all of our families, I wanted to thank all of you for the feedback that you have provided and continue to provide. As the principal of Sandy Elementary, it is my goal for every single one of you to not only feel welcome at Sandy, but also confident that we are all here to work together to ensure the best education and learning environment possible for your children. With that being said, I want to share with you the feedback we received from those surveys as well as address each question asked that was asked of you. Please know that I am very open to the feedback and encourage all of you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Parent Questionnaire and Principal Robinson's Response:

1. I feel welcome at this school
 - a. It is my goal that all feel welcome at Sandy Elementary. I am committed to addressing any concerns you may have regarding any time that you have not felt welcome or treated poorly by any of our staff members. Please do not hesitate to contact me and make me aware of these specific incidents. I would love to have a conversation about these moments and can assure you that I am committed to eliminating any such negative feelings from all of our stakeholders.
2. Staff members are respectful toward parents (through e-mail, telephone, in person).
 - a. As mentioned above, I want to know of any incidents where you feel as though you have been disrespected or treated poorly. Please contact me any time with any concerns.
3. Staff members are respectful toward my child(ren).
 - a. One of the only ways we will find success here at Sandy Elementary is if your child(ren) feel welcome and safe while here at school. I firmly believe that every child deserves a champion and our staff should be just that for them every single day. Listen to your children and let me know if you are hearing of anything contrary to this goal.
4. I am pleased with how much my child is learning at this school.
 - a. Academic success is a goal that we all share. One way that you can help make decisions regarding our school goals and how certain funds are spent is to participate on our School Community Council. We would love your thoughts and input regarding what our academic focus should be for the school year. One other exciting piece of information regarding our academic focus is that we have partnered up with experts from the Utah Education Policy Center. They have provided some great professional development under the direction of our administrative team. Our teachers have been digging deep into the curriculum standards, writing lesson plans as teams, teaching those lessons with administrators observing, and then debriefing as a team. We look forward to continuing this process and seeing growth in all academic areas. Our teachers have also been working as teams to address the academic needs of all students, regardless of their level of understanding of a specific concept. Fluid learning groups have been established in reading and in math and teachers are using data regularly to change the groups up to meet the needs of their students. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our teachers regarding what our students are learning at Sandy.
5. I am pleased with how this school supports my child's emotional well-being.

- a. Sandy Elementary has a full time school psychologist which is unique to Title I schools. This school psychologist is also the lead of our CARE Team which meets weekly to discuss students' academic, physical, and emotional needs. Another member of our CARE Team is a therapist from Valley Behavioral Health. We also have a social work intern from the University of Utah that sits on this committee. All three work closely with our administration and teachers to address the emotional and physical needs of our students. If you have any concerns or specific requests on how we might be able to better serve your child(ren)'s emotional needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to his/her teacher or to the administration.
6. I feel my child is safe at this school.
 - a. The physical safety of your children while at Sandy is of utmost importance. We hold at least 10 drills throughout each school year that consist of Fire Drills, Earthquake Drills, Lockdown Drills, and Shelter in Place Drills. All doors, with the exception of the front doors, are to remain closed and locked throughout the day to ensure the safety of your child(ren). Our safety committee meets monthly to discuss safety concerns that arise and address them accordingly. Please help ensure the safety of our students by pulling doors closed as you come into the building and avoid holding doors open behind the school in the mornings. On another note, bullying is not tolerated. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the safety of your child.
 7. Staff members respond to my concerns in an appropriate and timely manner.
 - a. If you ever feel as though your concerns are not being addressed in a timely manner, please contact me directly. I am committed to responding to questions or concerns as quickly as possible.
 8. This school communicates effectively with me (e-mail, telephone, notes, newsletters).
 - a. We believe in communication and keeping all of our stakeholders informed. Because of our commitment to this, we have several outlets to keep you as informed as possible. We have the following ways of communicating with our stakeholders: a school website, Facebook, Twitter, grade level newsletters, PTA newsletters, Skylerts (emails, phone calls, and text messages), "Peachjar" flyers that are emailed, and a school marquee. The items emailed through Peach Jar are approved flyers through our district office and this has been one way they have tried to address so many paper advertisements being sent home. Please make sure your information is up to date and accurate in Skyward as you will not receive information from us if your accurate information is not in the system.
 9. School Pictures
 - a. Concern was expressed that the change of picture companies was due to my personal interest or connection to the company or photographers. I am sorry that there are those that felt that this was or is the case. I can assure you that in no way am I connected to this company and have no invested interest in one company over another. The feedback I had received from staff and parents at the end of last year was that a change in companies might be good. Each year I meet with different companies to discuss picture options. One of the reasons we went with the company we went with this year is due to the percentage amount of sales that was promised to come back to our school. Just so that you know, more money came back to our school this year, than any other year with any other company. However, with that being said, that should not be the determining factor. I am positive that we will never be able to make everyone happy, but I am

- b. certainly more than willing to try. I want to hear any specific feedback you have regarding our school pictures and encourage you all to let me know in person, via phone, via e-mail, or through our PTA, SCC, or your classroom teacher. We have not committed to any company for the 2017-2018 school year and I would love your feedback before we made that commitment.

I apologize for the length of this letter, but I felt strongly about addressing all of this with every one of our families. I also wanted to provide each of you another chance to provide additional feedback. I am here to serve you and your child(ren) and believe strongly that we will accomplish so much more if we are working together. Please contact me with any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have. I would love to talk with all of you about any of the items above, or anything else that may not have been addressed in this questionnaire.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with your child(ren) every day. I consider it an honor and appreciate greatly your trust in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mr. McKay Robinson, Principal