

2016 Thought Exchange Survey Summary

What are some things that you appreciate about our school?

- 1) Great staff (teachers and support staff) – “I truly appreciate the teachers and educational assistants at Namao. We have a lot of teachers at our school that take their own time to make our school a great place;” “All the after school club, our outdoor classroom, and any activity that brings the families in is great for our school. The teachers are warm and smiling;” “I love how seamlessly the school has integrated their program for inclusion. The support staff are the friendliest and nicest I have ever met.”
- 2) Sense of Community/Opportunities to Volunteer/Hot Lunch – “Namao works hard to provide a community. When volunteering at the hot lunch program, or any other area of the school, you can feel the sense of a strong community. Parents feel appreciated when the school provides their volunteer tea each year;” “I am very pleased that we have a dedicated group of volunteers to organize and arrange the weekly hot lunch program.”
- 3) Variety of programs (PEP, KEP, Reggio Emilia Inspired Learning, Knowledge and Employability and Band/Options) – “Sturgeon's budget commitment with Grade 6 Band, regular Music teacher connection through meetings, and Sturgeon Night of Music is a stellar example of excellence. Well done!” “Our school has a lot of after school clubs that are great for the kids. Running club, Elementary Basketball Club, Drama Club are some great examples. And when they include the whole family in some activities it's awesome.”

What are some concerns that you have about our school?

- 1) Resources/Classroom support – “Ensuring that there is adequate staff for all students, including special needs students. The concern would be inclusive education without adequate supports in place for the teacher and all students;”
- 2) Physical Education Time – “My child gets 30 minutes of PE time, 4 times a week shared with another class. In that 30 min time, they have to change into and out of PE clothing. That equates to very little actual gym time.”
- 3) Second Language in Junior High – “French is mandatory in grades 4 - 6, but it is not an option at the Junior High level in our school. I think it is important to gain a second language, and if it is mandatory in elementary, it should be available as a complementary course in junior high.”

What are your thoughts about how the school division could better support and engage students, parents, employees and community partners?

- 1) Report Cards – “I feel we need to go back to report cards. This alone would enhance the engagement from students, parents and teachers.” “I prefer the personalized comments – it shows that the teacher really knows my child.”
- 2) Communication – “If I don't know as a parent what is going on I can't participate in anything. Whether that's volunteering for something, voicing concerns or participating in a school activity;” “The school needs a new website.”
- 3) Continue to provide opportunities for feedback – “I think that questionnaires like these are a great idea. I think they should be available to students as well though. Making it easier to reach out to the school division for parents is also a good idea.”