

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This report offers a snapshot of what parents said about your school and the district in our first annual survey, which was conducted last June. The Board of Education hopes this information will contribute to a dialogue among all members of the school community, and will become one of the important resources we can use to make the school the best it can be.

Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey last June. We look forward to your feedback, as we endeavor to make this process of reflection a regular activity among the Ridgewood Public Schools.

Ridgewood Board of Education  
Michele Lenhard, President  
Robert Hutton, Vice President  
Sheila Brogan  
Laurie Goodman  
Charles Reilly

### **How to read this report.**

The data in this report reflects survey results for your school only. For each survey question, results are displayed as bar graphs. At the end of the report you will find summaries of the comments that were received for each section.

Please note that not all parents participated in the survey. Your school's participation rate is noted below, along with the overall District participation rate.

### **How was the survey conducted?**

The survey was conducted via email during the week of June 10-17, 2010. Email invitations with private links were sent to all parent/guardian email addresses on file with the District. Survey respondents participated on a secure survey website, and only one response was allowed for each email address.

Numerical survey data was compiled, and charts were created, by members of the District IT Department. A committee of parents, administrators and school board members reviewed the data and summarized the

comments for this report. The Board's Communications Committee presented the report to the full Board of Education on December 20, 2010.

### **What were the results for the District as a whole?**

A total of 2573 parents or guardians filled out a survey, representing a 38% participation rate. [Click here](#) for a District summary of the survey data.

### **How many parents participated in your school's survey?**

	# Students	# Emails Available	# Participants	Participation Rate 09-10
Somerville	518	613	253	41%
District	5618	6697	2573	38%

### **How can you use these survey results?**

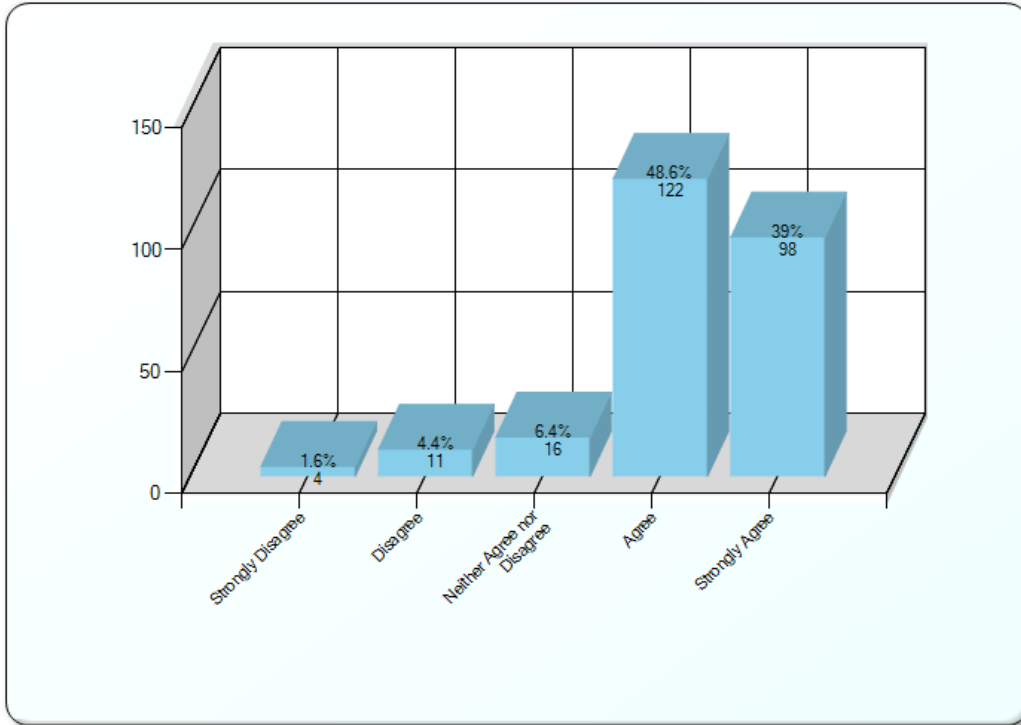
You and your school community can use the results of this survey to start conversations about your school, especially in terms of teaching and instruction, extracurricular activities, facilities, communications, parent engagement, administration and more. Parents are encouraged to talk with each other, your child's teacher(s), school administrators and/or your Home & School Association regarding any specific issues, ideas or suggestions that arise from the survey results.

Complete survey results have been provided to your school's principal, as well as central administration at the Ed Center and members of the Board of Education.

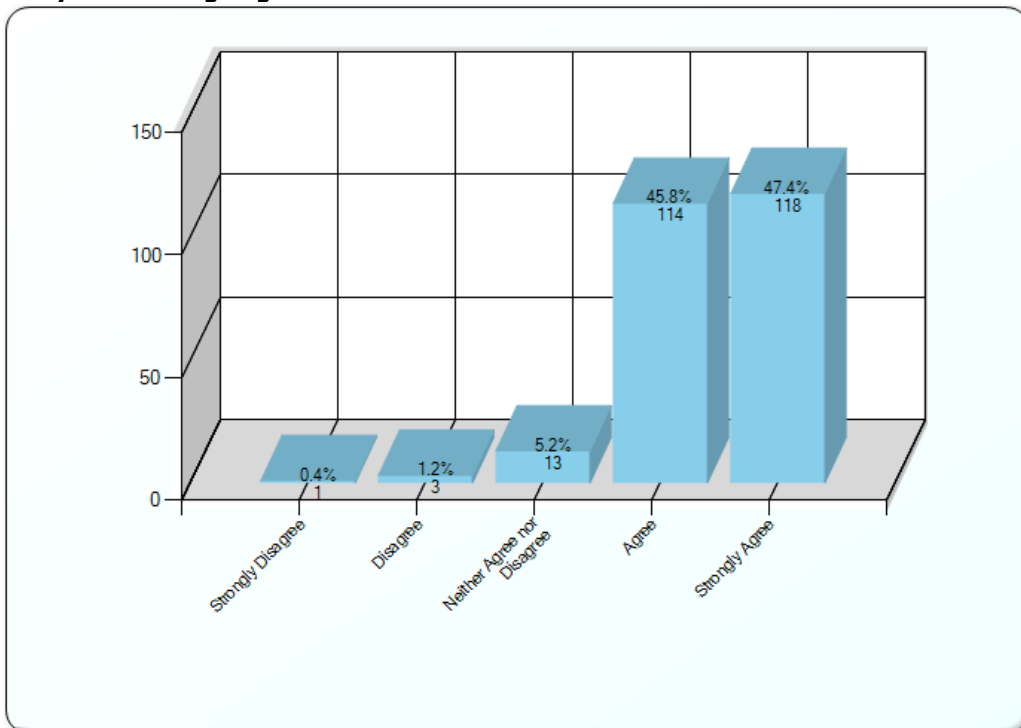
**SOMERVILLE SCHOOL**  
**Results: Parent Opinion survey 2009 - 2010**

**GENERAL: OVERALL SATISFACTION AND CLIMATE**

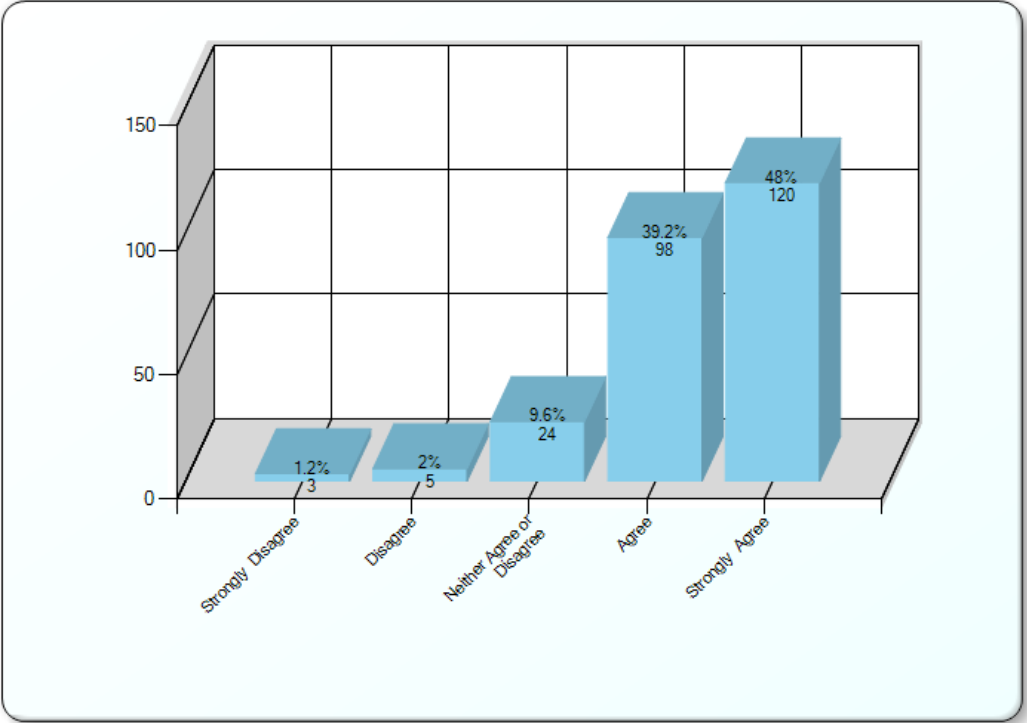
**1. I am satisfied with the overall quality of my child's education.**



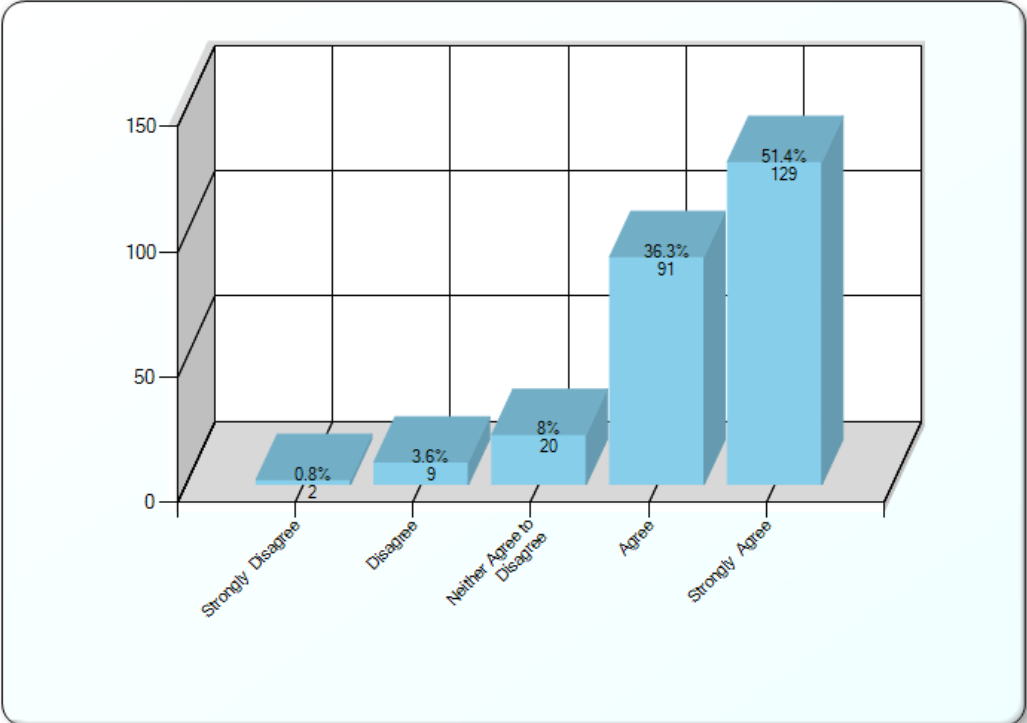
**2. My child likes going to school.**



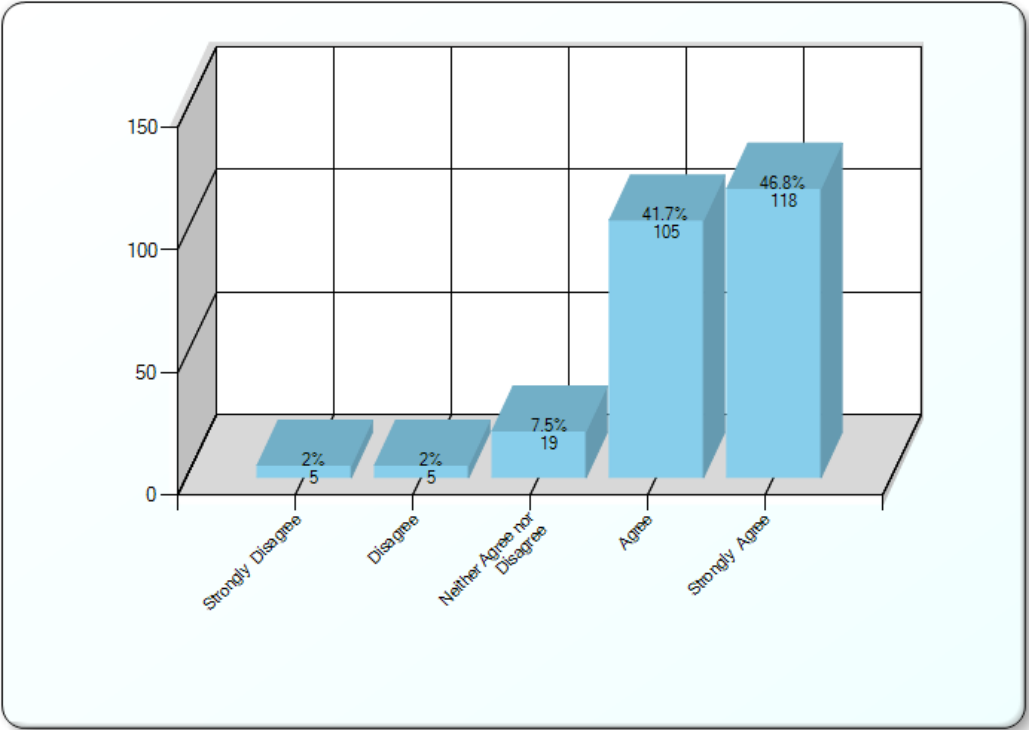
**3. I would recommend my child's school to other parents.**



**4. I feel welcome in my child's school.**

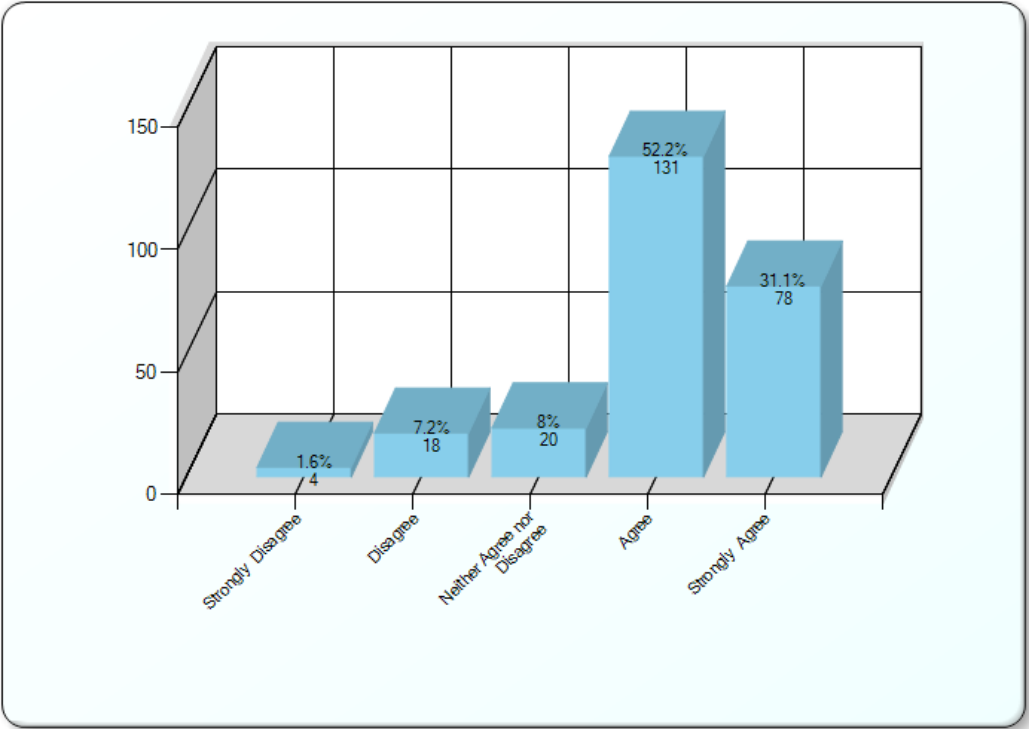


**5. My child is safe at school.**

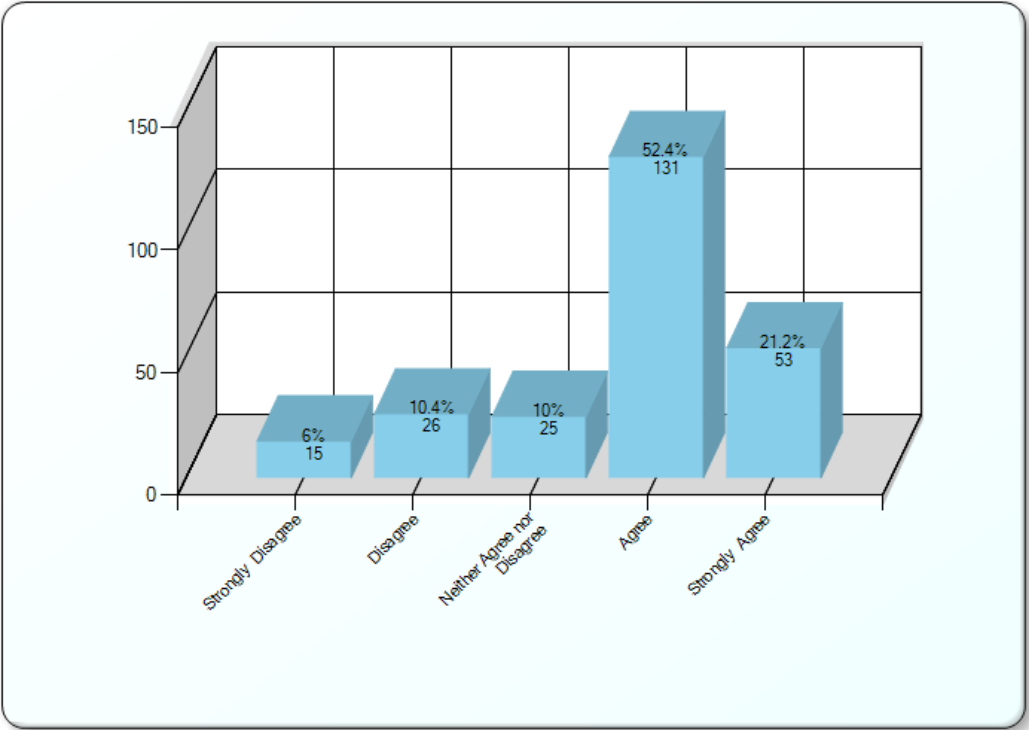


**ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION**

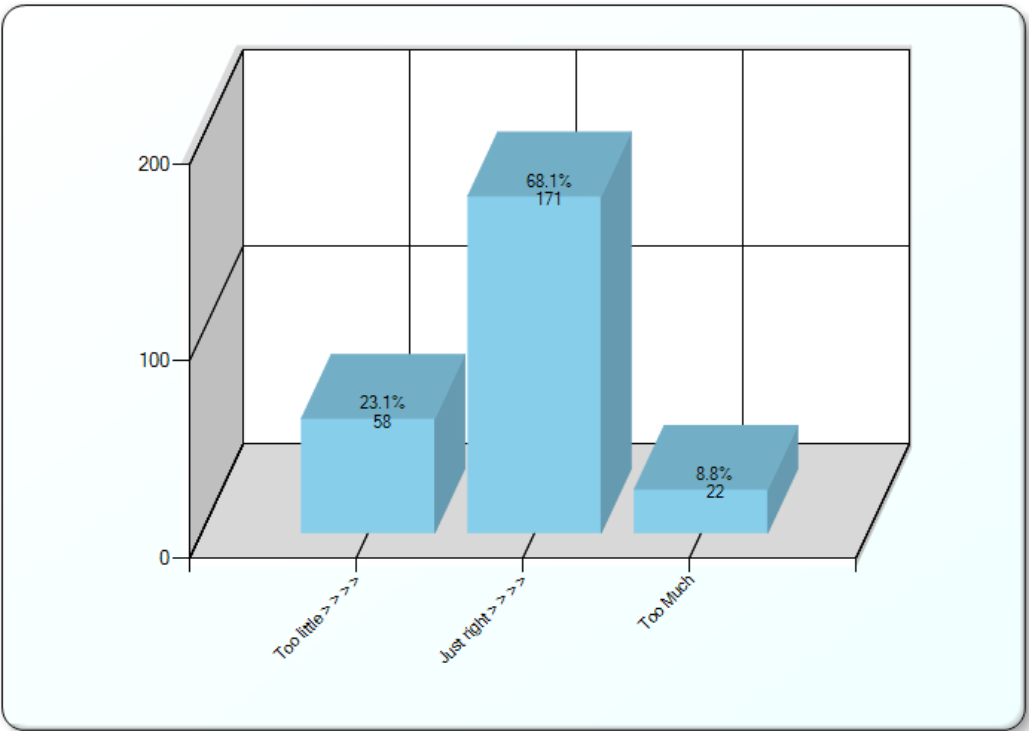
**6. I am pleased with the academic progress of my child.**



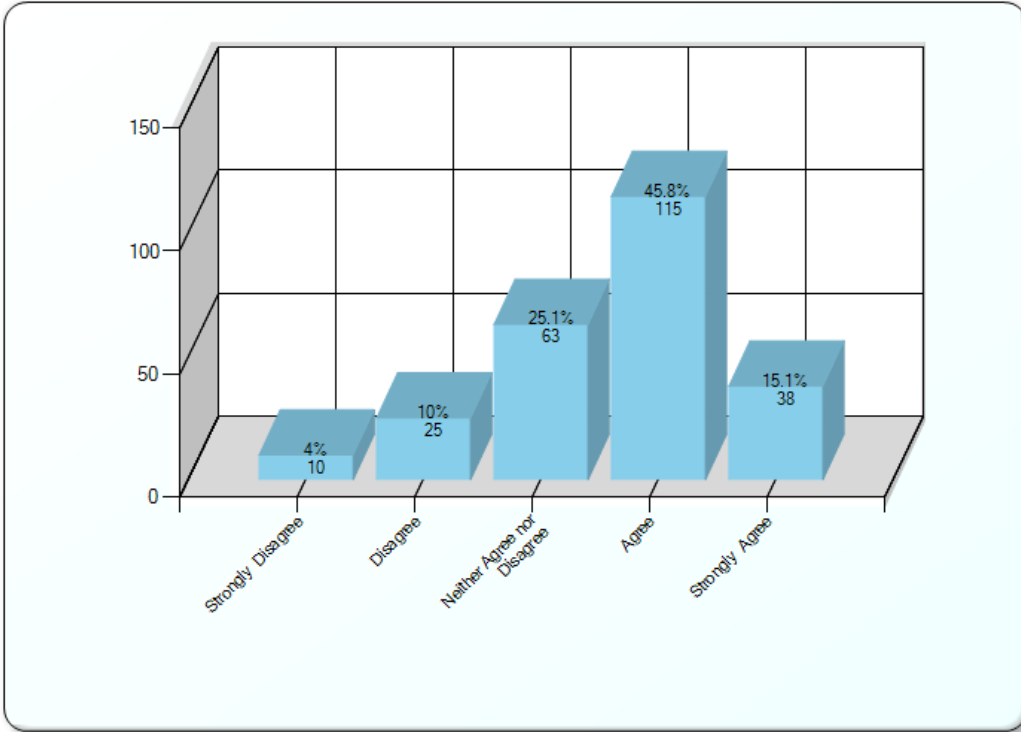
**7. My child is challenged academically.**



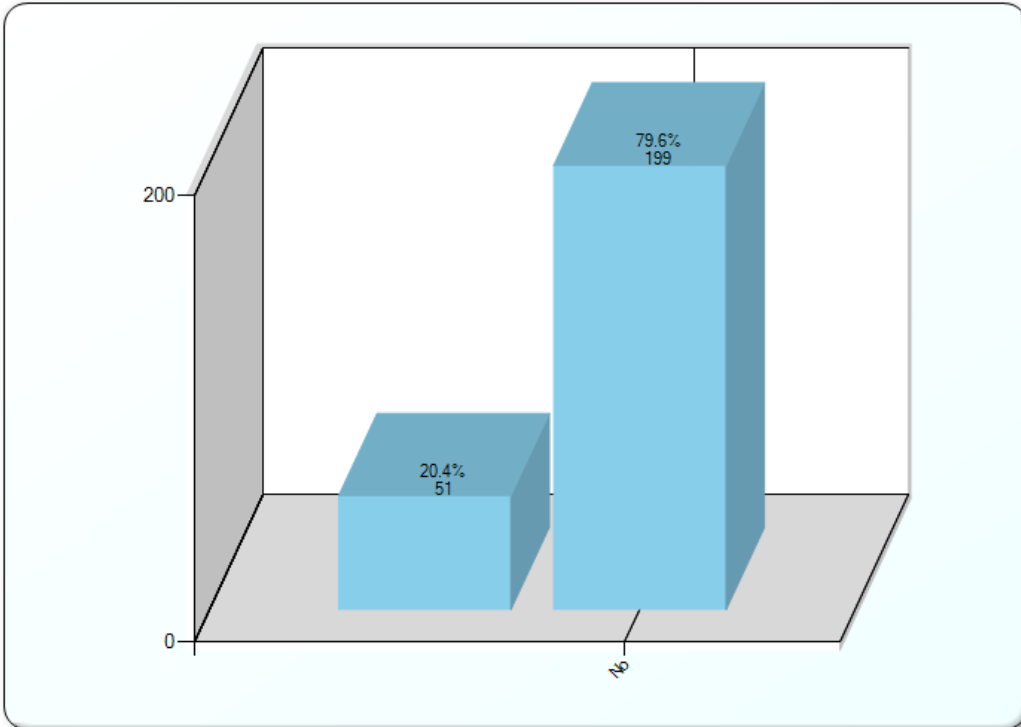
**8. The amount of homework my child receives is:**



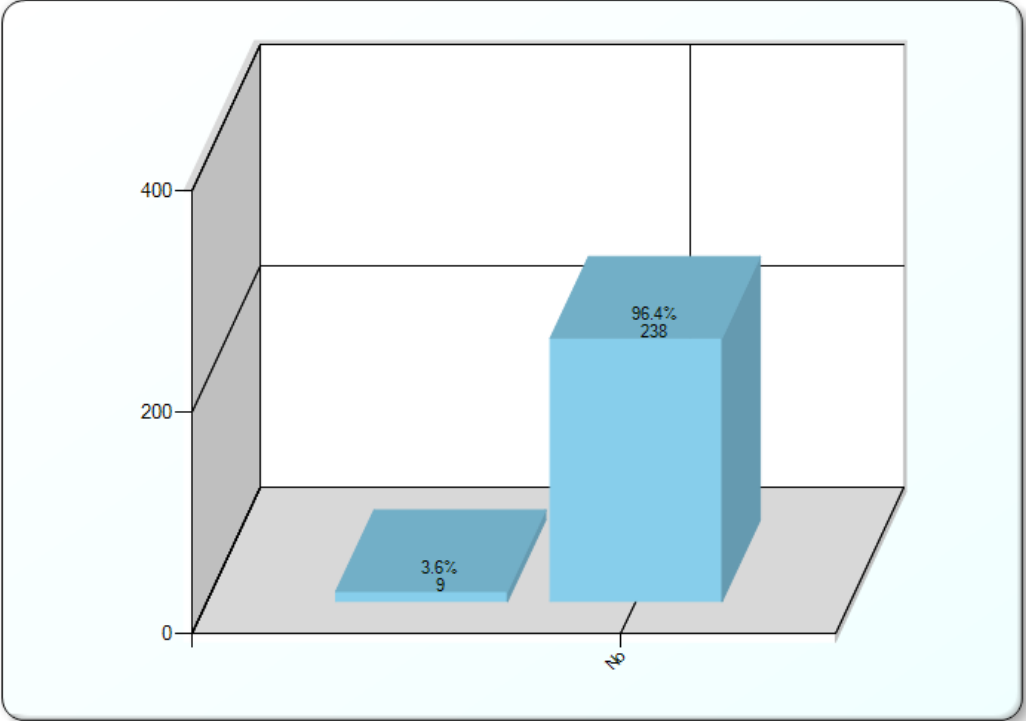
**9. The school gives me ideas and opportunities to help my child do his/her best.**



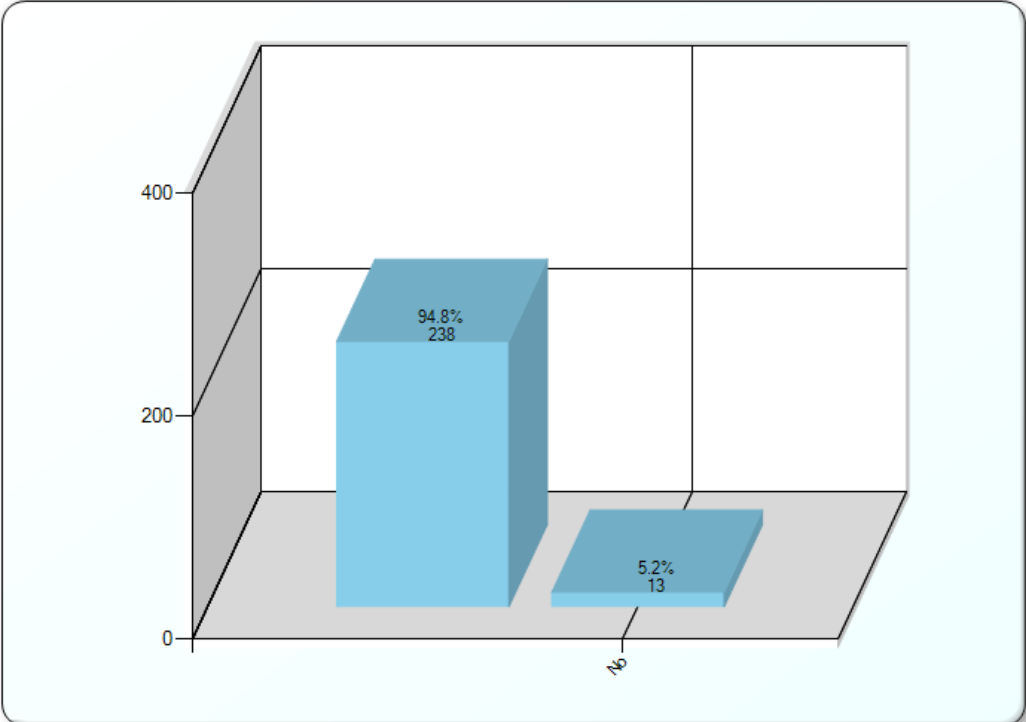
**10. I supplement my child's education with professional tutoring in core subjects such as math or reading (other than SAT prep).**



**11. My child participates in SAT prep (tutor, prep classes, etc.)**

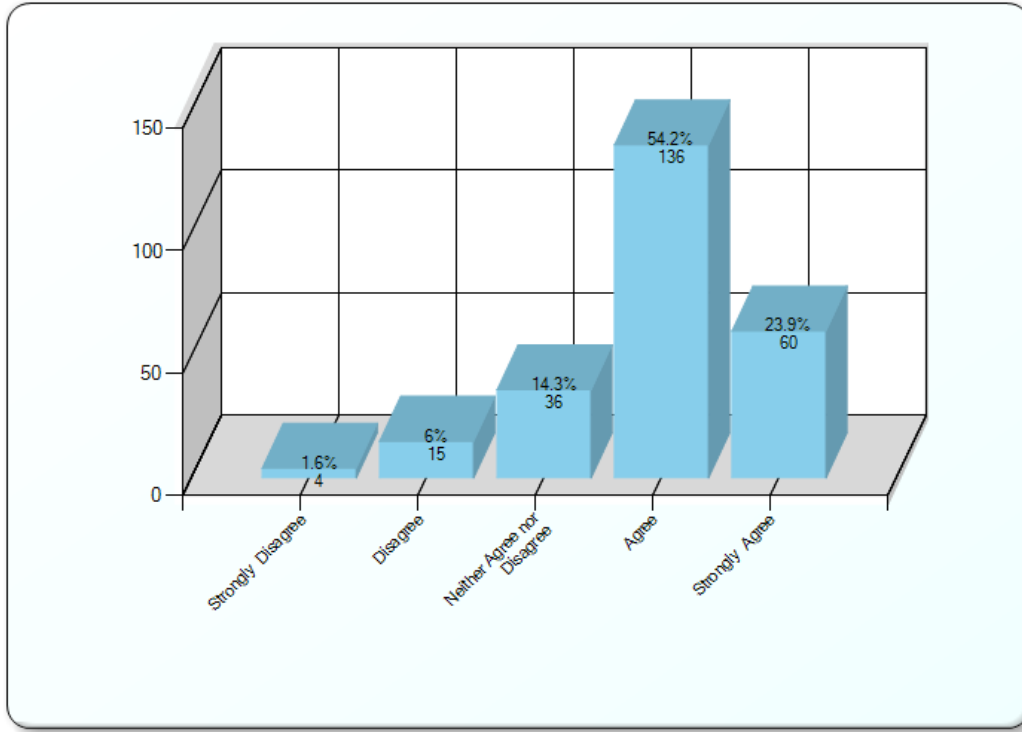


**12. My child attended pre-school prior to enrolling in kindergarten.**

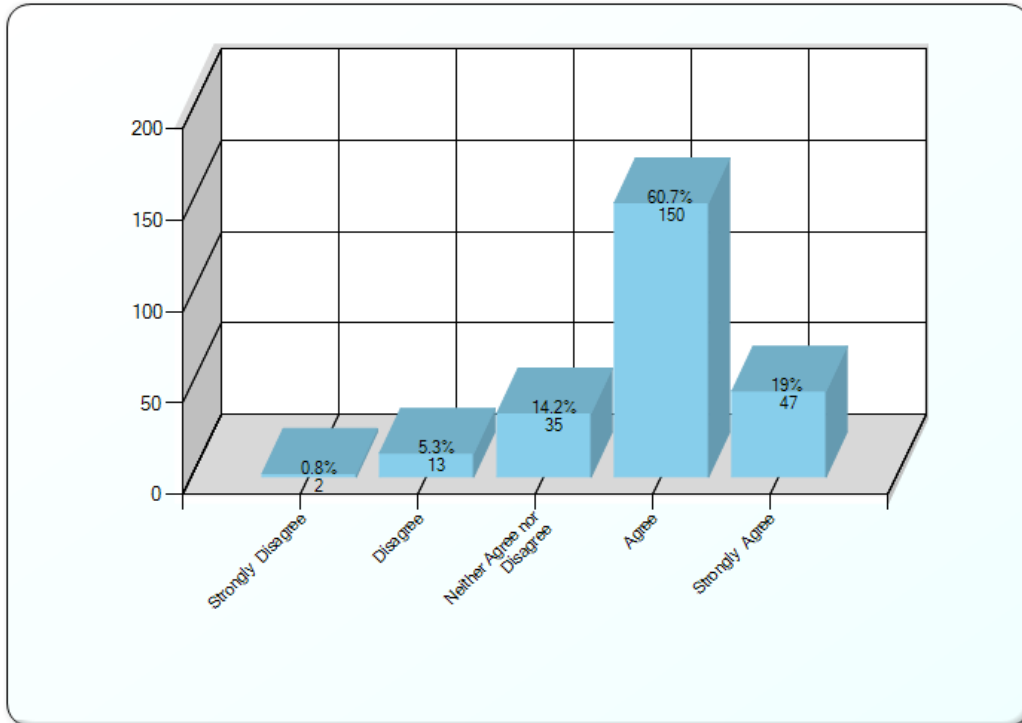


## EXTRACURRICULARS

**13. I am satisfied with the non-sports extracurricular opportunities (music, drama, art, etc.) in school.**

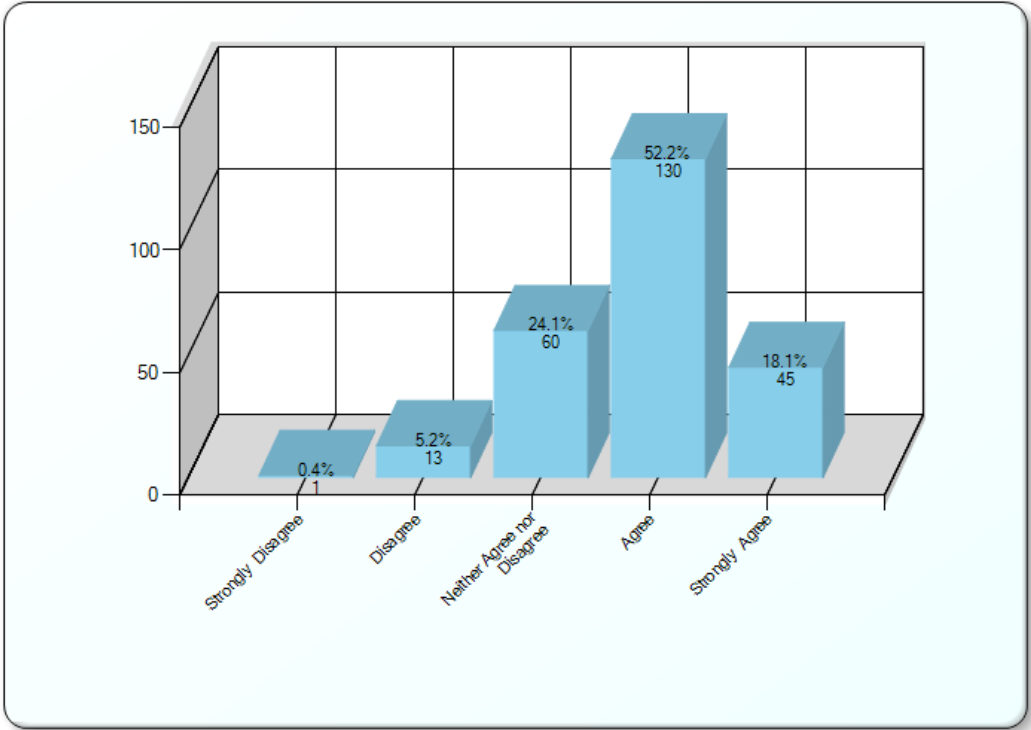


**14. I am satisfied with the health/wellness/fitness/sports offerings at school.**



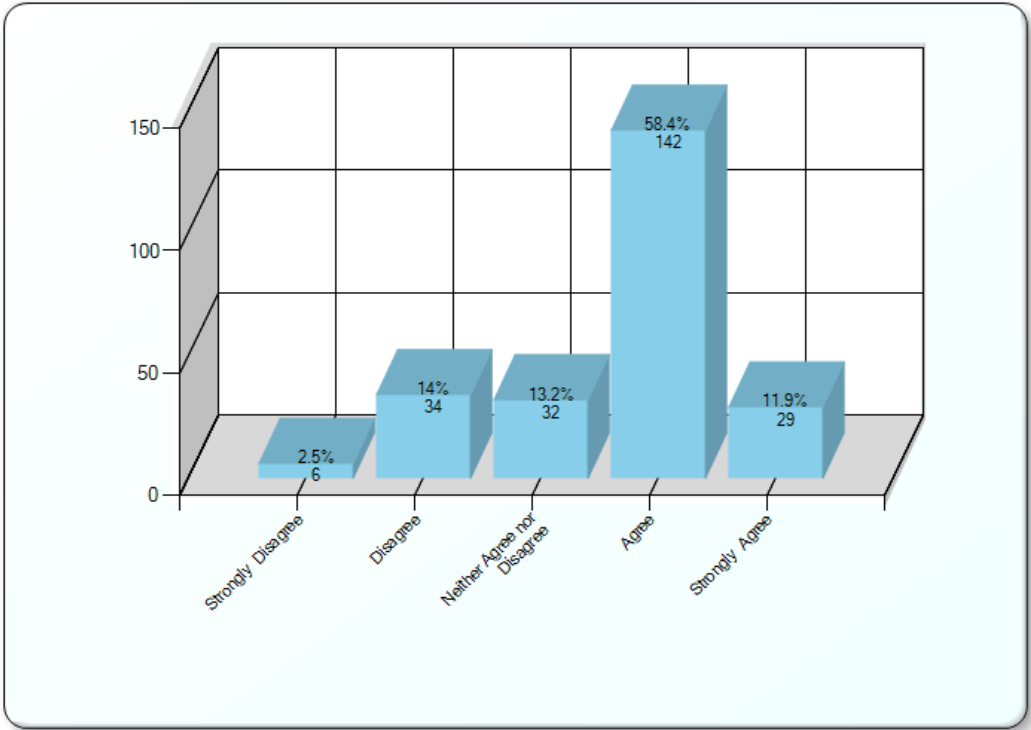


**15. My child is encouraged to try new things at school.**

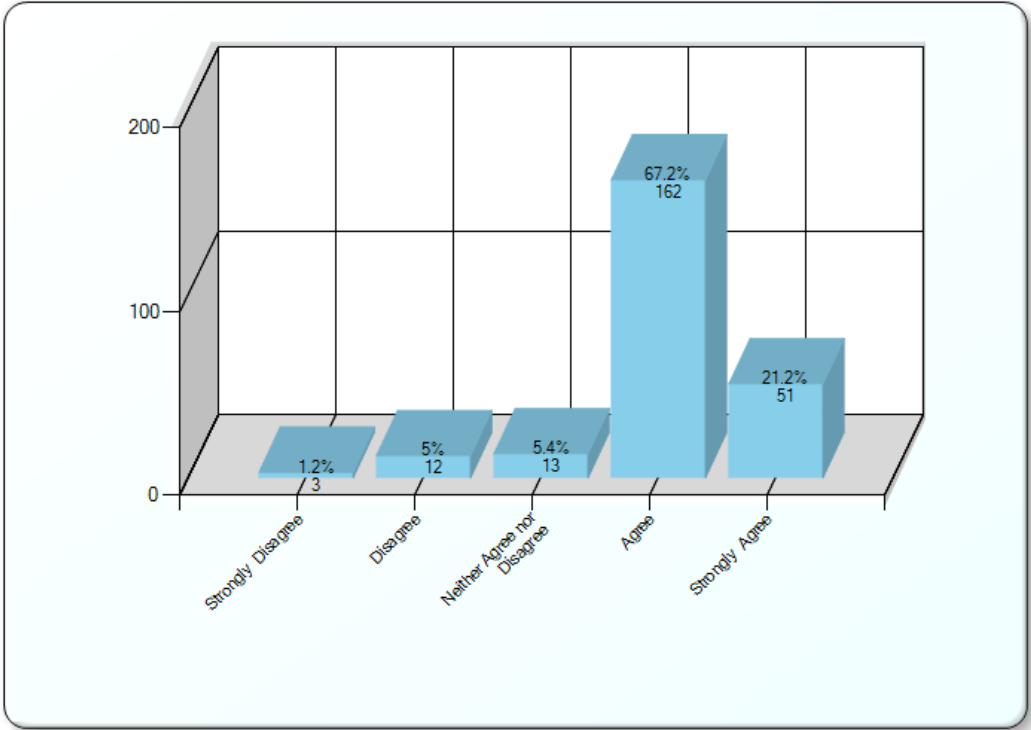


**FACILITIES**

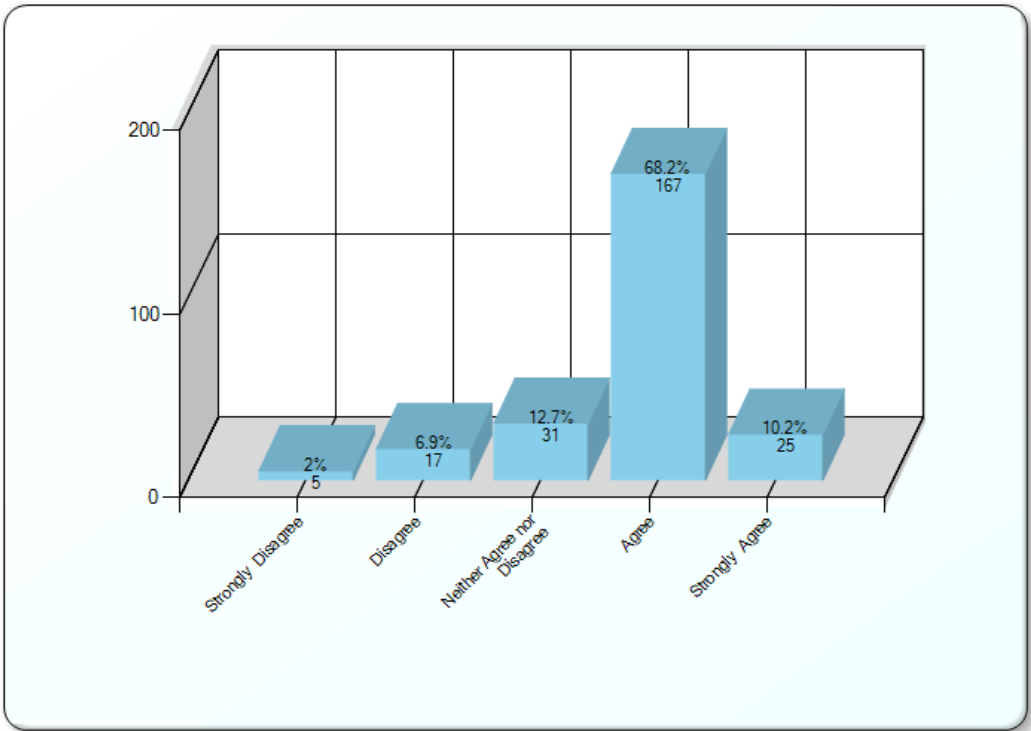
**16. I am satisfied with the quality of the physical spaces at my child's school.**



**17. My child's school is clean and well-maintained.**

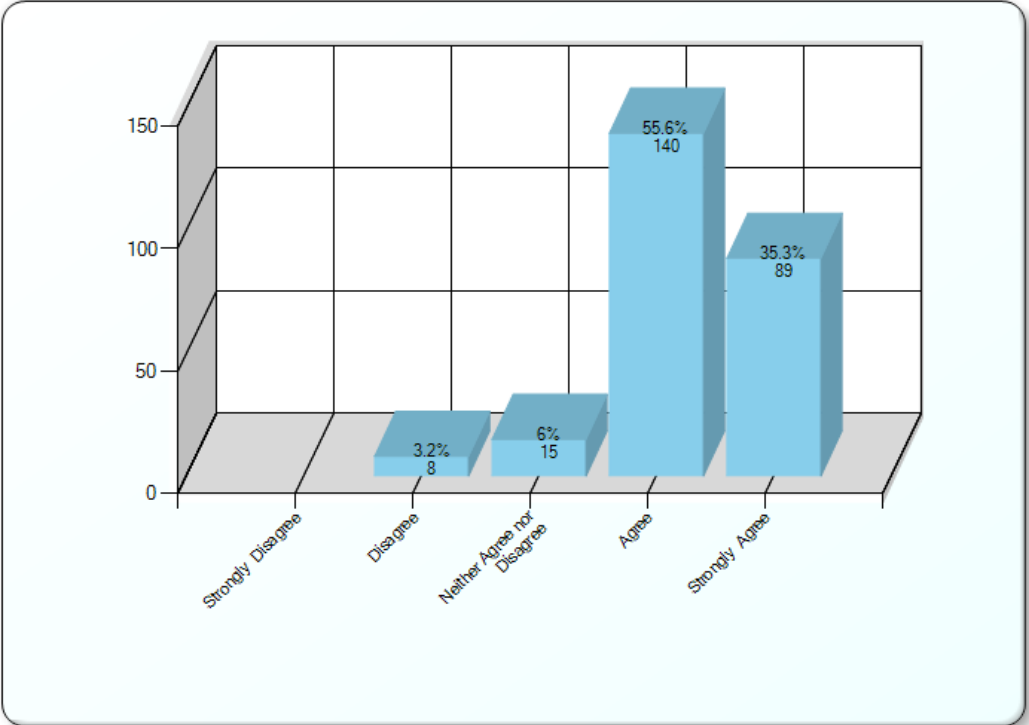


**18. The condition/quality of our school athletic facilities is acceptable.**

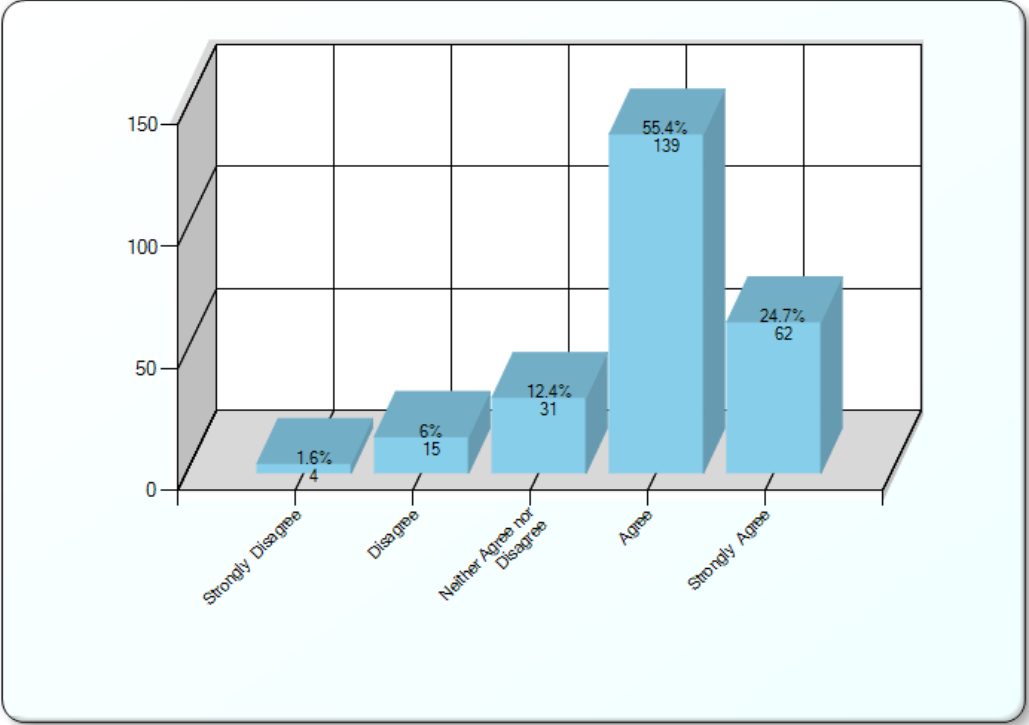


**COMMUNICATIONS**

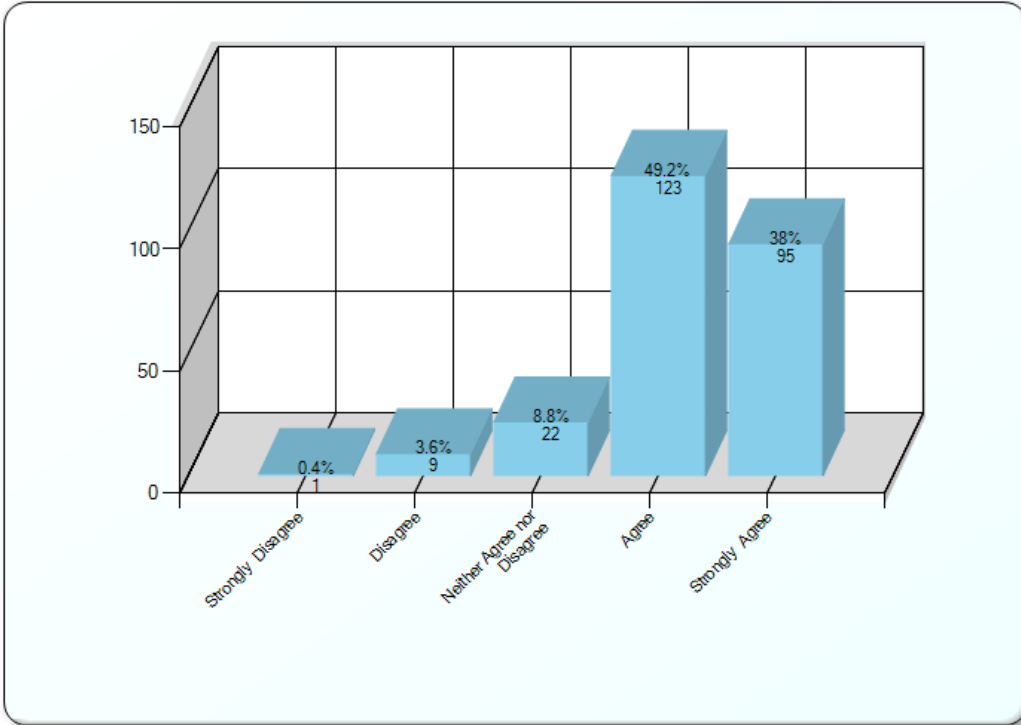
**19. I feel well-informed about school programs/services/activities.**



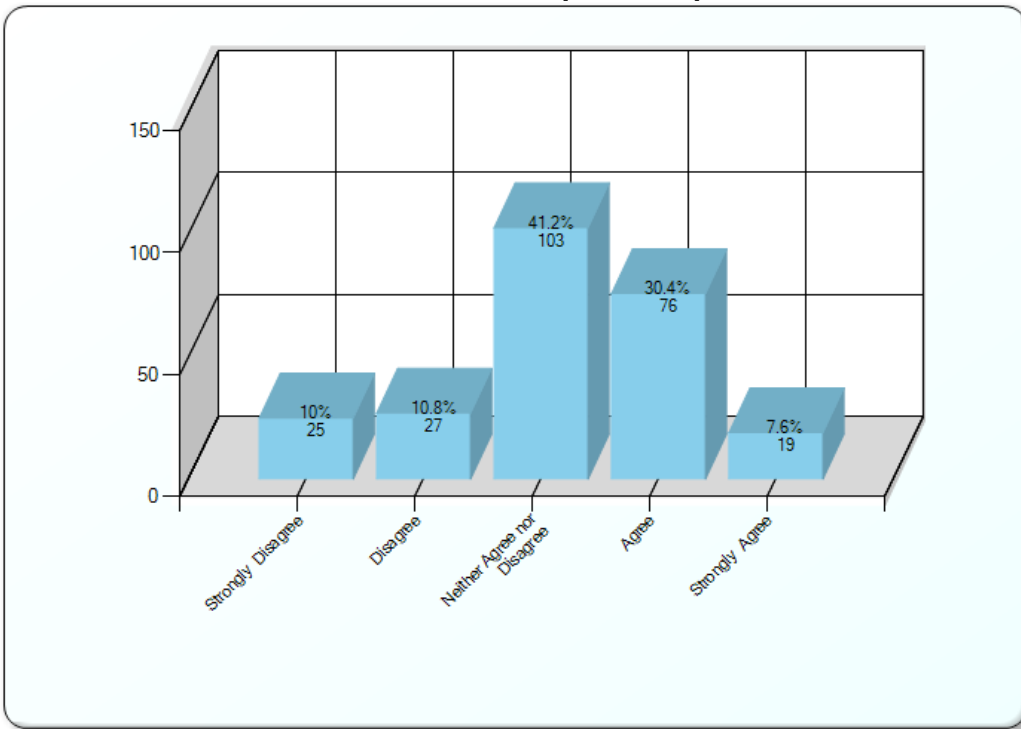
**20. The school keeps me informed of my child's progress.**



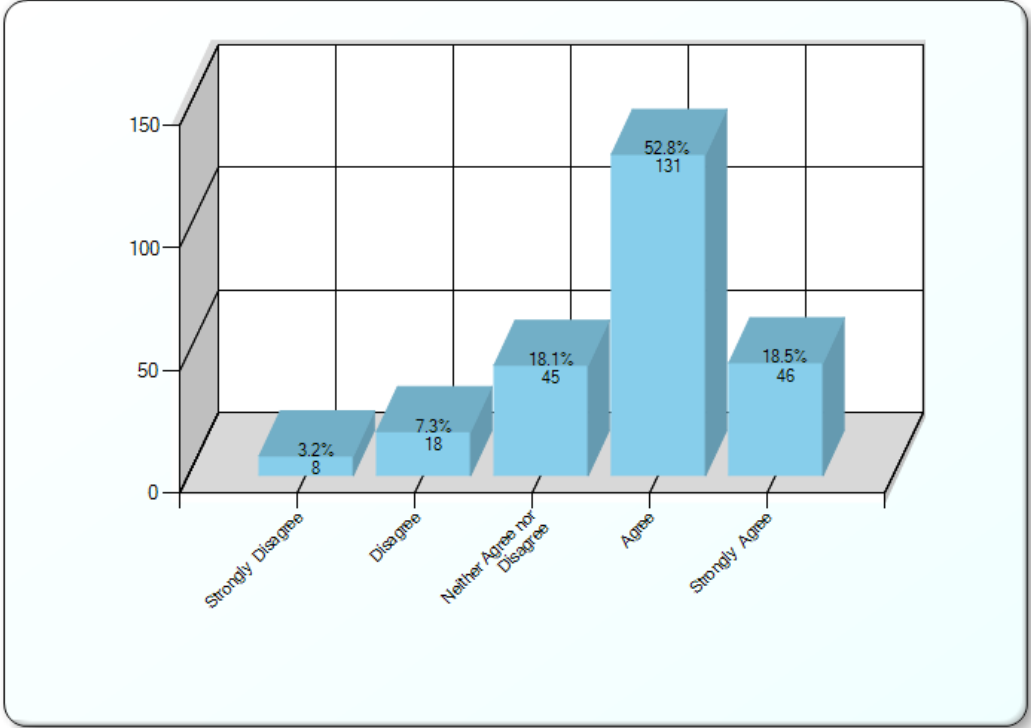
**21. School staff (teachers/principal) are responsive to parent concerns.**



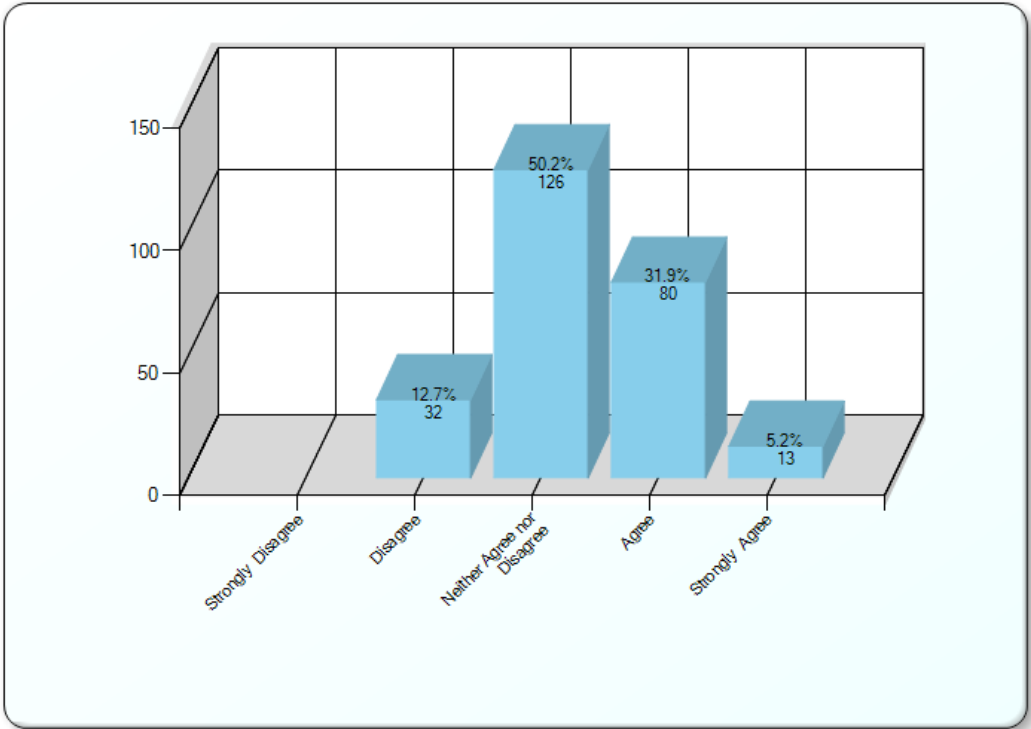
**22. District administration/Board of Ed are responsive to parent concerns.**



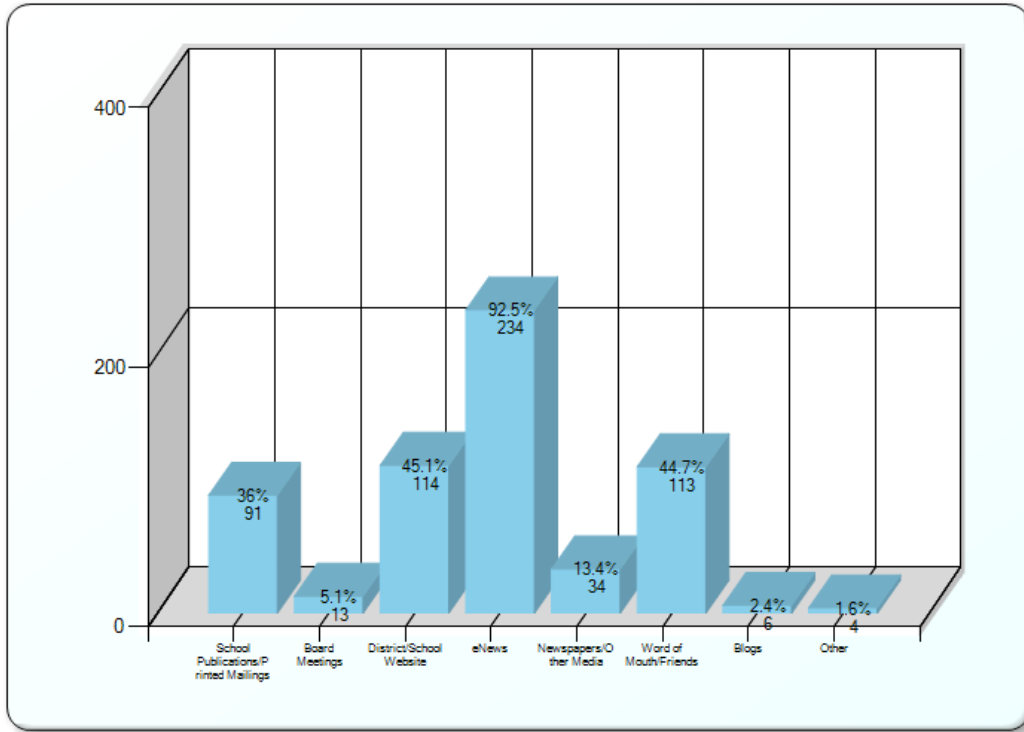
**23. I have sufficient opportunities to express my opinions or concerns regarding school.**



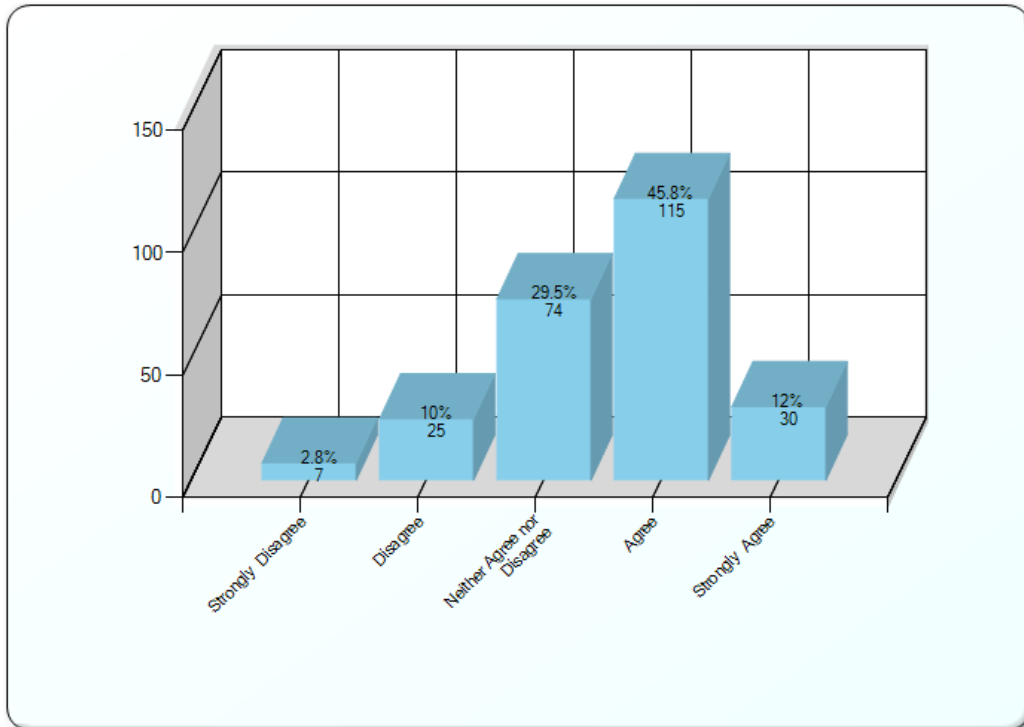
**24. I would like to be more involved in my child's school.**



**25. How do you receive most of your school information?**



**26. The District website is a useful source for everything I need to know about Ridgewood Public Schools.**



## Comments

Your school received a total of 319 comments in all sections. All comments were reviewed by a committee of administrators, Board of Education members and parents. A summary of key themes is included here. Note: *All* comments have been provided to relevant administrators for follow-up, and the full text of comments is available on your school's website. (In the interest of privacy, comments that personally identified staff members or students have been removed.)

### **General**

There were 47 comments on school climate. Overall, there were positive comments about the school, staff, and that it is a nurturing place. There were 53 comments on safety issues. Parents believed that their children were safe at school, but paramount among the concerns was the proposed Valley Hospital expansion, specifically: the need for an environmental impact study prior to any construction; traffic and pedestrian safety issues; quality monitoring and use of the new track and athletic field at Benjamin Franklin Middle School during construction. Some parents said they were disappointed in the Board of Education's neutral stance on this issue. Seventeen respondents expressed disappointment with the Board of Education's not advocating for an environmental study to be done prior to the Planning Board's decision.

### **Academics/Curriculum/Instruction**

Of the total, 86 comments referenced academics, curriculum and instruction. Of the 86 comments: 34 requested more enrichment in reading, math and science for all children regardless of academic ability; seven wrote that there was too much homework, even in kindergarten; three voiced the need for a teacher-led Spanish program. Tutors were used primarily for enrichment, supplementing curriculum. There were 12 positive comments about the visual and performing arts program. There were 10 comments, mostly negative, about math, indicating that the program was not strong enough.

### **Extracurricular**

A total of 20 comments referenced the extra-curricular program. It was not clear whether the positive comments about the arts program pertained to the curricular or the extracurricular program. Otherwise, the respondents were divided between those that thought the extra-curricular programs were exceptional and those who had inadequate information.

### **Facilities**

Forty-four comments referenced the facilities. Fifteen of these comments mentioned overcrowded conditions in the library, gym, cafeteria or the necessity of having instruction in the hallway. Twenty-nine negative comments were made on the maintenance inside the school and the need for improvements to the grounds and fields.

### **Communications**

Forty-nine comments referenced communications, of which 26 specifically addressed the need for more detailed information on their child's academic progress.

We're sorry. The full unedited comments are unavailable at this time.

Thank you for your participation in our Annual Parent Survey!

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