

East Ridge Elementary PTA 2010-2011 Survey Results

April 2010

Introduction

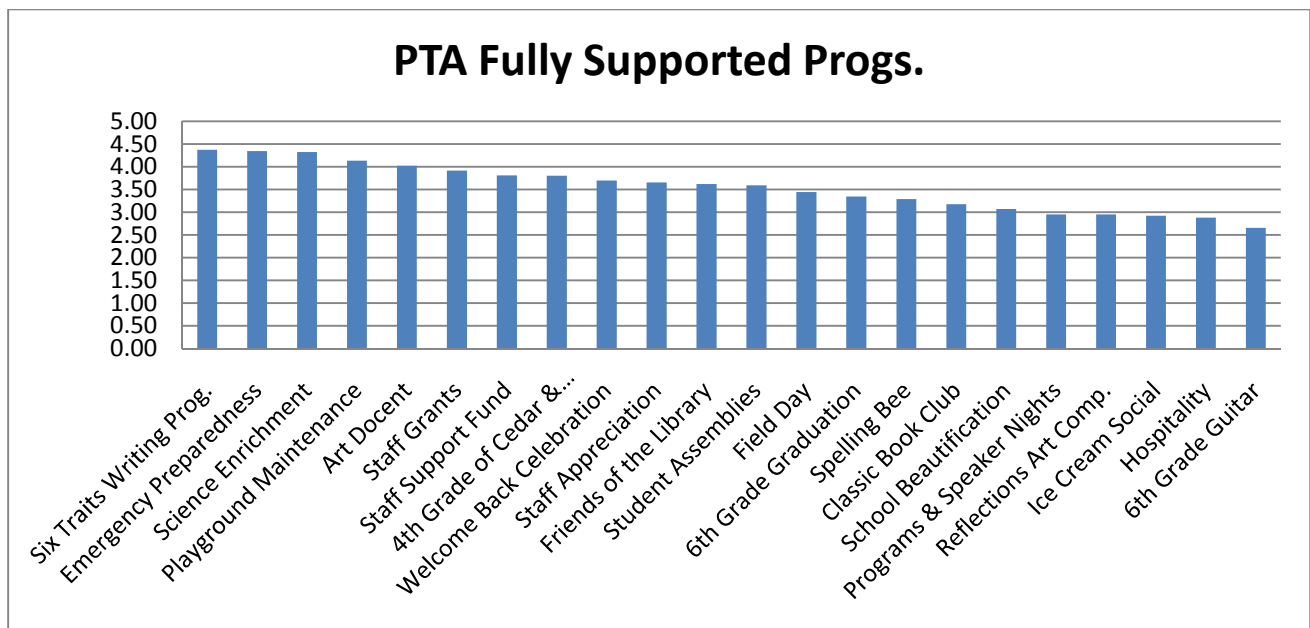
The idea came out of discussions at a recent Board Meeting. We wanted to get more people interested in the PTA in general and wondered whether members really knew enough about what the PTA was about and what the PTA does with the money it collects. So we wanted feedback on what people thought of the current programs and if anyone had ideas for new programs. A particular issue concerning us was the “carry over” money (money that rolls over from year to year). The Board thought this was a missed opportunity to do something with the money (unless people were happy with leaving things as they were). If we asked specifically about this then people could give their views and the Board would then have a guide to help make recommendations and decisions.

Results

54 people responded, 16% of the total number asked. There were 44 PTA members, 2 non PTA and 8 who didn't answer this question. Five staff responded out of 38 (including office staff).

1. PTA Fully Supported Programs

People were asked to rank the current supported programs from 5 (most important) to 1 (least important). All the categories could be ranked. The results were weighted like GPA scores (scoring 5 for a 5, 4 for a 4 etc).

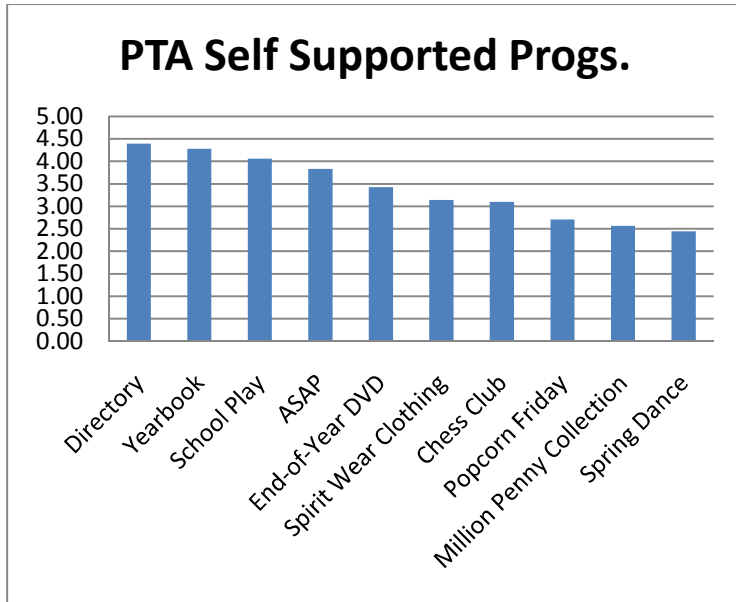


The top five were Six Traits Writing, Emergency Preparedness, Science Enrichment (Science to Go), Playground Maintenance and Art Docent. The bottom three were Ice Cream Social, Hospitality and 6th Grade Guitar although these all scored more than 2.5.

Please note we left off the Library Grant by mistake.

2. PTA Self Supported Programs

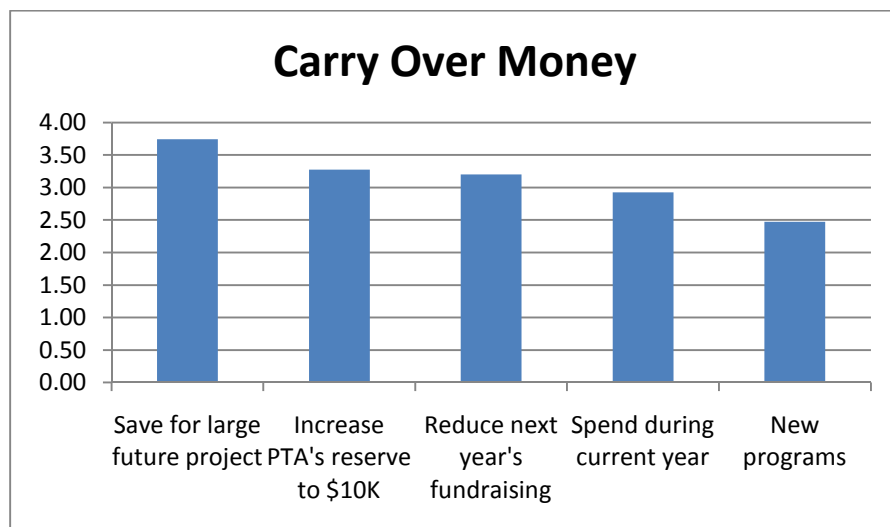
The same ranking question was asked for these programs.



The top four were the Directory, Yearbook, School Play and ASAP (After School Arts Program). The bottom three were Popcorn Friday, Million Penny collection and Spring Dance (which is not being held this year). Chess Club isn't currently being held either but was ranked fourth from the bottom.

Roll Over Money

People were asked to rank the options again.



The first choice here was to save for a large future project followed by increasing PTA's reserve to \$10,000 then reducing next year's fundraising. The New Programs option was the last choice, with spending during the current year being fourth.

3. **Would you like to spend more money on smaller projects?** 63% said "no", twenty four people responding.
4. **Would you like the PTA to save for larger (>\$2,000) projects?** Got an 80% "yes" vote, thirty five people responding. It looks like the larger projects idea is more popular.

Limitations

Only five staff members replied but they may have filled in the general forms in the office (not marked "staff"). Also, the teachers were asked verbally about projects they would like to see funded so possibly they didn't think to fill the form in. Probably next time staff should be proactively asked.

The ranking system used in other surveys goes from 1 (most important) to 5 (least) so perhaps next time we should use the same convention to avoid possible confusion.

It was a long survey-2 pages. Less people replied to the last few questions (numbers 4 and 5).

Question 1, the funded programs had a long list and some of the categories may not have been understood.

Comments

We asked for suggestions for both smaller and larger projects and received other comments too. Many comments were received and we listed them all. Overall academic programs were favored and books featured in lots of comments. Gym equipment and school beautification also got a few mentions. Larger projects mentioned were also academic plus playground equipment, water fountain in field area and sound system for the gym. Camp Casey or an overnight experience was also listed. Support for what the teachers need/want was also expressed.

Summary

Overall the current programs are popular, in particular academic programs and Emergency Prep. The directory and the yearbook were top of the self supported programs. There seems to be a desire to fund a larger (possibly longer term) project. From the comments and the ranking the East Ridge bias is for the more academic programs and books in particular with the playground also being popular.