

Who Took The Survey...	Response Percent	Response Count
Teacher or School Staff at Franklin	4.6%	7
Parent or Guardian	80.3%	122
Teacher or School Staff at Randall	15.1%	23
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		3

What level of prioritization would you assign each of the following issues for the PTO?	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Rating Average
Academic goals of the schools including literacy and math.	51	41	41	16	2	3.81
Complementing the school day experience with things like field trips, arts programs and playground equipment.	64	66	22	1	1	4.24
Funding capital purchases such as classroom furniture, copy machines, and technology.	35	54	42	14	7	3.63
Building a strong and positive school community that includes children, teachers and parents.	91	45	15	3	0	4.45
Motivating teachers with appreciation projects and purchases like luncheons and thank you gifts.	38	56	49	10	2	3.76
Providing on-going or multi-week enrichment programs like chess club, Lego league and the the foreign language program.	64	50	32	6	2	4.09
Annual enrichment activities such as Super Science Saturday, Marvelous Math Morning, and the International Dinner	61	55	31	6	1	4.1
Developing relationships between the schools and their neighborhoods.	28	47	51	23	4	3.47
Advocating for issues affecting all of Madison's children such as food policy, parks, environment and, health and wellness	52	44	41	14	2	3.85
Supporting programs for students who need programs or services such as those identified as TAG, special education or those affected by the achievement gap.	42	64	40	5	2	3.91
Facilitating communication between parents and school.	72	58	20	4	1	4.26

Overall how do you think the PTO is doing at meeting its mission?							
Answer Options	Great.	Good	Fine	OK	Poor	Rating Average	Response Count
Please rate.	73	64	11	1	0	4.40	149
<i>answered question</i>							149
<i>skipped question</i>							6

Have you volunteered for any PTO projects or events?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.9%	85
No	44.1%	67
If so, which ones? How was the experience?		70
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Where do you get information about PTO activities, events and programs?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Newsletter	72.1%	111
Email list	81.2%	125
Friday folders	64.9%	100
Website	18.2%	28
Word of mouth	26.0%	40
My child's teacher	9.1%	14
Other	2.6%	4
<i>answered question</i>		154
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Have you been to any PTO meetings?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.4%	68
No	56.2%	86
<i>answered question</i>		153
<i>skipped question</i>		2

If you have not been to any PTO meetings, why not? If you have, what feedback do you have that would enhance future meetings?

I have other commitments that take greater precedence at this time in my kids' lives.
I already volunteer in both of my daughter's classes. I have MS and only so much energy.
I'm not sure I knew when, where, and how often meetings happen.
We had a new baby just as the school year was beginning....and then all of a sudden here we are at the end of the year. I do look forward, however, to being involved next year!
Unfortunately attending them has not been my priority, which is not the fault of the PTO.
This is the first year that I have gone to one (I have been in F-R community for 4 years). I like the new format with the presentation beforehand. Hearing directly from the principals is wonderful.
My wife teaches on Tuesday evenings.

<p>Attended two meetings at Franklin. The presentation on math curriculum was not very helpful, but the meetings in general are very well run and well paced. Suzanne does a fantastic job as president. However, it is difficult to attend on Tuesday evenings. Is it possible to have the meetings at various times, such as Sunday late afternoon, from time to time ? It is nice that the kindergarten play dates this summer are scheduled at various times, so more families are likely to be able to attend at least one. This would be a great model for the PTO meetings.</p>
<p>though timing is bad for my work schedule</p>
<p>My wife attends for our family</p>
<p>The meetings were scheduled during an activity my child was involved in. Made it hard to get to both.</p>
<p>I Serve on a board elsewhere that eats into family time so I have to limit my evening meetings.</p>
<p>Work, timing, conflicting schedule with my husband that would require us to get a babysitter.</p>
<p>It was a good experience. I've been to 2 in total. The first one (first of the year) was the most useful. Also attended the nutrition meeting, which was less useful but had good potential as a topic.</p>
<p>My spouse & I own our business, have a new born at home and volunteer what little time we have left over for a couple local charities. Not sure we could commit or at what level you'd need us to. Of course we care about our child's school experience. So far, we've volunteered some time in our child's classroom.</p>
<p>i plan on it next year</p>
<p>For some of the meetings it has been because of scheduling conflicts. I am a teacher in MMSD, so I am very familiar on some of the meeting topics, such as special classes, literacy/math blocks, class placements. I think these topics are very good for people that are less familiar.</p>
<p>It's mostly a time constraint for me.</p>
<p>Maybe a time closer to the end of school day on occasion or before school on occasion</p>
<p>I really like that there is a topic and presentation at the beginning of the meeting. As I am not on the board, generally I don't find it useful to be there for the business end of the meeting</p>
<p>Positive experience. New time is too early for me to get there.</p>
<p>Tuesday is the worst day of the week for us.</p>
<p>Usually a timing issue that prevents me attending (evening activities). Not sure what would bring me. If you did a terrible job I might show up, but what you do is fantastic, so I don't have a pressing need to be there.</p>
<p>Great. Keep up the good work engaging everyone! Continue with presentations on relevant topics.</p>
<p>Scheduling - both parents work full-time and already have work related evening meetings - one more evening out is difficult. I like the video capture of some of the meetings and also downloading power point slides so I can view it later.</p>
<p>numerous reasons - however, I have noticed the invite of children to these meetings this year, as opposed to in the past, which is just one of the reasons why I never attended before...</p>
<p>As a full time working parent, I have limited time to spend with my child and would rather not spend that time in a meeting.</p>
<p>Difficult to make meeting time with younger children at home.</p>
<p>conflicts with time</p>
<p>Evenings are difficult (time-wise) in our household.</p>
<p>Conflicts with the timing of the meetings, or no topic of interest (although this year I do like the the idea of having a particular focus/ title of the meeting.)</p>
<p>I have tried to come but each time couldn't bc travel, illness, one of my other kids' events at different schools.</p>
<p>It was a very good experience - meetings were informative and I feel like I had the chance to participate.</p>
<p>Its hard to get to meetings during the dinner hour.</p>
<p>Only a couple. Have to bring kids, makes for a late night for us.</p>
<p>No, because I have so little time after school. I do volunteer every week in the school and work one on one with children. I only have so much time to give. I support what the PTO does 100%.</p>
<p>...but not in a number of years. Just too many busy nights, in general. Difficult to think about giving up another one.</p>
<p>The timing of the meetings usually conflicts with my both of my kids' athletic games/activities.</p>
<p>I have an ongoing commitment every Tuesday night of the year. However, it is my own personal goal to make a couple meetings next year. I would really like to get more involved!</p>

Time, or lack of it. At the end of a work day I do not envision myself going to a meeting. I actually might if it were on a Saturday.
I went the first two years my daughter was in school. Now my husband goes.
Evenings are too busy for my family.
I am enrolled in a class which meets on the night of the PTO meetings.
I attend the PEG meetings
Being a board member I've been at a lot of meetings the past 3 years. I strongly support continuation of the present format where an information topic is presented first followed by the board meeting.
We plan on being more involved next year.
no time
No time. Not THAT interested, but just want to help when I can.
No time!!
Waste of time. In my student days, EVERY parent went to the PTO. Now, sometimes it seems like only six parents ever go...
I would need childcare to attend more meetings.
But not very often because it is really hard to get out of the house at that time.
But not in awhile.
board members said they would be inclusive, but were not exceedingly friendly to newcomers at the meeting
schedule conflicts
I have been involved in Parent Empowerment Groups (PEG) and don't have time for both.
In previous years I haven't paid much attention but lately I have at least been aware of the topics being discussed and the times of the meetings; I wanted to go to some of them, but had scheduling conflicts. I think to get involved I need to know when the meetings are well in advance so I can program them in and make sure I get there. I'm also more likely to get involved if I know people on the PTO.
I have wanted to go, but have always had a conflict on PTO nights.
I live out of town and have my own family responsibilities.
School days are very long as it is. I do help out with the other parent groups - Hisopanic, PAWS
other priorities distribution of effort -- i trust y'all to do PTO, we contribute coaching and scouting support
But not recently due to scheduling conflicts. I hope to change that next year.
Not at Randall. Hard to schedule in meetings after the work day.
I may have been scarred from attending (as a teacher) in another district when I was a brand new teacher. At this point in time I have my own children in another MMSD school and feel that I need to be involved with that school.
Other commitments
I live out of town.
I don't know any teachers who attend the meetings. I would be happy to attend meetings and be part of the communication. I am not sure how that would look and would be slightly afraid of being put on the spot in certain situations.
The meetings are not at a convenient time for me and as a single parent, childcare would need to be provided for me to attend.
Probably won't attend unless work schedule changes to include fewer evenings and weekends. I did appreciate the time the meeting was videotaped, though
It was a good experience. I went to the meeting on classroom placement. I liked hearing directly from the principals.
Mainly the timing - it does not usually fit in my schedule. But I know many of the parents who are more active in the PTO and I feel my views are well represented, and the e-mail list is very helpful in keeping up with what happens at the meetings. Also, the location of meetings at Franklin is not a problem for me personally, but maybe having meetings in different locations in the F-R attendance area might enhance participation.
The only reason I have not been to the PTO meetings is because I coach football, weight lifting, wrestling, conditioning and track at the local high school all year and the PTO meetings are usually scheduled at the same time I am coaching. I would love to attend a PTO meeting!
Bad timing, it is during our meal time and I am a single parent.

I haven't had time.
Timing doesn't work out for me-- I'm still working at 6pm.
hard to get to with so many other things happening. think they are valuable.
Babysitting (high schoolers at the school might work)? Ability to attend by teleconference or video? Guest speakers - I liked the slides sent recently on classroom placement - I wish I could have come to that meeting.
Timing is not good for our family schedule. Any chance of posting a summary of the meeting online?
Difficult night - trying to balance home, work, family - PTO meetings end up lower priority
I used to go when my kids first started in F/R. Now I do not. Just too many other demands on my time. School night is hard for this working parent, too.
Too busy at night to go. Too hard to leave the house. Also, afraid of being roped into leading a committee if I attend
It's hard to give up time with my family because I work feel as though I hardly see them as is. Early morning meetings might be more attractive.
I have three children , childcare and scheduling is an issue. (One highschool, one middle, one elementary) I would love to have a virtual PTO meeting where issues are discussed in forum format and feedback is allowed for a given number of days before the actual PTO meeting is physically held; feedback given via forum could then be read at the meeting , if relevant and opened for discussion. It would allow participation by a greater number of parents particularly those who do shift work or are single.
Positive
I have a lot of evening commitments already, and on nights when I don't HAVE to go somewhere or take my kids somewhere, I feel that I have a wonderful gift.
Once or twice a year. My challenge is not being available Tuesday nights.
The topical meeting really helped me understand the school's curriculum and programs.
I have been unable to attend meetings since the start time was moved earlier. The early start time is difficult for families with working parents that need to feed their family before the meeting. I think its important to schedule these meetings in a way that more families in the community can participate.
time
Nice presentation. It is hard for families with both parents working to get to a meeting at 6pm though I realize later times are hard for others.
PTO meetings are great, but I've shifted my efforts toward Hamilton and West.
I went several years ago to one meeting. It was fine. However work-family balance makes it hard to make time to come to more meetings. I have liked the themes that Suzanne has had this year. Although I have not attended, this past school year's meetings have seemed much more focused and useful.
New member--child is beginning kindergarten this fall
Well run meeting and it answered my questions.
I try not to attend any events that take me away from my family in the evening. I understand the constraints on scheduling (I work so I couldn't come during the day if meetings were held then).

What are the best things the PTO does?

I'm not sure. But funding projects seems to be something they're good at -- I'm not sure that this is the goal for a PTO (as I'm new to this whole thing).
Don't actually know what the PTO does but I don't see anything wrong.
Super Science and Math days---phenomenal! Honoring teachers/Teacher appreciation events Facilitating parent and community involvement with the schools
Support teachers, encourage community building, raise funds for all kinds of great programs and purchases
Provides a creative mix of activities and opportunities for the entire community
Communication, special events, fundraising, and teacher appreciation
Facilitates communication between parents and the school. The website and newsletter are my life line.
sponsorship for events and brokering dialog between the school and parents/families

Funding programs that help enrich the students school experience.
grants events teacher appreciation I'm sure there are some other things I'm not aware of that are also great!
Keeps us up to date on school happenings, sometimes better than our child's own teacher!
Connect the two school communities through events and activities. Financial help for the school and students to support activities and academics.
Looking at program needs and providing support
enrichment programs, foreign language
send information and provide programming and equipment that the school can't afford
Providing grant money.
Although it has been hard for me to attend meetings, I have been impressed with the caliber of discussions and guest speakers at PTO meetings. Great information and exchange of iteas.
Supporting the teachers, especially the mini-grants for curriculum development.
Facilitating in the communication and distribution of information between school and families. Contributing to enrichment programs and community building activities.
Funding art, music, gym programs at the school. School trips
fundraising
I think the PTO is doing a great job at bring things into the schools to help the kids learn and also great outside of school things to bring everything together (movie nights, etc).
community building, providing fun activities for family participation:carnival, dance, math and science saturdays. the addition of special topics at meetings this year was great.
Annual events, newsletter, board responsiveness.
I enjoy the newsletter, they are great at fund-raising, and we we enjoyed the foreign language program.
Cultural programs, school dance. I loved the ballet class in 2010-2011.
building community; celebrating diversity, supporting the schools with "extras"
Advocate for education and quality school experience for kids.
Enrichment (such as Super Science Saturday) Parent involvement and communication with the school
Supporting the teachers and staff with what is important to provide the best education to our kids
Communication- Keeping parents informed. Enrichment Activities
I think the kids really like the weekend school activites like the math and science mornings. With the pressure for achievement, I feel science all too often is pushed to the back burner and these activites help show how important these subjects are in "the real world."
Supporting the needs/wants of the school/teachers that have been eliminated or that we do without because of funding issues. Community building. I think that the PTO has done a great job this year at taking a look at the PTO as a whole, reevaluating the organization's mission, encouraging input and participation amongst the greater community
Truly great enrichment activities! Despite me not attending meetings, I feel the PTO does a nice job keeping parents informed through the listserv & the newsletter.
It seems to me you offer a lot of activities and financial support to our community. I love the traditions, the extra academic offerings and the cultural gatherings.
Special events like super science saturday & math day, teacher appreciation, supporting the classrooms with swim lessons, material & equipment purchases, etc.
I am thoroughly impressed with the scope of issues and needs that you try to address. I like that you try to be inclusive of non Caucasian students and family.
Super Science Saturday
Events and enrichment activites
Provide financial support for needed items in the school
Money to help support field trips for those students who can't afford it.

I like the array of events and activities the PTO offers and supports. The organization provides a variety of ways for parents and others to become involved. Super Science Saturday and similar programs are a real treat. The PTO's involvement in the enhancement of the Randall playground is something we can all take pride in. The grants program has supported a range of worthy projects. The use of technology this past year to better communicate with the F/R community and to collect donations and fees has been a big step forward. This survey and efforts to establish a long range focus for the PTO are very useful for the organization. The PTO meeting format has been a big plus.
Advocating for arts culture and enrichment in schools. Galvanize parent involvement.
I think the enrichment activities that the PTO sponsors add immensely to Franklin-Randall.
Swimming classes for kindergarten classes at Franklin, and also all the extra-curricular activities and events.
Wonderful school community-wide events like Math Saturday, Super Science Saturday, carnival, etc. Communicating with parents about what is going on at school. An opportunity for teachers/parents to get funding (via grants) for small things that otherwise would be hard to find money for but that make a positive difference in the classroom. Probably lots of behind-the-scenes stuff I'm not aware of! It's nice to know the PTO is there in case I were ever need help with a problem at school, whatever that might be -- I expect I wouldn't feel so much on my own trying to deal with it.
Support all the "extras"
Augment the kids' experiences at school.
Provide funds for individual classrooms, raise money for the needs of the two schools, sponsor special activities such as science on Saturday, Math day, etc.
Provide a forum for parents to raise issues of interest and mobile around those issues, such as safety, snack programs, etc.
Everything!
Fundraising, communication, volunteers, activities
I have no idea what the mission is, so I cannot rate it
Being open to the ideas/thoughts of everyone. Organizing events.
I am a teacher at Randall, but as a parent I think the most memorable events for my family have been the special school events such as a dance, carnival, ice cream social, international dinner etc. My children are grown now, but those traditions are ones that are remembered. I also think special school events such as field trips and cultural events bring life and strong memories to the educational experience.
I think all of it; I'm aware that you cover a lot of different areas; the most visible ones are the public things like the Science Saturday, the International Dinner, the movies, the teacher appreciation events & the foreign language classes, but they aren't necessarily the best, just the ones that I know most about.
I am pleased that the fundraising for the school is done as a funds drive, rather than as several fund-raising projects throughout the year. I would much rather give money than sell wrapping paper. Also, I love the after-school language program and chess club, and all the fun little extra-curricular activities that the PTO orchestrates. Facilitating the grants is also high on the list, as many good things have come from those grants. Mostly, I appreciate that the PTO continues to find meaningful and varied ways to use the extra money that comes into the school from Randall football parking--I believe these extra funds, AND THE WAY IN WHICH THEY ARE USED, make Franklin-Randall different from most other public schools in Madison.
Carnival Science Saturday after school classes (with buses?)
Extra activities - Science Saturday, Carnival, etc in which students come to school for something out of the routine.
PTO has been doing an excellent job overall and with the enrichment activities. While I value the enrichment activities I'm not sure this needs to be a top priority given all of the activities most of the Franklin Randall kids already do. I think there a lot of issues bugging parents that go unheard and unaddressed and I'd like the PTO to put more emphasis on solving those.
raise funding and organize extracurricular activities and supplies that our district budgets can't support
Help fund things that are needed for teaching and learning. Fun activities that get the community into our school.

Communication. Offering grants and community building events.
Raising additional funds for the school, providing on-going or multi-week enrichment programs like chess club, Lego league and the the foreign language program and the annual enrichment activities.
Special event days/evenings Helping with financial issues - fieldtrips, grants for teachers
Seems like a strong PTO, definitely an asset to Franklin/Randall
Taking initiative and trying new things.
Supports PEG groups, supports school and teachers, provide so many wonderful enrichment, and fun family events (carnival, science fair, international dinner, etc)
Support the classrooms and enrich students learning.
The events sponsored by the PTO such as the carnival and Super Science Saturday are great ways to get children involved in school activities outside of school hours. They are great for building school community. As a teacher I am incredibly thankful for PTO grants, which have allowed us to acquire things for the classroom and children we likely would not have otherwise. The PEG programs have made connections with families otherwise not as likely to get involved and I feel that is extremely important.
Very good communication with parents about activities.
communicating with families
Communication Enhancing enriching Opps for students Fundraising
The PTO seems very organized with a lot of parent volunteers. A lot of the programs are really great and the newsletter is a wonderful resource. I also appreciate the website--particularly the link to Tumblebooks. I also like the way all the proposals for funding are on line. It's very impressive that the PTO raises so much money from the football parking.
See number 9.
Community connection through events like Super Science Saturday and Carnival. Appreciating our teachers!! :)
They do a fabulous job taking care of our school.
Funding programs and activities the school cannot pay for with the budget constraints
Keep parents informed - run extra curricular programs.
School spirit things-- dance, international dinner, etc. and the website is very good.
all school events like super science sat, math day, movies
Annual events, parent communication, teacher appreciation, fund raising.
Very supportive of a range of activities that benefit many students.
Organizing events, appreciating teachers, providing information
Facilitate communication Organize support for teachers Run community-building events Gather information
I think the communication outward is excellent. ie. I know if an event is coming up or volunteers are needed.
SSS, funding grant projects
Support communication and efforts between teachers and parents, appreciation efforts, MONETARY help.
Helping organize parent volunteers in the school. I know that teachers appreciate them so much. Using PTO funds to help give ALL kids at Randall enriching opportunities like the world languages, FPS and other after school clubs that rely on PTO organization and financial help.
The Winter Carnival, Int'l Dinner, book fair, Super Science Saturday, LAnguage Program.
Communication with parents, special events, grant funding, fund-raising
I love the events (school carnival, movie nights, etc.)
Communicates with families via email and newsletter, fills in gaps where funding is short, teacher appreciation.
Support activities that we could not afford as an educational community without pto.
Communicate to parents about what's going on at our schools. Allowing parents to have a voice in the schools.
Communication is very good this year
Keep me informed. Sponsor programs.
I think its community building (dance, international dinner) and educational (super science sat, legos, foreign language) are great.
Supporting our teachers, who are amazing and so under-appreciated in many quarters.

In what ways could the PTO improve?

Seem less cliquy.
Don't know
By engaging more people to do more of the work. (I know this is always on the PTO's list)
Help to fund the Homegrown Snack Program
Keep working at getting more people involved to help out with all the things you do. It's still easy to feel like an outsider, I think, for parents.
Possibly communication, though I do feel like it has covered many important channels like incoming Kindergarteners, registrations packets, newsletter, listserve. I think there are some families who have been around for a while that have just never had the time to get involved in the PTO, but may be volunteering their time in other ways
Hold meetings at different times or videotape them so more parents can participate. (Hm...doesn't MMSD have a TV web channel where video of PTO meetings could be posted?)
find a way to get more parents involved
Send an email with link to your newsletter each week! Please no more paper copies.
I think the board does a great job.
This type of survey should be helpful for obtaining input - just to be sure people (parents & staff) participate in priorities
ensure transportation so more kids could join afterschool/weekend activities parent student teacher activities like a baordgame club or gardening ???
Not sure. Possibly advertise your online presence more? I admit that I rarely go to the site, 'out of mind out of sight'.
Continue to reach out to everyone and keep advertising and enticing with fun PTO meetings and events.
Advocating for the teachers more. Try and focus on other subjects besides reading literacy and testing. SCIENCE and MATH and the arts are important.
"new" incoming parents to Franklin and Randall need more information about PTO from the beginning - they don't seemed to be informed enough
PTO is going a great job!
less bureaucracy, getting more parents involved from kindergarten on up.
Get more involved in health and safety issues impacting children at the school. More high-level or ongoing enrichment activities.
Could be more involve in programs that help with the achievement gap. I think everyone involved in education should be highly involved in this.
More TAG opportunities and more language
Improve understanding of what is the school's role, and what is the PTO's role. Does the PTO need to be involved in improving the academic curriculum, or does the school not need the PTOs help with this?
It might help to state the mission of the PTO. Then state some of the activities the PTO promotes or sponsors. For example, I had no idea the PTO sponsored the after school foreign language activities. I never really knew where the money I donate every year goes. I do know these are very lucky children.
I feel strongly that Randall could be a leading school with the use of technology in education and would like to find ways for teachers and the PTO to collaborate more around this endeavor.
I thought the topical PTO meetings were a good idea, although my schedule didn't allow me to go.
I have no idea. I am just so thankful that you are here and am thoroughly appreciative of all of the effort!!!
Sometimes there seems to be a disconnect between what the pto does and what is actually going on in the schools on a day to day basis.
Videotape presentations from meetings and put them on the web. I would be interested in seeing some, but attending meetings is too hard for us with younger sibs at home.
The PTO has made efforts and has achieved some success at involving minority families in the school community but this effort has to be continued and given focus every year.

More visibility in showing what it pays for.
It's very strong!!!
Provide more enrichment programs after school such as forming a variety of clubs(ie. geology club).
Get a very clear, simple mission, that everyone can get behind.
I think the PTO changes from year to year depending on the parents involved. The passion for traditional events is great, but each cycle brings fresh new ideas which can also be good. It's difficult to generalize specific improvements because of the revolving door nature of the organization. I think asking teachers and/or administrators about specific needs at the outset of each year is a good idea, then each PTO group can expand on their own enthusiasms.
I really don't have any criticisms at all; I'm very grateful for everything the PTO does.
Perhaps by creating a stronger presence at the classroom level--what about setting up "room parents" for each classroom? The PTO would only have to get the ball rolling, maybe by offering a brief "orientation" session for each volunteer at the beginning of the year. The room parent would be mostly a help to the teacher and other parents in the room, but would also be strongly encouraged to attend PTO meetings. This would be a nice way for people to get involved in the PTO who feel more comfortable helping at the classroom level than by serving on a committee, for example.
Investigate farm to school lunch--REAP program
I have taught for 20+ years and been a Randall parent. I feel the PTO has adapted well o the needs of the kids and school. We appreciate all your initiatives. They are more meanignful to our needs.
memorable events in addition to regular school experience that build community
Solicit feedback from parents on how the schools can improve (via surveys like this) and work with the schools to implement those suggestions. Encourage/assist the schools with obtaining anonymous feedback from their customers directly.
better inclusion of working families who cannot attend meetings in the middle of the day. better advanced communication about such events where input is being gathered.
Try to include more people in general meetings by providing child care.
I really think the PTO has been doing a spectacular job.
I think that opening a line of communication like this will help strengthen the PTO.
not sure
Consider creating a bridge to PEG meetings to bring the whole F-R community together.
My feeling of the PTO is that it is a small, elite group. I would love to see it broadened, with a more defined purpose.
More information about where the money is being spent.
I don't really have any suggestions here.
Instead of just trying to find minority parents to fill positions on the PTO, how about PTO board members start going to various PEG meetings to find out issues that are important to a different group of parents that may not be engaged with PTO?
Interacting with the students you support so that students know who PTO member are.. For Example, sitting with students during lunch and interacting with them.Coming into classrooms and sharing with students the wonderful things PTO does.
I think parents, not the schools or teachers or PTO, are responsible for all aspects of children. I think emphasis should be placed on parents taking care of healthy food, providing meals, making sure their children are doing their homework etc the schools should emphasize learning.
I don't feel involved enough to judge about that.
Not sure. Maybe start some electronic medium to manage discussions among parents, PTO and school?
Communicate your vision more fully with staff
I think the PTO does a beautiful job - it will always only be "part" of the F-R community b/c so parents/teachers aren't interested/have the time to participate.
As above , virtual meetings. Inward communication from parents . (Love the survey monkey).

Make your newsletter easier to scan for information. Dense blocks of text in a tiny font make it hard to scan for relevant information. Most parents are not looking for chatty news, but for timely and concise information relevant for their children- boxes with upcoming concert schedules organized by grade, etc.

Figure out how to get more parents involved.

The email list has a lot of "calls for newsletter submission" emails. It would be nice if we could get a list that has more content and less of that administrative kind of stuff.

Seek feedback on specific PTO events/activities (e.g. after-school foreign language) so that the events/activities can be continuously improved.

I cant think of any but i have never attended meetings so I am unclear on mission and goals.

I think keeping up the theme-focused meetings, as have been done this past year, would be important. The PTO may also survey parents about specific issues that are of concern to them that the PTO might want to take up.

I have been very impressed by what the PTO has done. This year seems especially good. I just want to say that I greatly appreciate all the good work the PTO is doing, and am truly thankful to the parents who take their time to work on our kids' and teachers' behalf.

Is there anything we didn't ask about that you want to be sure we know?

When there's the question about facilitating the relationship between parents and schools, based on my one personal interaction with Britta Hanson and my friend's experiences with her, she should understand that she's not been particularly well-received by at least a few and someone should consider helping her with improving the relationship. Knowing how important "customer satisfaction" has become in our current work society, it's something to consider.

Keep the foreign language program as is.

From the parental point of view, there is confusion and resentment about early release and numerous days off or additional early release days throughout the year. The district does a TERRIBLE job of explaining the reasoning behind weekly early release and the "extra" days off. If the PTO is able to explain, parents would be appreciative.

The movie night at Franklin was a hit. It would be wonderful to have more after-hour family events at the school like that. That said, the Glo Ball at Franklin was VERY scary for parents of young kids. It was chaotic and dangerous for some of the small children. I witnessed three kids (including one of my own) crying after getting hit in the face or head with glo sticks. Kids were getting separated from their parents in the dark. While the "glo" concept was neat, putting hundreds of grade-school-aged children in the dark is not appropriate. That event should be re-tooled for next year. Also, I am curious to hear what the teachers say about the value of special appreciation events like the luncheon, etc. If I were a teacher I would be more apt to want working equipment like the copiers mentioned above, or plenty of supplies, etc. Having a linen-tablecloth luncheon would be less important to me. But I'm *not* a teacher, so I am eager to hear what they have to say about this ! Thank you for doing this survey. I look forward to hearing about the results.

School safety, parent driving and u turns in front of the school near cross walks at dismissal time I wouldn't mind some benches in front of the school for parents to sit on while waiting to pick up kids

plant grass at Randall - you would think the tens of thousands of dollars of costs would've included ripping up that horrible blacktop and planting grass. 5 or 6 football games would not kill it

thanks to you all...

No. Thanks for all your hard work!! :)

Just because some parents don't attend PTO meetings doesn't mean that we don't care just as much. The PTO for Franklin and Randall both do a very good job overall and parents really do appreciate all that PTO does - so thank you.

Nope!

I hope to be able to attend the PTO meetings at some point. I like the fact that they now have more focused topics of discussion.
You are doing a great job!
Thanks for everything you do to improve the education of our children!!!!
I just want you to know how appreciative I am for all the extras you afford this learning community. I feel very supported and appreciated as a Randall teacher. THANK YOU!
The PTO is doing a great job/ Thanks for the time and effort of the volunteers.
That even if I don't come to the meetings, I support you and am grateful for what you're doing. I also look for opportunities to help when I can.
Heard rumors that the Franklin kindergarten swimming program might not be funded in future years. Assuming that Franklin (Britta) wants to continue it, ask parents who can to contribute to the cost and then have PTO pay for the remainder.
Not sure the purpose of the appreciation gifts are to "motivate"...
The PTO has been so awesome in the support of the PEG groups. I know it sometimes seems that the groups should work together more. But it's amazing the value that the PEG groups have been, particularly to the immigrant families. They are known all over the district, and have been a model that others have tried to develop. When I've had the opportunity to share information about PEG with others in the community, I always mention that they are possible because of PTO support. Thank you! And I hope this support will continue.
No.
All staff (teachers, SEAs, EA, custodians, ...) appreciation is a moral builder.
1. Starting school at 7:45am is cruel and inhumane. If MMSD needs to stagger the start times then push the start time back for those currently starting at 8:30am. 2. A thirteen week summer break is way too long and causes students to regress. MMSD needs to move to year-round schooling. The Superintendent and teacher's union head appear to be in favor of year-round schooling. (See http://host.madison.com/ws/news/local/chris_rickert/article_73c2566a-92e9-11e0-b0ba-001cc4c002e0.html) Could the PTO help mobilize folks to make this happen? 3. The lunchroom noise at Franklin often reaches dangerous decibel levels. Spread the tables further apart to help dissipate the noise. 4. Franklin kids need more time to eat lunch. 5. Randall/Olive Jones should consider a greener option when redoing the blacktop. There are products that allow for both parking and a grass surface (and better water management) called permeable pavers. See: http://www.ndspro.com/permeable-pavers/grass-pavers/tufftrack-grass-pavers/ 6. The tire shred mulch in the Randall Playground is awful. 7. Encourage Franklin/Randall to solicit parent feedback directly or indirectly through anonymous surveys Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. Keep up the great work!
I don't think so.
We appreciate you very much at Randall. THANK you so much for all you do!!!
If you are looking for a different fund raiser, at the last school that I taught at the PTO had a fund raiser through Scrips. People would place monthly orders for gift cards to various stores and a percentage of the total sales would go to the school. People would pay when they ordered the cards and then receive the order the next week. It was something done monthly or so, but I know other schools in the Madison District do it too.
Last year we completed the survey on volunteers. I am curious to know what came of that.
What kinds of things are you funding? Buying iPads, as rumored, is ridiculous since investing in technology that will be outdated and has limited use for students other than as a game-playing platform is very short-sighted. What sorts of technology investments is the PTO making for the long-term?
too much emphasis on food !
I wonder whether the PTO can advocate for the parents when the school adopts a policy many parents oppose. For example, I understand that Franklin has a new policy that there are no longer any open visitation days in the spring where parents can observe the different classrooms for 5 minutes and get a sense of the different teachers. I was told that it's too distracting for the students and that parents were also not allowed to ask to observe the different classrooms individually. Before my child started at Franklin, I found observing the classrooms very informative and reassuring, and I don't believe it was particularly disruptive. I really think it's an important way for the parents to feel connected to the school and to understand what goes on there.

I think some of the questions do get at this, but I feel that the biggest impact the PTO has is in filling the gaps by enhancing the learning opportunities and infrastructure that might get cut in times of funding stress, like we are experiencing right now with state funding cuts. For example, I appreciate the field trip support and grants for classroom equipment and materials in particular. The Randall playground project is exceptional, and I also support grants for meeting the basic needs of PE classes. The emphasis on health is good - the snack program etc.

The Randall PTO is great in my eyes!

I really appreciate all that you do

continue encouraging innovative programs like the snack program, doing the yearly grants.

Suzanne Swift is awesome. She should run for board.

I'm not a fan of the PTO Supporting the expensive playground at Randall school. I have chosen to stop donating money to the PTO in part because I'm not a fan of this project. Would rather see my money go towards children/families with high needs.

The foreign language program should stay school based , not be taken over by a business(or at least not the one you are looking at currently) which will limit options for students in both curriculum and outreach scholarships. The system is not broken ;why try to fix it? If curriculum is a concern , that is simple to research and purchase and the school is still breaking even/making money currently on the program.

As a staff member, please know how much the PTO is appreciated for the efforts and financial help given to our schools. I don't think the PTO should be providing technology, program support, classroom furniture, etc, but in these days of shrinking budgets, it's nice to be able to get a few new things (and we wouldn't without you providing them or buying them ourselves!) I also don't think "teacher appreciation" should be a major emphasis, but it IS so nice to feel appreciated so I thank you for that as well.

I think that the Outdoor Classroom is in need of some major TLC, and the PTO should step in for some more organizing for it. It is very hard finding volunteers for this terrific thing at Randall.

I've always felt like our school is so "rich" in terms of parent engagement and finances, especially compared to other schools and PTOs. I wish we could share our parking money with schools that don't have the same parent resources as ours, and weren't lucky enough to be conveniently located by the stadium:)