

Hoover School Community Information Network

Perceptions of Financial Soundness Results

January 11 through 25, 2008

220 Viewed

121 Started

94 Completed

Average Time to Complete Survey 5 Minutes

(1) Do you believe our Hoover City School system is financially sound?

67% Yes

11% No

22% Not sure

(2) Do you believe that our superintendent has made sound recommendations to our Board of Education with respect to spending public monies?

43% Yes

30% No

27% Not sure

(3) Do you believe that our Board of Education is making sound decisions regarding expenditures for our school system?

29% Yes

50% No

21% Not sure

(4) Do you believe that Hoover City Schools' employees responsible for making long-range capital (building) plans have made sound decisions regarding dealing with growth of our student population?

29% Yes

49% No

22% Not sure

(5) Are you concerned about the possibility of cuts in the state education budget ([January 4, The Birmingham News](#)) and the effects that might have on Hoover's education budget?

71% Yes

18% No

11% Not sure

(6) Please indicate whether you believe that *not enough, an appropriate amount, or too much* money has been spent in a particular area. [The categories listed here are the same ones used in the HSCIN analysis of Board-Approved Expenditures.]

Personnel (other than payroll)

23% Not Enough
42% Appropriate Amount
21% Too Much
14% Not Sure

Academics

63% Not Enough
35% Appropriate Amount
1% Too Much
2% Not Sure

Athletics

2% Not Enough
17% Appropriate Amount
76% Too Much
4% Not Sure

Fine Arts

44% Not Enough
46% Appropriate Amount
3% Too Much
7% Not Sure

School Buildings, Buses and Maintenance

26% Not Enough
60% Appropriate Amount
1% Too Much
13% Not Sure

Technology

16% Not Enough
61% Appropriate Amount
20% Too Much
3% Not Sure

Professional Development

36% Not Enough
47% Appropriate Amount
12% Too Much
5% Not Sure

English Language Learners

28% Not Enough
40% Appropriate Amount
17% Too Much
15% Not Sure

(7) Any further comments?

What is going on in our Board of Education and schools at this point is absolutely ridiculous! It took months to handle the Propst situation and it should have taken days. Most of the Board seems to have "open mouth/insert foot disease". I believe it is possible that the sunshine is being violated constantly. Something needs to be done immediately about the overcrowding at HHS and the under capacity at SPHS. It sounds like an investigation needs to be made into possible improprieties at SPHS concerning the administration and coaching. Hoover needs to remember that schools are first and foremost about academics! Not athletics! We want to excel in all areas but doing things the right way, with integrity are most important. The way Hoover has jerked around SMC in wanting to buy old Berry is horrible. We need people in positions of power who can make decisions in a timely manner! If we are not going to sell old Berry, then make it a 3rd high school and rezone. Simmons could be zoned there for high school, thus helping the overcrowding at HHS. There are things that can be done, but nobody wants to make a decision! And, equipment that is bought for the Freshmen Center, should be at the Freshmen Center, not at the High School. Where is the accountability for our funds?

I am glad to have a BOE in place that has taken some action to stop the out of control activities at HHS - including the personnel actions that resulted. I don't love how they've managed the process but it's easy to Monday morning quarterback. I think a 3rd high school should have already been started and I appreciate the proposal brought forth by AC [Andy Craig] at the lrp [long-range planning] meeting this week.

I work for the system and find their spending and long term planning needs improvement.

Judging this budget, it is clear that academics and the arts have sunk to the bottom of the priorities.

We need to spend money on putting seat belts in school buses. I would get a ticket if I didn't have one on in my car. Why shouldn't our children be safe?

Think the monies spent toward the investigation of the athletic department were excessive. I also feel that an elected school board would better meet the needs of this community, considering the size of this community and its schools.

Not selling Berry twice is irresponsible. The building is sitting there deteriorating every minute. This is a complete waste.

There are no plans in place to build additional schools. The needs will not go away and ignoring them only makes the urgency greater. We are experiencing some overcrowding in some schools already. It will be at least 18 months for a school to be ready to open if a decision is made tomorrow. That is too late!!

Paying out huge sums of money to settle personnel issues of the systems own creation is a horrible use of tax dollars. There doesn't appear to be a real strategic plan with regard to school administration. We have a coach at HHS, but no permanent principal despite some 5 changes in 3 years (including interims). This is unacceptable!!

Technology doesn't matter a hill of beans of our kids are in portables or even closets for classes. ELL could be done with more volunteer services if we can get around the teacher's union. If they don't have the budget, they will be required to get more creative with the resources.

I can't believe how unbalanced our funding is toward athletics. What a shame we spend so much on so few students. I am also so surprised that we spend so little on instructional support. We spend less than Vestavia and Jefferson County.

I have noted that at Hoover High School there is not enough diversity of teachers in its Ib Program. For example the IB English for the ninth is taught by the wife of the tenth grade teacher. Writing is subjective and it needs to be reviewed by more than one source. Neither of these teachers would allow the students to get all their information for a paper entirely from a newspaper, no matter how many articles on the subject it contains; or solely from the same book. Then why does Hoover allow such a competitive program to be taught solely from the same household. It puts the program under strict observation by others as well as inferior to other internationally competitive programs.

The long range plan to build a high school and middle school on the extreme edge of Hoover/Shelby County was not well thought out. These schools are not full while the other side of Hoover is bursting at the seams. If a more centrally located 2nd High School had been built, we could rezone without such a fuss and equalize the student populations.

We are over-emphasizing sports to the detriment of academics.

Not enough money has been applied in at risk services for kids. Our services and budget need to reflect the changes in population and increased needs in the areas of ELL, Special Education, Homeless, truancy services, and social work aspects of the child.

Too much money is being spent on all these "new" math initiatives for elementary schools because they cannot find a math program that fits. The people making the decisions are not listening to classroom teachers and parents. State test scores are dropping under the current influences of MMI and

Investigations. Hoover has a tendency to jump on every "new" technique that comes out without looking into the long term effects on our students. We need to stop trying to be the first to do something and get back to teaching our students.

The same is true with technology in the elementary schools. Hoover wants to input lots of technology equipment into the elementary schools, but not put anyone into the schools to teach the students. We need more than technology coaches in the elementary schools. We need technology teachers who are highly qualified just like elementary teachers are highly qualified to teach reading, math, etc. We need teachers who are trained to teach the latest in technology to our students. You cannot continue to add to the elementary teacher who is already overburden with trying to teach all academic subjects and now expect them to be highly qualified in technology too.

Statements by certain board members on some issues have not been appropriate. Decisions on what to do with certain schools questionable in the future such as making Simmons Middle School a high school or 9th grade school. This idea is somewhat absurd. The old Berry school does need to retain its status as a school in some way. It seems that the original "older" Hoover is being shunned and neglected at times. It was, after all, the original location of the "Buccaneer Community" which these new aged movement of "Hoover people" appear to disdain for their own personal agendas.

Some buildings are in need of painting inside and out. Some of the equipment used by the custodians in the schools need replacing. Too much money spent on repairs when the equipment should be replaced.

Huge amounts of money have been wasted and/or not accounted for while schools are overcrowded.