



Poland Local Schools Survey Results Report



Administered by the Ohio
School Boards Association

Monday, September 12, 2016



- Total respondents: 1448
- Responses where every question was answered: 931



- Based on an estimate of **15,000 separate residences** within the district
- IP Addresses: **47 IP addresses** had multiple responses, 16 from one address
- 1448 responses: **3% Margin of Error** with a **95% confidence level**, which is great!



Q1: Please tell us about your current affiliation with the Poland Local Schools (check all that apply):

(Answered: 1,448, Skipped: 0)

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am employed by the district	7.60%	110
My child(ren) currently attend(s) school in the district	48.96%	709
I am a community member/resident without children in the district	41.92%	607
I am a current student in the district	6.84%	99
Total Respondents: 1,448		

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Q2: Parents and residents — Please think overall about your experiences when you've had communications with a Poland Local Schools staff member or administrator. In general, have those experiences been (choose one): (Answered: 1,102, Skipped: 346)

Answer Choices	Responses
Positive More than half said positive!	55.08% 607
Neutral	20.78% 229
Negative	10.34% 114
I have nothad any recent contact with the district	13.79% 152
Total	1,102



Comments included:

- “The elementary principles are amazing, but the high school lacks communication.”
- “I have always had positive conversation with any of the staff members. I believe I get respect because I give respect.”
- “I graduated from Poland—my experiences were positive and I was well prepared for college.”
- “I don’t have kids in school, so there is no communication. I am a member of the community, though, and there ought to be.”
- “Would like to see more alumni involved in the district.”



Q3: Parents and residents — Related to your current knowledge and understanding of our school buildings, please choose the option that most closely represents your status:

(Answered: 1,100, Skipped: 348)

Answer Choices	Responses
I am a frequent visitor to our school buildings for purposes of attending school functions, meetings with teachers or administrators, or otherwise.	53.64% 590
I have been in one or two of our school buildings on limited occasions in the past several years.	34.73% 382
I have not spent any significant time in our school buildings for several years.	11.64% 128
Total	1,100



Comments included:

- “I am embarrassed that we have schools in such deplorable condition in our community.”
- “Let’s be honest about the real problem with the buildings, some are not safe for our kids.”
- “The schools have a lot of history, but I believe time is catching up with them.”
- “They need maintenance...it seems like the district is letting them go.”



Q4: **All** – Do you believe Poland Local Schools are on the: (Answered: 991, Skipped: 457)

Answer Choices	Responses
Right track	56.71% 562
Wrong track	43.29% 429
Total	991



Q5: All — In the past year, I have (please select all that apply): (Answered: 988, Skipped: 460)

Answer Choices	Responses
Attended a parent/teacher conference	45.65% 451
Attended a school board meeting	29.45% 291
Attended a school related committee meeting (PTO, boosters, etc.)	34.72% 343
Attended a student-related event (concert, play, athletic event	87.35% 863
Participated as a volunteer on behalf of the district	36.34% 359
Contributed to a district or school building related fundraiser (band, athletic teams, etc.)	68.52% 677
Total Respondents: 988	



Q6: **All** — What is your level of satisfaction with general communications received from the district? (choose only one) (Answered: 1,025, Skipped: 423)

Answer Choices	Responses
I believe the district communicates well with community members, and I am able to find answers to my questions about district issues if and when I need them.	26.63% 273
I believe the district tries to communicate with community members, but there is still a level of misinformation or confusion on a somewhat regular basis.	45.17% 463
Most of the time, I do not feel well informed about what is taking place in our school district.	28.20% 289
Total	1,025



Comments included:

- “I enjoy the annual newsletter, but I do feel there was a lot of confusion in the community about the intent of the board with regards to last year’s levy.”
- “The only time we hear from the school is when they’re asking for another levy.”
- “I find out most through others.”
- “Minutes are not available on the Board website or published elsewhere.”
- “There was never any public discussion, to my knowledge, of our buildings being in need of replacement until the state funding became available.”



Q7: **All** — Where do you most often obtain information related to Poland Local Schools? (check up to three most often used)
 (Answered: 1,045, Skipped: 403)

Answer Choices	Responses	
My children or other current students	48.52%	507
District newsletters	11.00%	115
Communication direct from teachers	27.85%	291
Conversations with district employees	22.30%	233
Board of Education meetings	5.74%	60
District website	39.14%	409
District Facebook or Twitter	7.27%	76
Youngstown Vindicator	31.87%	333
Local newspaper	15.69%	164
Television news	20.57%	215
Community meetings or social events	18.47%	193
Total Respondents: 1,045		



What this said to us:

- Best source of communication was through children or other students
- Next best was district's website
- Youngstown Vindicator and TV News also important resources
- Board of Education meetings not currently vital source of information



Q8: **All** — Please state your level of agreement with the following statements using this scale: 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neither agree or disagree, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree
 (Answered: 1,042, Skipped: 406)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Student achievement is affected by the number of students in each classroom.	45.96% 478	35.00% 364	12.21% 127	5.58% 58	1.25% 13	1,040
Poland Schools are safe and secure for every student and for staff members.	26.06% 270	48.26% 500	15.64% 162	7.05% 73	2.99% 31	1,036
The technology provided by the district meets the needs of all students.	10.75% 111	35.62% 368	26.91% 278	19.85% 205	6.87% 71	1,033
I believe students who attend school in Poland receive a high-quality education that prepares them for success in career and/or college.	26.97% 280	45.09% 468	14.64% 152	10.79% 112	2.50% 26	1,038



Q9: All — In order of preference (1 = most important, 5 = least important), please tell us which variables, related to school facilities projects, are most important to you: (Answered: 1,031, Skipped: 417)

	1 (Most important)	2 (Important)	3 (Neutral)	4 (Less important)	5 (Least important)	Total
Cost (overall) of the project	14.36% 113	13.21% 104	19.82% 156	29.86% 235	22.74% 179	787
Safety and Security—the health and protection of students and staff	42.95% 326	28.59% 217	18.97% 144	8.17% 62	1.32% 10	759
Instructional Support—facilities that accommodate modern technology and teaching methods	14.48% 116	28.96% 232	31.84% 255	17.10% 137	7.62% 61	801
Educational value — what's best for all students and staff members long-term	31.26% 276	31.60% 279	20.72% 183	13.93% 123	2.49% 22	883
Tradition — preserving the culture and history of our district	17.21% 163	11.72% 111	11.51% 109	18.06% 171	41.50% 393	947



What this says to us:

- What's best for students and staff is critically important to your taxpayers



Q10: **All** — If the district proposes a plan that would require successful passage of a bond issue in May 2017, which of these statements would apply to you (choose only one): (Answered: 1,045, Skipped: 403)

Answer Choices	Responses	
I would vote YES on such a bond issue, regardless of the option chosen.	31.67%	331
I'm not sure at this point how I would vote.	37.22%	389
I would vote NO on the bond issue.	28.42%	297
I am a student and not eligible to vote.	2.68%	28
Total		1,045



What this says to us:

- A majority of taxpayers are supportive or could be supportive of a bond issue.



Q11: Reasons for Voting No:

- “I am retired and fixed income”
- “Taxes already too high”
- “Historical preservation is most important”
- “Adjust the class size, spend some more and make them workable”
- “I have not heard a plan that I could support”
- “Cost”
- “Because I believe our schools are just fine and our students always excel, which is all that matters”



Q12: Parent, employees and residents —

In November 2015, after considerable thought and research, the Board of Education presented what it felt was the most cost-effective and efficient plan to deal with the district's rapidly deteriorating infrastructure. This was and still is our Plan "A." This plan consisted of the construction of a new K-8 building on the site of Dobbins Elementary to replace Dobbins, North Elementary, Union Elementary, McKinley Elementary and the Middle School. Plan A would leave the district with only two buildings to maintain in a centralized campus providing the best environment for our children to learn. This plan was soundly defeated by taxpayers.

In response, the Board is presently pursuing the possible option of a new grade 6-8 building on the historic site of the middle school in the village, whereby the connector and the gym would be the only parts of the old building retained. The new building would preserve the historic site as well as the elements of the historic architecture. A new K-5 building would be built on the site of Dobbins Elementary. This would be our Plan "B."



Q12: Parent, employees and residents — Please pick one answer below which best describes how you feel about these options:

(Answered: 961, Skipped: 487)

Answer Choices	Responses
I could support the new Plan "B" preserving the historic site in the village as well as a new K-5 school even though it has the potential to cost more than Plan "A."	18.21% 175
I would prefer Plan "A" which is the K-8 new school which is the least expensive plan to the community.	40.58% 390
I would not support either plan and feel the current buildings are more than adequate.	41.21% 396
Total	961



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