

2010



**KENT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SURVEY
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Prepared by
The Research & Evaluation Bureau
College of Education, Health, & Human Services
Kent State University**

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The Kent City School District Community Survey was conducted October 4 through October 29, 2010 by the Research & Evaluation Bureau at Kent State University's College of Education, Health, and Human Services. The purpose of the community survey was to assess the community view of the Kent City School District and issues related to the District. The targeted respondent population was registered voters within the Kent City School District. The data was collected by means of a telephone survey developed by the Research and Evaluation Bureau using survey questions developed by the Kent City School District Board of Education,

The respondent population consisted of 27,477 registered voters in the Kent City School District as identified in the most recent Portage County Board of Elections database (dated August 31, 2010). These voters encompassed the geographic areas of Kent, Brady Lake Village, Franklin Township, Twin Lakes, Sugar Bush Knolls, and some areas of Brimfield, Streetsboro, and Stow.

In order to obtain a 95% confidence interval with regards to the study findings, an a priori power analysis was used which determined that an appropriate sample size for this study was 400 respondents. The 95% confidence interval indicates that the probability is .95 that the responses and opinions provided by the individuals sampled in this study reflect the true values of the Kent City School District voter population, if that entire population were to be interviewed. To take into account an expected response rate of 10% (one completed survey per ten initiated phone calls), a respondent population sampling frame of 6,000 voters was created. Voters in this sampling frame were randomly selected, and the sampling frame was representative of the number of voters within each of the city's voter precincts.

Surveying was initially conducted by Research & Evaluation Bureau professional staff and graduate students from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, and was increased to 10:30 am to 8:00 pm for the last two weeks of surveying. The community response rate was slightly over 12%, with one survey successfully completed for every eight phone calls conducted. The resulting sample consisted of 409 participants.

Pages 2 – 13 of the following report present the findings for the quantitative survey questions. Appendix A on pages 14 – 29 present the narrative (qualitative) comments for Questions 5 and 25.

Question 1. We'll begin by discussing the Kent Schools "FOCUS" newsletter, which was sent to your home this past winter. The newsletter was focused on the school district's recent cost savings. Do you recall receiving it?

	Response Percent
Yes	53.1%
No	46.9%

Question 2. Other articles about the school district's finances have appeared in the newspaper and on the school district's web site. Would you agree or not agree that Kent Schools are fiscally responsible with your tax dollars?

	Response Percent
Agree	67.8%
Don't Agree	9.0%
Don't Know	23.3%

Question 3. How aware are you of the following cost-savings programs?

	Aware	Not Aware
Energy savings through reducing heating and lighting costs	57.5%	42.5%
Reduced personnel costs through reduced staffing	41.0%	59.0%
District-wide wage freeze for all Kent school employees	29.8%	70.2%
Emphasis on paperless communication through web site and e-mail	61.9%	38.1%

Question 4. How familiar are you with the School Board's Five-Year Strategic Plan that is now in its third year?

	Response Percent
Familiar	20.7%
Not Familiar	62.2%
Not Sure	17.1%

Question 5. Do you have any suggestions for the district to continue saving money?

Please refer to Appendix A.

Question 6. The Strategic Plan reviewed many areas of the district's operations, including our school facilities, and recommended improvements in several program areas. How important would improvements be to you and your family in the following areas:

	Very Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Increased safety and security measures	73.8%	13.4%	12.8%
Improved traffic flow at Roosevelt and Stanton campuses	62.4%	14.4%	23.2%
Improved traffic flow at the elementary schools	50.3%	22.2%	27.5%

Question 7. If you had to grade the Superintendent, Dr. Joe Giancola, right now, what grade would you give his leadership: an A, B, C, D, or F? You also may use plus or minus, like B+.

	A	B	C	D	F
Grade	30.4%	52.1%	15.4%	0.8%	1.3%
Plus/Minus	+/- 9/12	+/- 31/13	+/- 4/6	+/- 0/0	+/- 0/0

Question 8. In response to community expectations, Roosevelt High School has added 4 new computer labs, 8 faculty positions housed at Central School for the Bridges Academy and has expanded course offerings in career education since the year 2000. Further, since Roosevelt High School was built in 1958, many additional academic programs and 10 additional sports for boys and girls have been added, resulting in later practice schedules for students due to a sharing of the current gym. How important would improvements be to you and your family in the following areas:

	Very Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Constructing additional classrooms at Roosevelt High School	38.8%	27.2%	34.1%
Adding an additional gym onto Roosevelt High School	29.7%	40.9%	29.4%

Question 9. Our last renovations at Roosevelt were completed before 1998. At that time, the additional gym and classrooms were eliminated from the 1996 bond issue in order to reduce costs. Would you support expanding the additional classroom space and gym at Roosevelt at this time?

	Response Percent
Would Support	44.4%
Would Not Support	28.4%
Not Sure	27.2%

Question 10. In which elementary-school attendance area do you live?

Davey Elementary	12.8%
Franklin Elementary	18.4%
Holden Elementary	11.8%
Longcoy Elementary	14.6%
Walls Elementary	16.2%
Don't know	26.2%

Question 11. Would you support renovating or replacing Franklin Elementary School at this time?

	Response Percent
Would Support	37.7%
Would Not Support	28.6%
Not Sure	33.6%

Question 12. Extended-day kindergarten and Title One tutoring at Holden are currently being taught in a temporary trailer facility along the side of the current school building. Would you support improving Holden Elementary's campus with expanded parking and a few additional classrooms for all-day kindergarten?

	Response Percent
Would Support	70.0%
Would Not Support	13.9%
Not Sure	16.1%

Question 13. If you had to grade the Kent Schools' performance on the state standards and state testing program, what grade would you give it: an A, B, C, D, or F? You also may use plus or minus, like B+.

	A	B	C	D	F
Grade	31.0%	57.6%	11.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Plus/Minus	+/- 3/12	+/- 35/9	+/- 2/4	+/- 0/0	+/- 0/0

Question 14. Overall, if you had to grade the Kent School District right now, what grade would you give it: an A, B, C, D, or F? You also may use plus or minus, like B+.

	A	B	C	D	F
Grade	32.2%	56.4%	9.9%	1.1%	0.4%
Plus/Minus	+/- 6/15	+/- 44/10	+/- 3/1	+/- 0/0	+/- 0/0

Question 15. Other program areas in the Strategic Plan included: Communications, Curriculum Programs, Personnel, and Technology. How would you rate each of these four areas on a scale of "Above Average," "Below Average," or "No Opinion."

	Above Average	Below Average	No Opinion
Communications and Community Relations	53.5%	7.3%	39.3%
Curriculum Programs	50.0%	5.4%	44.6%
Personnel or Teachers and Staff Hired	50.3%	5.4%	44.3%
Technology in the Classroom	42.0%	9.7%	48.3%

Question 16. If you had to grade the student discipline in the Kent Schools right now, what grade would you give it: an A, B, C, D, or F? You also may use plus or minus, like B+.

	A	B	C	D	F
Grade	13.9%	47.0%	29.2%	7.9%	2.0%
Plus/Minus	+/- 0/7	+/- 4/13	+/- 5/11	+/- 0/1	+/- 0/0

Question 17. Ohio's state-mandated all-day kindergarten in 2011-2012 may require some changes to some of our elementary facilities. Franklin and Holden Elementary Schools especially are limited in space. How important would improvements be to you and your family in the following areas:

	Very Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Renovating or replacing Franklin Elementary School	41.3%	31.4%	27.4%
Improving Holden Elementary's campus with expanded parking and a few additional classrooms for all-day kindergarten?	50.0%	24.7%	25.3%

Question 18. In closing, I have a few questions about demographics: What is your age group?

Less than 20 years	0.7%
20-29 years	15.6%
30-39 years	10.4%
40-49 years	16.9%
50-59 years	21.2%
60-69 years	19.5%
70-79 years	8.1%
80-89 years	7.2%
90 years and above	0.3%

Question 19. Are you male or female?

	Response Percent
Male	37.6%
Female	62.4%

Question 20. What is your marital status?

	Response Percent
Single	29.4%
Widowed	5.2%
Married	65.5%

Question 21. Do you currently have children enrolled in the Kent Schools?

	Response Percent
Yes	23.1%
No	76.9%

Question 22. Are you an alum of Roosevelt High School?

	Response Percent
Yes	23.7%
No	76.3%

Question 23. Are you a parent or grandparent of a Roosevelt High School graduate?

	Response Percent
Yes	46.2%
No	53.8%

Question 24. I believe that a vibrant school system with a good reputation translates into a higher quality of life for the community.

	Response Percent
Agree	96.5%
Disagree	0.6%
No Opinion	2.9%

Question 25. Finally, do you have any questions or comments that we could convey to the Kent administration and board of education?

Please refer to Appendix A.

Appendix A.

Question 5. Do you have any suggestions for the district to continue saving money?

Stop sending junk mail- especially calendars.

Maybe some of the cost cutting should occur at the top.

Freeze on salaries.

I think they should spend more money if it will improve schools.

More communication with the community, including other schools, surrounding universities and schools in Portage County to share good ideas.

Cut back on sporting activities. Academics are more important even though sports play a role. Parents of children involved in sports should help cover costs.

Pay the teachers just a little bit less.

Keep it up.

Not so much as saving money, but utilizing it better. Probably more outside school fundraising, as far as budgeting their money.

We need to eliminate open enrollment, close at least one elementary school, realize there are 3300 and website says 3700, and we educate 240 students, focus on our students!

Get more money from the state.

It's ridiculous that the administration makes 6 figures. Teachers are well paid - be more effective in funding the schools without attacking the minor few.

I have a question: If a teacher retires, why do they hire that teacher back? Double-dipping. Retirement means retirement. Employ new teachers with new ideas, from the principals to the janitors.

The special education children. Send them to Happy Days or a school, so the teachers at Kent schools don't need to waste time teaching them. The funds that are separate for special ed can be used for special ed students

I think sports are great but education is more important. Families should help with sports and not put this on backs of the school.

Keep more teachers and get rid of more administrators. We don't need multiple principals. We're making a lot of cosmetic cost savings, not true cost savings.

I think communication is key. We should have more communication on how we're spending money and what the costs are of some of the programs. Also we should tell the community where the system plans on getting money, whether it may be taxes, grants, etc.

I don't know what else they can do.

I know that they pay a lot of their coaches to do what they do, and that's fine. But I think they get paid too much personally. I don't know, even though I'm only 43, I'm still old school. There was a time where you volunteered your time for the love of the sport, the kids, things like that.

No, I'm not completely knowledgeable about it.

Tell them to just keep doing the same thing. They're doing good.

No, not really. From what I understand, the district seems to be successful in what they are doing. I get kind of iffy on wage cuts and freezes.

When I went to school, there were teachers and principals. I think it is a waste of time to have as many employees as the schools do. The teachers spend too much time grading papers and do not teach anything new from year to year. The teachers do not apply themselves.

I would go to a longer school day four day school day for children in high school and they could shut down the building for three days.

Probably nothing that they heard before.

No, no new ones, anyhow.

I wish I did, but I don't

I can't make any suggestions with this.

Get a disciplinary in the schools and keep those students safe and educate parents. The children are out of control... and if there are any other good students, 10% or higher raise a ruckus and other 80% can't learn. If staff would get stricter in the hallways of schools, then I would be more willing to help them. I feel bad kids are running the school, and as a teacher, I always voted for the school levy, but I've recently stopped due to behavior of students and not strict of enough rules implemented by the district. Also, it's making our house values go down. I'm not voting anymore for the levies because of rude students who are not fit to function properly in a social environment.

Not at this time.

I think they should continue doing what they're doing until economy improves.

I think that the administrators, the board of education personnel should go down and do a person's job (all types of them) for one week and then make a decision on how else to save money. I think a lot of the administration and board of education are out of touch with what is actually going on in the schools. They should step in people's shoes to feel what it is like to walk in those.

I don't have any suggestions. The district is doing a great job, and I wouldn't object to paying more taxes, if that's necessary.

At this time, probably not.

Automatic lights that turn off with no movement.

I don't think they should let people retire and then rehire them. Young people need jobs and they need to start higher new graduating students to teach rather than bringing old retired teachers back for double the salary.

I'd recommend increasing the contact with Kent public.

Not at this point. I'm not sure what they are doing to save money, though, because I haven't always lived in Kent.

Everyone needs to tighten up until the economy gets better. Just keep wages and salaries and spending in line and do the best with budget.

More people could walk instead of the bus service. I think in terrible times sports and music go first. Cut down number of buses at Roosevelt – There's too many empty buses with only five students.

I think teachers have gotten carried away with wanting a raise. I would suggest that we consider having the sports programs be on a pay for themselves level; a pay-to-play.

I think that if improvements need to be made, then Kent system should develop other ways for funding. I don't agree with the school system turning to homeowners every time they need funding.

I think the district should keep focused on the strategic plan and see at the end of five years where improvement might be necessary. Room for improvement might include tapping into more part-time help rather than full-time. There are a lot of people in the community who don't need benefits, but might want to help schools. Part time employees can help teacher staffing and reduce costs.

How about charging some fees for better school lunches with more local produce? I'd like to see better busing and less cars. Also, some services could be funded by fees.

The only thing I can think of would be the whole tenure thing. I think they get tenure after three years, and then sometimes we have teachers that can't be let go because of it. And I think school systems would be better off without it.

Please eliminate hire rehire, freeze administrative costs, and reduce administrative staff instead of service staff. Think about better utilization of resources by replacing equipment, quit spending money on unnecessary expenses, like everyone really doesn't have to have a Smartboard.

Yes, go paperless, period.

I think the district should cut the number of people working by 15%. I think the Kent school district thinks we're a cash cow. Some jobs are not necessary. My mom is a teacher aid, but they don't need people going around to turn off lights in the classroom; he gets like \$50,000 a year for that!

Not at this time, at least not off hand.

Go green.

The old school house was kinda neat; old students helping new students, being responsible for the younger generation. I would like to see it tried again. More peer mentoring might be a start.

This district is over-administrated, and it seems like the administration is top-heavy.

Tell them to keep up the good work.

No, I think they should keep going the way you are.

I think paperless is important. Bookless might be good too, if you can get everything electronic.

I think they could communicate better with public.

Yeah. I wonder about their busing a lot of the times. I think that, maybe, they could take better advantage of the fuel. A lot of times I see very few people on a bus, so I wonder about that and the bus maintenance program.

Boy, I'm just not monetarily savvy. I wish I did, but I don't.

No, I think they just need to keep doing what they're doing. I think they're doing a good job. I wish the state funding was a little different, but I think they've done pretty good.

I think the district is doing a good job and is trying their best, so I don't have any suggestions at this time. I honestly trust them with my money.

When I'm not aware of much, it's hard for me to criticize, isn't it? So, I don't really know. I guess I really believe the people that are there are doing the best that they can, and I'm just kind of hoping they continue what they are doing. I know some of the people on the board, but I don't know their plans.

I would like them to stop rehiring the retirees. Also, get rid of stipends, and get rid of department chairs.

In the career ed programs in the high school, money could be cut there. Sports teams have multiple coaches and it's unnecessary.

I'd suggest cooperative purchasing programs, joining with another group of districts to form a purchasing contract. And, course materials... there's probably ways to save money there. I'd look into more electronic content, especially with textbooks. Kids are going to need to know how to use those.

I don't agree with staff cuts, maybe some administration needs cut. The "Energy person" needs eliminated, but a reading specialist should NOT be eliminated. Any job directly with child should be last to get cut.

The district needs to hire qualified people. I used to work there, and I don't think they have qualified people.

The discipline part. I've seen changes throughout life, and I feel teachers need freedom to discipline children without being afraid. It used to be stricter, and that would allow them to have more children in the classroom. Yeah, you could have more students per classroom if teachers have freedom to discipline.

I'm not nearly as interested in saving money; I'm more interested in education for children. The first priority is educating the children. I'm willing to pay taxes to support school system, even though I don't have a child currently enrolled in school.

No, just the same as they have been doing.

Keep up the good work.

Less sports.

They are doing ok in these times – they're giving a good education, I think.

Yes. I think they're too administrative top-heavy at the board office, the high school, and middle school.

It seems like they're on a good track, and I'm not totally convinced that saving money is their most important issue. I'd like to see them be efficient, but...

I think they should brainstorm on this as much as they could so they make the most of the money they have.

Not at the top of my head. I'm aware that busing is a major expense. Yeah, I guess a specific recommendation would be to not have busing.

In general, you need to spend district funds as if they were their own money, and make smart purchases that have value.

Other than to get the board to cut their pay, put money back where it belongs in the school.

We send too many jobs out of state

Buy less text books. Some of the subjects you need to update need to be updated. If you can recondition, then keep the basic textbook. Textbooks are a huge cost depending on how often you renew them. Make the teachers pay more of a co-pay because healthcare is every company's worst nightmare. Less tenure positions – I know that the union would be all over it, but classify teachers as per-diem so the district doesn't have to pay health benefits. In other words, do whatever they can do to get rid of healthcare.

Some of the busing for athletics needs to be stopped.

Let the kids walk to school.

I don't have any real suggestions, other than to stay on course and continue saving money with staff and energy savings.

It seems like they are trying hard to save money.

They could save a whole lot of money if they stop giving raises every year. If a person does not put out any more work, he does not deserve a raise every year. They should set wage standards.

Cut sports.

No, but the times are hard.

Not off hand. I think the board of education is very confident. Nothing to say at all.

Every levy has passed and I think the money is used wisely.

Yes, you mentioned a wage freeze, but I mean that's not fair in the economy. Going green is the way to save on energy use and do environmental friendly things, but freezing wage should not be allowed.

Yes, but it'll never happen. I think we need to have a whole re-evaluation of teachers and unions and accountability, and administrator accountability needs to be revisited. Unfortunately, it never will because the union is too strong. Tenure should not be a "get out of responsibility free" card.

No. But seems that everyone is aware of need to cut costs.

Yes. To do it without reducing staff.

Well, it could freeze wages. If they're already doing that, I applaud that, but I didn't know they were doing it. Kids are in a bad situation because you have so few people paying taxes in this community. You know, Hudson and Aurora are wealthier communities, so I think Kent's in a bad way, in that respect. It's a difficult situation, I know. I would guess 50% of the people in this town don't even pay taxes. So I'm not mad at anybody, but that's the situation I believe.

Cut back on sports.

Question 25. Finally, do you have any questions or comments that we could convey to the Kent administration and board of education?

The bottom line is, it is all about student achievement, it should be about test scores going up.

I would urge administration to double efforts with communicating with community at large. And I would urge school board to interest themselves in science and mathematics.

I moved to Kent to send my children to the schools here. I'm very happy with the school system!

I would recommend that we start instrumental music in middle school.

I've always have been satisfied with Kent city schools.

Please hire me in two years!

You have to find a way to communicate with community better. Not everyone reads paper or has a computer, or has kids in the system.

The football games. The kids run wild; the police men watch the kids, but I think people will get it hurt eventually.

I enjoyed my time at Roosevelt. I think I got a lot out of it. Tell them I said "Thanks."

I think that open enrollment has severed the link between property values and the school system. The school's choice to have open enrollment has jeopardized school levies. People who do not have kids in the school system should not be able to vote for levies. Open enrollment allows for other communities to send their kids to Kent schools and to vote for levies that would require higher taxes for Kent residents only, and then they're not imposed on other communities who attend Kent through open enrollment.

End open enrollment, close Franklin elementary. No levy. That will be a big fight, and maybe import some people from Streetsboro.

I heard on television about a different school district in Cleveland that quit having text books and gave every student a laptop. Instead of buying text books, they bought online texts and save a lot of money because they no longer have to buy books. Students do paperless homework, backs don't ache, so I think Kent should look into that. I'd certainly support that.

Keep a positive outlook!

Try to get some of those computers from LeBron.

A later start to a school day might be effective at a younger level, but to high schoolers, it won't make much a difference. They'll just stay up later, plus after-school activities would be affected. Also, it's either a snow-day or not. Stop delaying the decision of whether to have school or not. That is really hard on working parents.

Keep up the good work. I'm glad you're doing what you're doing.

I'm gonna reiterate about double-dipping. Stop calling retired teachers, and hire new ones. And look beyond Kent for new teachers. This seems short-sighted currently.

Please hire the best educated teachers with the highest standards who know their subject matter.

I have been aware of one (computer) program that the students need to participate and it has to be manipulated, and sometimes it causes a real crunch if the library is the only place that we can get it for research paper. It's through a computer program that none of the students have. This program should be more available.

I think schools should work harder in getting some people to do more. Just because children don't go to work yet, it's still important for all children in this country to have education. Anyway that you can help, you should help.

Children are our future and I don't mind paying taxes to better the education of young people.

I have one gripe: The sign outside of high school that you can't read. Useless sign, get rid of it! It'd be nice if they would post a schedule of extracurricular activities like sporting events.

Before you put out a survey, the wording and questions should be better. Some of these questions are dumb.

I think solving the traffic flow issue is a big concern and needs to be resolved soon.

Please do more community outreach.

You know, I don't, except please keep up the good work.

Just basically the parent broadcast. Especially if it has something to do with a child's safety, I feel that every Kent City Schools parent should know. I just think it's very important if you have a school-age child that every parent should know what's going on. That's probably the biggest thing.

It's important that all student including advanced students have the opportunity to be challenged.

The community needs to be more involved in curriculum selection. Perhaps parent advisory board might be a good idea. In terms of communication, minutes posted from the Board meetings would be nice. If you don't go to one, you could still see what was discussed at the meeting.

Well, just that the economy is tight Kent is well known for passing levies, but now the strongest supporters would have it tough.

I just want them to be more strict with academics and behavior of students. Do not let them stay in their comfort zone. Push the kids.

Please add on to the building in Holden.

I believe they are doing the best they can with communication, but I don't read what they send out.

There are too many programs that are ineffective.

Okay, I have to congratulate the Board of Education on their efforts over the last 4-5 years on becoming aware of the differences in economics in the students and the families and households, and making changes to assist with the student fees or underprivileged households. That being said, I do think there is still a lot of room for improvement with the issue of race problems in the Kent City School District. I do

believe that if a more aggressive approach is taken in the schools, it will start to transfer into the community.

The only concern I would have would be with open enrollment. If schools aren't large enough, we should not accept open enrollment.

I do not support Franklin. The reason I is, I believe, that Franklin students can be moved to other elementary schools.

Nope, I don't have any questions or comments, but I do think that this survey is a great idea and hopefully it will prove productive.

I don't want another tax levy. Make sure you tell them that.

I think it's very important to get connected with e-school news to get grants. Hopefully district can somehow get into e-school in order to receive grants and get some extra help that way to fund the schools.

Keep up the well-rounded teaching.

Kent Roosevelt has strong enough athletics, but they need more focus on arts and music programs (in reference to the additional gymnasium).

I am extremely glad you called. I think they're on the right track. I do think that there needs to be more communication with the community and that the violence needs to decrease.

They need to better inform the public what's going on, even for people with no kids, because we vote for the levies too.

What address do you have me living at? How was I selected for the survey? Do you know where I live?

I liked doing this survey. I prefer surveys in the mail or over the phone because I really like to voice my opinion.

No, I don't have any more comments. I think they are not trying to waste money.

I think they're doing a great job - keep up the good work.

We are supportive of the administration and the board. Tell them they're doing good.

I'll talk to them myself.

I would like to see transparency with ability to go into the budget of the Kent school system since I am a taxpayer, so that I can understand in a relatively high detail where my money is being spent. That is for capital, maintenance, staff, sports, and so forth. I want a break down to be more available of where my money is going.

I heard of school districts having to cancel music and sports programs and I don't agree with that. I hope that Kent can continue to keep the sport and music programs.

Administration needs to do better job of hiring staff for all programs- especially tutors. Children should not be left behind due to incompetency of faculty.

Please get more fresh produce into school lunches. We're not offering best meals to our students- preparing fresh food instead of frozen. Make contact with local farmers for lunches- Better nutrition will make for better students! More vegetarian friendly meals would be a good idea too.

Excellent job!!!

Focus more on the gifted program.

I'd encourage you to ignore political hype and focus on the students.

I think Kent state interferes with schooling at all levels. Reduce number of people who work for school board, instead of expanding.

They need more teacher aides, because teacher aides are valuable because a lot of kids have mental issues now-a-days. They will stuff 30 kids in a class and expect that teacher to handle all those kids and then half of them might have mental issues and that's when it becomes a serious problem and a struggle for the teacher. Getting more teacher aids would be beneficial for everyone.

I think the schools are doing a pretty good job. I don't have any other comments.

I'm going to say it again about the busing. Kids walking in the winter is ridiculous, and paying taxes and still driving kids to school is dumb.

They are doing a really good job; that's all I really have to say.

The more residents, uh no I better not say that, never mind...

Kent is a nice place to live and the schools are good.

Keep striving for excellence.

Keep trying in this crazy financial climate! Whatever needs to be done, I support it!

Children receive excellent education at Kent.

Yeah, one curriculum - Investigating Math. I don't support this program.

I'm not 100% happy with dress code. It's not appropriate with school level children. The high school students dress very inappropriate at the high school level and administration needs to step in to regulate dress code.

I don't think you can get accurate answers on some of these questions because they were either asking "Above Average" or "Below Average." They're either forcing me to say they're either great or terrible, when my opinion was really neither. They should have an "Average" option. I don't think this survey is going to be very helpful.

Communicate with public, listen to input, don't be afraid to change and challenge yourself as a district.

I think you've pretty well covered it. I'm impressed. I hope people take the time to talk with you.

Seriously, look into open enrollment. It would help housing and the community.

I think the only thing that I'm concerned about is increasing an understanding of sciences and of ethics.

The schools do need text books for everyone. There's not enough time to use borrowed materials.

We moved back here because of the school system, so we believe in it and we support it. I think they did a good job with our kids.

I think taxes should not be raised. Slow down on the taxes until people get jobs. Kent is suffering and this is definitely not a good time to raise taxes.

The first one is, like I mentioned, school hours. I'd probably say a different way to fund the schools, and I'd like to see, I think we need to go to school--I think the hours and the amount of time that we spend in school are terrible. I mean, we're not being competitive with the rest of the world. I know I'm not a teacher, and I give them all the credit in the world, but if you start at 7 and you're done at 2:30, I mean, they work 4, 5 hours a day 180 days out of the year, and it's the other people that are working in a factory that could have gone on to be a teacher. Hour per hour, I just don't think they're very well paid. But I think that their biggest problem is the students. They don't get the discipline at home, and it makes it very difficult for the teachers. I don't envy their job in that aspect. Also, they should have a dress code.

I would like communication for the staff that works at the Board office to be better informed with things going on in the schools.

Continue with energy savings and communication savings.

Kent is an entire community of learners. Utilize the leverage that is present in the community to benefit the formal school system.

No, keep up the good work.

I'm just curious if this information actually gets to anyone.

Last time I'll say it. It's unfair that many teachers in the district are "double-dipping"--retiring and then being rehired, so that they're collecting both retirements and a salary. It is unfair to the new graduates coming out of Kent and Akron who are looking for jobs. I know how hard the job market is, and I feel bad that this practice is making it even harder for kids in the area.

How did you get my number? This is kind of creepy.

Just make sure the comments that were given to the school were all read.

My main thing is we always felt they did a good job with my son and he graduated in 1986. My opinion hasn't suffered since my son graduate and I think the district is a great district.

My only complaint is when you ask people to be on the committee, listen to what they have to say. Don't just ask people to be on a committee and then when they get there,

You tell them that everything is already decided, and we didn't really need your help; we just need someone to be on the committee.

They're doing many things right. I think it's a matter of tweaking and making minor changes that can yield a greater benefit to everyone.

No, but they took care of the qualifying questions at the end of the survey, and I think they should put it at the beginning so they could prequalify people for the survey.

Pay more attention to students academically, especially with state testing.

No, but I'm really impressed with how they handle this young man that I know with ADHD, and they have been really good about it, especially compared to what he's been through at other places.

Just keep up the good work.

I think they should have more community service implemented for middle school and high school. There are a lot of elder people that could use some help and I don't think they middle and high schoolers would mind.

I think the school systems are very good and have been for a long time.

I'm not sure who they are trying to reach, but I don't think this the best format to research the district needs; a phone survey. The board says what do you all think of A, B, or C and what's your opinion on the cost, that's so cut and dry.

I would definitely support all day kindergarten. I think that's important. But I know there are similar districts that have done it without raising taxes. So I think it's possible for them to give us all day kindergarten without raising taxes.

Not really, just keep going with good schools.

I think they all do a good job, but their work's cut out for them. They have a real difficult situation here in Kent. I can't say anything bad about any of them.

Just let them know that they're doing a good job and making us all proud and keep up the good work.