



Lynch Parents Association 2007 Survey Results Summary

June 12, 2007



Survey Methodology & Stats

- Designed and collected via SurveyMonkey.com
- Link to online survey communicated via:
 - newsletter
 - room parents email distribution list
 - LPA Website
 - reminder email from LPA Chairs via room reps
 - personal appeals/word of mouth
- Paper version made available to parents in School Office
- 10 Question Survey Format
 - 7 Multiple Choice, 3 with “other” response options
 - 3 Open Response
- 65 respondents – approx 17% of Lynch Families

To review all survey questions and results online go to LPA Website at www.lynychparents.org and click on “LPA Survey Results” or paste the following link into you web browser

http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=gUpTLmhDgdiXcjJHmV1vaFnExdPLaaDA62FI2a67qmU_3d

LPA Survey Summary v1db-11-07/cd.bea



Survey Summary Results

LPA Effectiveness

Overall Lynch Parents have a high level of satisfaction and appreciation for the Lynch Parents Association

Strengths:*

- Communication via Newsletter
- Community Building via Social Events
- Student Enrichment
- Advocacy on Lynch Specific Issues
- Financial Support for School Expenses
- Level of Involvement by School Principal

*rated 3.70 or better and/or high % rated "very good" or "excellent"

Survey Summary Results

LPA Effectiveness

Verbatim Samples - Strengths:*

- "Community building through social events was great this year. The new spring fair was a nice addition."
- "I love having the new yard sale and fair I think it brings the school as a whole together."
- The newsletters are very nice and the LPA has done really good things for the library this year.
- "Very happy with enrichment program."
- "The library has come along way, good job moms!!! , Spring Fair, Health Fair, Chinese New Year, STEM and Fit for girls are great additions."
- "LPA does a FANTASTIC job. Emails from room parents v. helpful. Ideally meetings would last 60 min max and always focus on debating and voting on issues vs. info sharing. Issues shld always tie in to the clearly stated mission of the LPA. Thx for your effective leadership! "

Survey Summary Results

LPA Effectiveness

The LPA has an opportunity to improve satisfaction by engaging a broader audience of parents and focusing on inclusiveness in several areas

Areas for Improvement:

- Advocacy on Town Wide Issues
- Inclusiveness of Parent Volunteerism
- Decision Making Process
- Leadership Elections
- Fundraising
- LPA Meeting Agenda Items and Speakers

*rated under 3.0 and/or more than 15% of "somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied"



Survey Summary Results

LPA Effectiveness

Verbatim Samples – Areas for Improvement

- “(I am) troubled by the inclusiveness issue as it pertains to volunteers. Positions are filled by word of mouth and are only publicized when word of mouth fails. I am afraid we are creating a culture in which people hesitate to volunteer because they believe their help is not wanted.”
- “More thorough explanations of events needed. ex. although events have happened at lynch for years, not everybody knows what they are about, especially new families.”
- “I'm not really sure how the primary office holders and committee chairs are selected. Only notification of unfilled committee vacancies is announced in the newsletter towards the end of the year.”
- “We need to energize the parents and get them more involved. More family related activities.”
- “Please publish a list of all committees what their responsibilities are and the number of people you need.”
- “I would suggest having groups of 3-4 parents co-chair each committee to not only include others in the decision making, but to obtain a variety of ideas and task delegating. It may seem hard to get volunteers, but if people know they don't have completely run an event and will help, they may feel more invited and able to commit”.
- “We must have a system in place to make sure that all offers to volunteer are referred to the appropriate people for action and acknowledgment.”
- “We should develop a policy on gifts to teachers and avoid all the votes that take up important time. Please no fund raisers outside of go direct and 5th grade. Social events should not be fund raisers. If any money is collected it should be used solely to off set costs of the social event. LPA should be reducing the number of committees and focus on the really important ones.”



Other Items

Preferred communication method:

- Distribution directly to parent email address
- Paper copy sent home to oldest child

Preferred Fundraising Method

- Write one check per year, but % of parents are willing to contribute to a supplemental fundraiser with specific purpose defined (e.g. Book Fair for library)
- "I prefer to write one check and have all the money distributed throughout the year to meet the needs of the teachers, students and school.I don't mind donating for specific needs above and beyond Go Direct however I would like to see fundraising kept to a minimum. I definitely do not want students selling anything (like wrapping paper) as a fundraiser."
- "I think we need to decide our fundraising strategy and plan and stick to it."



Action Steps for Consideration

1. Refine and communicate the mission of the LPA
2. Communicate descriptions of each LPA Committee, specific responsibilities and number of openings on committee
3. Actively encourage volunteerism and reach out beyond “the usual suspects”, acknowledge volunteers even if not needed
4. Identify specific smaller roles/tasks for volunteers
5. Continue to enhance weekly communication and make it available both online and in paper (consider different format for online version)
6. Clarify room rep roles and encourage representation by at least one rep at each LPA meeting
7. Identify topics and guest speakers for LPA Agenda and publish it at least one week in advance (curriculum, bullying, health, school improvement committee outcomes, MCAS)
8. Continue Annual Fundraising Appeal and identify one other fundraiser targeted to a specific need. Enhance marketing to ensure donors know how funds are used to benefit their children.