



Participant Engagement Evaluation

K-12 Math Strategy Engagement – Host Locations:

- Sir John A. Macdonald School Feb. 27, 2017
- Louis Riel School March 2, 2017
- Terry Fox School March 6, 2017
- A.E. Cross School March 8, 2017
- H.D. Cartwright School March 16, 2017

Number of participants in attendance: 218

Number of evaluations completed: 134

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.

Agree **122** Somewhat Agree **12** Somewhat Disagree **0** Disagree **0** Not Applicable **0**

- I was dumbfounded by some of the comments by the other adults

2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.

Agree **91** Somewhat Agree **24** Somewhat Disagree **7** Disagree **7** Not Applicable **4**

- “One” did not answer the question
- Certain people dominated the conversations
- Statements were written that I disagreed with
- Questions not really encouraged during the meeting

3) I had the information (print and video materials) I needed to participate in a meaningful way.

Agree **88** Somewhat Agree **36** Somewhat Disagree **4** Disagree **3** Not Applicable **1**

- “Two” did not answer the question
- More info on how math is taught – is it differentiated? Is there intervention for struggling students?
- Might be a good idea to share more facts

4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.

Agree **88** Somewhat Agree **30** Somewhat Disagree **7** Disagree **4** Not Applicable **3**

- “Two” did not answer the question
- Conversation got overtaken a bit
- But I can do the online survey

5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.

Agree **58** Somewhat Agree **49** Somewhat Disagree **15** Disagree **9** Not Applicable **1**

- “Two” did not answer the question



6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.

Agree **108** Somewhat Agree **19** Somewhat Disagree **3** Disagree **1** Not Applicable **1**

- "Two" did not answer the question

7) What did you like most about this engagement? What did you like least about this engagement?

Comment: 98 **No Comment: 36**

- Good idea to switch tables to get new perspectives.
- Most: The CBE people and general parents were all good.
- Least: Provides a venue for parents to vent without having any useful recognition of inputs that will make real changes.
- It was beneficial to learn about the strategy and that parents are involved in the next level.
- Please have these engagements so parents can be a part of this important subject.
- Learn other perspectives.
- I think the contention that "things are going great and we want to be better" doesn't really respect our concerns.
- Positive: parent engagement
- Negative: taking hiring and teacher qualifications off the table
- I felt that my thoughts are important.
- Most: Discussing and sharing math education issues with other people.
- Least: Concern with being the best at math rather than just enjoying math.
- The recorders missed out on some of the discussion. A volunteer can be used instead - who is not a participant.
- They should have volunteers to record the ideas, as a recorder I missed a lot of the discussion.
- I filled out my purple sheet - very glad to have this opportunity.
- Survey link didn't work well for me.
- Conversation was overtaken a bit. I am not shy to get involved but I didn't have to worry about getting my point across.
- I felt badly for staff that certain things comments at the beginning were overtaking the direction - glad it got back on track.
- I disliked the groups. I think more thought should have been put into groupings rather than just mingling. I found once I sat down I could not believe the things I was hearing and I disagreed with but the loudest voices were the ones whose ideas got written down on paper.
- Ability to speak up and be heard.
- Most: Meeting with and talking to other parents.
- Least: lack of acknowledgment that something is broken in the CBE with math strategy. Lack of urgency. Sense that the CBE won't really take parental or external input seriously when planning future strategies.
- Like: Parents very engaged.
- Least: Core discussion should have been on curriculum not just classroom strategies. Feeling that the main problems will not be solved by CBE (curriculum). Parents want a say on curriculum level, not on classroom strategy.

dialogue)))

- The engagement allowed for open communication and interaction with CBE representatives and parents. The engagement seems limited to the current issues that exist rather than accepting there are other major inherent problems within the education system.
- Dialogue was good.
- Need to understand why things are not working well. This was not discussed.
- Hearing the thoughts and opinions of other parents and how we are all on the same page.
- I did not like not being able to see the strategies being used at schools.
- To sit and talk with a variety of stakeholders, parents, a principal, teachers, Trustee King and system people. We need to hear one another's voices and not do this work in our own intellectual SILOS. Thank you!
- Discussion and CBE is open for changes
- Changing tables – people to hear the most opinions - not just one or two.
- The individuals from the consultant and CBE were, in the vast majority of cases, very helpful. An interventionist approach from them would skew results.
- We can share the idea about child's math. How they improve their math.
- I worry that this is a pooling of opinion. Experts actually know how to teach math. Their input should be strongly weighted. Let's build a strategy on research and fact, not current vague opinion.
- The table discussions were great. Appreciated the focused questions.
- Sharing different ideas.
- Sharing ideas.
- Please continue to build stronger Alberta in each subject.
- I liked having the opportunity to have a say before the decisions are made.
- There seemed to be a lot of “educators” or other staff and most parents of successful math students. What about those who are struggling? There seemed to be little tolerance for discussion of these students. I get teaching the class but the lack of concern for those "left behind" is maybe exactly why they struggle.
- Appreciated having open dialogue
- Collaboration with other parents and staff from different areas.
- Ability to hear different views
- Too many groups.
- I got the opportunity to talk about my concern about my child's learning.
- Like: Parent participation.
- I liked the sharing of ideas at the tables and with the whole group. I liked how all areas were invited to the engagement.
- Moving to a new table to talk with another group was great. Everything flowed smoothly. No negative
- Engagement - able to provide input. Common goal. Actively good for our kids.
- It was very helpful for parents, kids and teachers too.
- I like to share my opinion and hear others, but the time for discussion is short.
- I have collected information from different viewers.
- Open discussion to take parents feedback is appreciated.
- I think we should have more time for this engagement.
- Positive: discussion with key personnel, committed.
- Negative: apparent time/budget constraints likely to limit implementation beyond preconceived priorities.

dialogue)))

- Like meeting other parent with similar struggles.
- Least - general questions not specific.
- Classroom/teachers was out of scope. Teachers need to be held responsible for educating my child in math.
- Most: open forum with parents who shared similar concerns.
- Least: audio (PA system) was distractingly poor.
- I liked that I can influence the strategy that will be implemented.
- Positive: ability to share with parents. Having CBE members present for Q&A
- Negative: questions were not answered directly and with clarity - I am not confident with CBE.
- Discussions and question and answer part.
- But discussions not very effective.
- I like the tables.
- I did not like the “out of scope” pre-amble.
- Thought we would be get more information than give providing feedback.
- Learning from other parents. Learning from CBE/staff/teachers/admin present at the session. Well organized session, well planned, well executed - Thank you!
- Great discussion with parents and educators!
- Parents who write notes for the group should report on their own notes - easier to read your own handwriting/thoughts.
- I loved the idea of changing tables to share with different people.
- I didn't enjoy the intro video - too basic.
- Good job.
- The process of sharing among all members and having the opportunity to bring forth different ideas freely.
- Switching tables - very strong "old school" opinions at our initial table - seemed domineering – thank you.
- Nice to have facilitators at the table to keep us on track and fair.
- I didn't like the questions we were asked did not seem to directly connect to the strategy you are building.
- Like - The purpose of this engagement itself it is so positive that lead to the successful execution.
- Dislike – Nothing.
- Good format - engaged participants
- Not very clear mandate for why change was key.
- I like the part that I got the opportunity to share my thoughts
- Welcoming, open and friendly sharing with each other.
- Not very clear about the role of the organization and the possibility of finalize or put into practice in real classroom.
- I enjoyed learning about the perspectives of other parents, and about what children in other grades are experiencing.
- Positive: group discussion, rotating tables was good. Writing down many ideas.
- Continue these on a regular basis.
- Questions were pretty good compared to other engagements.
- The chance to provide input on this important topic.
- Discussions/breakouts
- Great conversation not sure how it will materialize and be put into practice.

dialogue)))

- I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the conversation – what a great opportunity. CBE should do these more often.
- Discussions with other parents
- The group setting to discuss the ideas.
- Learning other parents perspectives. Brainstorming aspect.
- Group discussion is always great.
- The fact that parent feedback will be used to develop the new strategy.
- Like most: the results from this engagement can be seen in the near future.
- Like least: none.
- No discussion or ask for feedback on curriculum and teaching methods.
- Like - interactive.
- Dislike - ability to influence Alberta Education - need a forum for that.
- I liked the opportunity to have a discussion with other parents in small groups.
- Like - Well run, we had a great reporter.
- Dislike - Couldn't hear the other tables answers very well and a lot of other reporters babbled on - need to be more concise of their point.
- Good to meet other enthusiastic parents
- Should have some math toys at other sessions.
- I honestly did not know what to expect (but came to learn and because I want to be involved). More fun and informative than I thought, great place to have discussion to help me think through the ideas on math.
- Great to hear differing viewpoints and also hear I am not alone with what is happening at my home.
- Least - Not your fault, but a long day at work and I haven't been home yet. Thanks for the cookie - it was much appreciated!
- It was a good opportunity to speak with other parents and CBE employees. But I do not know what the scope of the CBE strategy definition is vs. what is Alberta curriculum.
- Chance to hear from other parents.
- Like: the opportunity to have a discussion with other parents. There were some very strong themes. Really hope to see these themes addressed in the new strategy in September, because I think the majority of parents were quite clear about the changes that are needed.
- Least: the room, too sterile chairs were uncomfortable.
- Format was easy and not intimidating. Appreciated the opportunity to interact and hear from staff/leaders/experts.
- I enjoyed having a diverse group with some teachers to give their perspective. I want to know more about how CBE can interpret how to apply the curriculum.
- Everyone had a voice and opportunity to speak. Inclusion. Round table discussion and open floor.
- Clear timelines. Open ended questions. Table shift after two questions. Length - 2 hours is good but not too long.
- Facilitators were silent witness - will they take our paper records to heart? Will these form the "star" thematics and statements? I like that we are asked - open ended is good but felt repetitive.
- Hearing from other parents about their feelings on the topic (common ground) and more so having the learning process employed by the CBE explained to me and being allowed to question and discuss it. Thanks!
- Sharing concerns with parents. Receiving some information from CBE Staff.
- Like: hearing from parents who have the same concerns.

dialogue)))

- Dislike: changing tables/I would have preferred to stay at the first table.
- I liked it being collaborative.
- Most: opportunity for parents views and concerns to be included.
- Least: focus on “what” is being learned in math, and concerned that the strategy may not emphasize the “how” it is being learned, which seems to be what is raising the biggest concerns. Minimal confidence in some of the strategies being used in school, and realizing that even some teachers don't think it's the best approach.
- Well organized.
- Discussions about math with like-minded individuals.