

Good morning. I am Melissa Pecullan, one of the two PTC Budget Study Chairs. I reside at 46 Crossway in Scarsdale. PTC is the umbrella organization of the 7 PTA Presidents and 4 officers. As such, PTC represents the parents in Scarsdale's schools. The PTC Budget Study Chairs are responsible for attending and/or watching the Board of Education meetings and studying the proposed budget. We share our analysis with the PTA Presidents, and together with the Presidents, craft a position statement on the budget.

We would first like to thank the Board of Education for hosting this community forum early in the budgeting process so that they can consider community input. At this point in the school year, we (along with the PTA Presidents) are just beginning our study of the 2019–20 school budget. And, I'd like to take this opportunity to share our progress thus far.

We view the Budget Study Committee as another avenue for PTA members to provide input to the budget process. Parents are certainly encouraged to reach out to the Board of Education and/or the District with their feedback, questions, and concerns, and we do not seek to replace those communication channels. Instead we merely aim to provide an avenue that feels a bit less formal and, for some, potentially less fraught.

Since these are still early days, we have been focused thus far on trying to get a general sense of parents' priorities with regard to eight District initiatives. Toward this end, we have launched a brief survey. The eight initiatives specified in the survey are (in alphabetical order):

- Air Conditioning
- Lunch Programs
- Plant Improvement Projects
- Safety and Security
- SET (Scarsdale's Education for Tomorrow) 2.0
- Social/Emotional Programming
- Sustainability
- Wellness

These initiatives were selected for the survey because parents have, in recent history, expressed concern or interest on these. While these were the topics of greatest concern, this is not an exhaustive list. We recognize there are others of interest, but for the purposes of a budget allocation, these initiatives appear to be top of mind for our parents collectively.

The survey asks respondents to choose from the eight initiatives which is 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most important to him/her. We've also requested that respondents provide the names of the schools their children currently attend, though a response to this question is not required. We've provided a free text box in which respondents can provide additional comments. And, finally, while the survey responses are anonymous, respondents are able to provide their email if they'd like to be contacted by the Budget Study Committee to discuss their survey responses.

I want to make clear that this survey is not intended as a tool for the Board of Education to make actual budgetary decisions. It is also not intended as a tool for the Budget Review Committee to determine for which initiatives to endorse a budget allocation. Rather, its utility is for the Budget Review Committee to get a rough sense of what issues are currently top of mind for parents and allow us to focus the Committee's attention and analysis. It is not currently known what that analysis will yield.

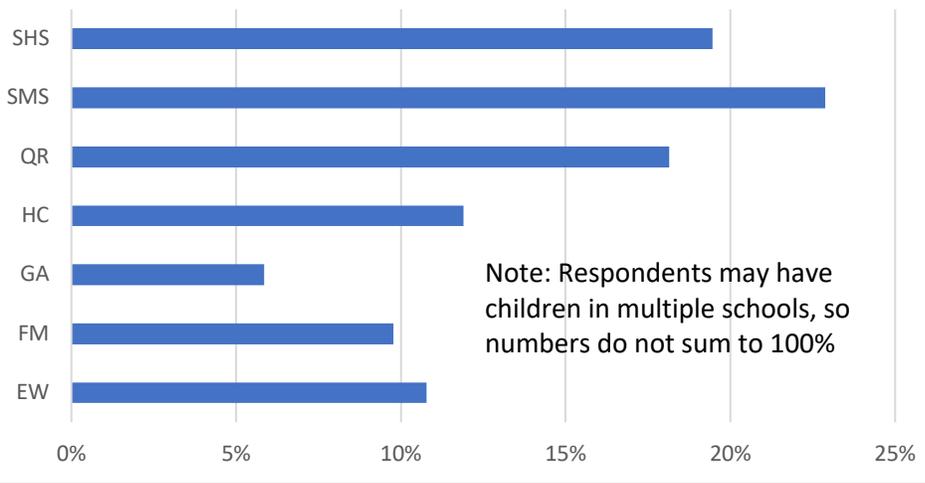
The survey was deployed within the regular, weekly E-blasts on both Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>. We also requested that each school subsequently send a standalone blast to maximize response rate. Some schools were able to run the standalone sooner than others, but as of Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>, each school has run the message in 2 regular weekly E-blasts and as a standalone.

As of Monday November 12 at 4:00pm, we have received over 700 responses. Among those respondents, 11% have a child at Edgewood, 10% at Fox Meadow, 6% at Greenacres, 12% at Heathcote, 18% at Quaker Ridge, 23% at the Middle School, and 19% at the High School. You'll notice those numbers do not sum to 100% because many respondents have children at multiple schools. While there is some variation in response across the schools, we are pleased with the participation we have gotten so far, and the survey will remain active for another week or more.

Keeping in mind that we will drill further down into the survey data in the coming weeks, today I'd like to share some very high level results. 57% of survey respondents ranked Safety and Security as the initiative of greatest importance to them. And, 79% of survey respondents ranked Safety and Security as being one of the top three initiatives of greatest importance to them. Looking at the remaining seven initiatives, Air Conditioning and Social/Emotional Programming were named as a top three priority by 49% and 46% of survey respondents, respectively. Next, SET (Scarsdale's Education for Tomorrow) 2.0 and Lunch Programs were each named as a top three priority by 37% of survey respondents. Wellness was named as top three priority by 26% of survey respondents. Finally, Plant Improvements and Sustainability were named as a top three priority by 14% and 6% of survey respondents, respectively.

We will continue to work with the survey data to glean any additional insights that might be helpful in our budget study work. However, that is all I would like to share today. I'd like to once again thank the Board of Education for hosting this community forum, I'd like to thank everyone in the room for your time and attention, and I'd like to thank everyone who has already responded to the survey. I'd also like to encourage people who have not yet responded to do so, and I also invite folks to contact the PTC Budget Study Committee beyond the survey.

### Survey Respondents by School



### Survey Respondents Ranking Initiative In Top 3

