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Royal Oak School 2021-2022 Budget and Fees Online Survey

Comments

Date: April 16-30, 2021

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure, truncation or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

Given the budget parameters outlined above, in your opinion what should we continue doing?

- Class size is important to our family. Please don't increase class sizes at the expense of the kids.
- I think Royal Oak is doing a great job at balancing the student needs, teachers, cleaning and ensuring they are receiving the educational support for the things that are important to parents like literacy and math. We also do a lot of fun things for our kids with the help of the fundraising society and parent volunteers.
- Keep specialists and charge higher fees to combat rising staff costs
- Educational support for children who require it
- Trying to keep classes to a reasonable size, focusing on literacy and math.
- Continue with the budget parameters above
- Keep doing what you have been doing. See answer 3 below.
- Maintaining enough educated staff
- Keep teaching kids. My son's class size wasn't too big this year. Not really sure what you are looking for here. I'm confused about why you will get funding for 390 kids if there are 449 projected to register for next year and why the PowerPoint states ROS will have fewer kids next year, when you are projecting more than last year (449 vs. 422).
- I think the specialist teachers (Music and Gym) need to stay, they do an amazing job. I would prefer to keep them even if it meant bigger class sizes. I really like that the school provides the students with school supplies, that's fantastic.
- Keep lower class sizes, and I think it is very important at this time of cancelled lessons to keep physical literacy
- Please get on the Fraser institute of school rankings website and allow parents to rate our wonderful school as one of the top schools. This will help more parents make a decision for kindergarten registration!
- Continue to focus on instruction and staffing and the reduction of class sizes where possible.
- I hope you can continue to have specialist teachers and education assistants at Royal Oak (without losing other staff to accomplish this).
- As outlined, focussing on the education.



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- Please continue to spend more on direct instructional activities such as adequate instructors and ample supplies for students, as non-negotiable heading despite budget cut.
- Staffing should always be a top priority. While physical resources and supplies can always be added to from a variety of ways, not having enough staff is detrimental to students.
- I'm totally new to this and do not have experience to voice an accurate opinion.
- Focus on staff and in class learning experience
- Keep it same.
- Keep custodial the same. Would hate to see cutbacks in this department
- fundraising with the school council add school fees
- prioritizing class size
- Don't cut resources teachers
- Our system continues to be under great strain and it is not easy. However, when communication about budget comes from a principal it is obvious the school is looking to make cuts in areas they either don't want to or don't deem as important. One reason my kids enjoy ROS and I fully appreciate this school is that you have specialists such as a Physical Education Program. Without this specialist kids at ROS will suffer and the work that has been established will be gone for a long time. Our kids need structured activity time and that is not possible with classroom teachers who have already been stretched. We know over the last 20 years that the reduction of Physical Education specialists has had a profound effect on the quality of education and in many cases students. Physical literacy is equally important in a child's development but understanding and buying into that is very rare in our education system. This is just one way that ROS has been an outstanding school for our kids.
- You should continue focusing on math and literacy.
- Please maintain PE, Music, and Resource Specialists. This sets us apart and allows for the best and most rounded experience for all students. It is essential that we maintain the quality that Royal Oak School has been known for.
- Supporting the teachers and staff. I can only imagine how challenging this school year has been for them. It is great to see that a significant portion of the budget is going to compensating and retaining great teachers. - Focus on COVID safety measures and associated spending.
- Keep specialists. I have already seen a difference when the kids don't have dedicated PE and the home room teachers cover off that time.
- Student instruction. When restrictions allow - artist/musicians in residence programs and field trips (even walks to the wetlands).
- Keep finding transportation.



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Given the budget parameters outlined above, in your opinion what should we stop doing or change how we do?

- I don't know the school yet and cannot answer this question
- Nothing. I think you are doing the best with what you have to keep the class sizes appropriate and kids looked after and engaged!
- Great educational assistance. Try to keep.
- PD days or fewer PD Days
- My child will enter as a kindergartener so I have a hard time answering this, since I'm not sure what you have been doing. Perhaps less educational assistant time?
- No changes identified at this point
- Unless everyone wants to take a salary reduction to ensure no one loses their job, nothing you can do.
- Maybe reduce transportation if less students
- Nothing. Mr. Hamby is an excellent principal and we trust him to make the best decisions in the interests of the students.
- Any "field trip" that have to be done virtually. Even dropping maybe some subscription based programs... kids I believe are maxed out on screens
- Stop spending on student transportation and have that be paid entirely by parents.
- The distribution of the budget seems reasonable. Hard to argue any changes.
- Can transportation funding be re-evaluated to allocate funds back to teachers? I realise this is a highly contentious area of funding.
- External services/ transport.
- Professional days are important for teachers but there should be a reasonable balance with non-instructional days. Are there alternatives to giving students day off?
- I think it all sounds reasonable given the circumstances.
- Once it's Covid safe more parent school volunteers
- increase bus fares have WDP and ROS start at the same time (8am). Many families have kids in both school, then the uses dont have to do the same route twice.
- push CBE to reduce admin overhead, to push more dollars to the schools.
- Increase class size so we can keep resources teachers
- Don't stop doing what is right.
- We can rely more heavily on school fundraising to supplement anything that can be supplemented. If class sizes need to be increased by a few kids this may be a short-term sacrifice for the greater good. We have been fortunate to not have excessive class sizes for this long.



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- It is concerning to see that there is going to be less money allocated to the school and this will result in a loss of staff and larger class sizes. I am not sure what can be done about this.
- I don't think there is much you can stop you have control over. Reduction of learning leaders and resource time but I worry the impact that will have as the year progresses.

Given the budget parameters outlined above, in your opinion what should we start doing?

- I don't know the school yet and cannot answer this question.
- I think you are doing the absolute best with what you have! I really hope to see the fun extras continue for our kids so I think if those are in danger or parents can help in other ways, like providing supplies to the school or donations, the school should have a fundraising drive for those things.
- Asking the provincial government to properly fund education
- More fundraising events to increase budget where required
- Could teachers join together to collaborate for the PE and music blocks?
- considering current pandemic, review the maintenance and operations budget to incorporate more cleaning in order to ensure safety of the students and staff.
- Start charging at home learning their proportionate share that would have gone to the school and send it to the school. If there is no "pandemic" any longer in the fall, the public system should not support this kind of learning.
- Re value the budget
- I don't think you should start doing anything new if you think that there is going to be less money this year. Maybe start offering childcare at the school as a means of revenue generation? Having out of school care within the school would have been so helpful for me in prior years.
- I have no opinion on this.
- Utilize the community and resources within royal oak and surrounding community.
- Increase student fees that are paid by parents and ensure collection!
- The fundraising opportunities that have come up this year have been appropriate for the current situation. Hopefully next year we will have more opportunity to help the school with more funds from fundraising.
- Organizing events, such as exhibitions, where students (particularly the little ones) showcase their talent to parents. This may be difficult until covid is under control, but please start thinking about it, as this might need an additional funding arrangement (parents may want to share a part!).
- I'm not sure there is anything. Sounds as balanced as can be
- More school fundraising to bridge any funding gaps
- Budget looks good to me. The only thing I will suggest is to spend bit more towards online education from that 79%.



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- Move grade 4 back to ROS where it belongs. Will increase enrolment numbers for ROS and will help decrease the high enrolment numbers for Pratt. It's my understanding Pratt is near capacity, but I may be mistaken.
- Smaller class sizes
- push back to CBE leadership (not the gov't) to increase dollars going to the kids education.
- Increase class sizes so we don't have to cut resources teachers
- Continue to do the great work and offer the great programs that have been built over the years.
- Children with learning/behavioural difficulties are falling further behind at staggering rates. Increased screen time, less access to physical activity, less support in the schools due to increased sanitation requirements means these kids are not getting what they need to succeed. A child that can fully participate in any lesson without assistance has the opportunity to thrive, no matter how little budget the schools have. A child that needs support will struggle, fall behind, and continue to struggle. These are the children that are bearing the brunt of the pandemic the most. Their parents are overwhelmed by the uncertainty of the pandemic, family finances are tight due to lay-offs, etc. They were born with a disadvantage and the state of our world has made it more difficult for them to have an equal opportunity. I hope these children get the support they need.
- Encourage the school community to connect with their government officials to voice their concerns, supplement funding with fundraising dollars and hang in there as you are all doing a wonderful job in completely unreasonable circumstances!
- Honestly I would creep class sizes up to keep specialists. If an increase of 2 kids per class let us keep them I think that is a fair compromise.