



Salt Lake City School District

HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sue Parker
Principal

2291 South 2000 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106
Telephone: 481-4833
Fax: 481-4920

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To the Salt Lake Board of Education

Highland Park's K8 committee was formed this fall following the request from the District to explore the option of becoming a K8 school. This option was presented to all the elementary schools feeding into Hillside Middle School. Sue Parker, Principal of Highland Park, requested interested and objective faculty and community members to become a part of this committee.

Committee Meetings:

The first meeting the committee attended was the district's K8 presentation at Hillside on September 7th. At that meeting the committee a future date was set for our first in depth discussion of the K8 literature. We had a packet provided by Gene Klatt already assembled for committee members to read, and they were asked to come prepared to the meeting. On September 13th each committee member came eager to discuss the available literature on K8 they had studied. Through four hours of discussion, a list of K8 "pro's and con's" was generated. At that time the committee decided to pursue further research outside of the district provided materials. Materials were exchanged via internet to all committee members. Several committee meetings followed with the same format-research and discussion. At this time the committee reached consensus that K8 was a valuable option for Highland Park, and that we intended to present it to the community as an option. We put the information on the school website and ask people to read the articles and respond to us in written form with their reaction, questions, or concerns about the K8 concept. We received less than ten written responses.

Community Meetings:

A community meeting was organized for October 11th and the committee requested that the district representatives share the power point presentation with the community. The meeting was publicized and approximately 50 people attended. This group listened to the presentation, and had an opportunity to address questions to the presenters. The K8

committee determined that a second community meeting was necessary. At the second meeting an even smaller group of people attended. McKell Withers addressed the audience and entertained questions concerning K8 and the district's position on the possible implementation. Again, the community had an opportunity to address questions to Dr. Withers.

Survey:

The second week of November, 365 surveys (see attached) were sent, one survey to every family in the school. They were numerically coded to insure validity. Approximately 130 were returned to the school. The results were tabulated and graphed by the district. The survey results indicated that the community did not support the K8 concept for Highland Park. (See attachment)

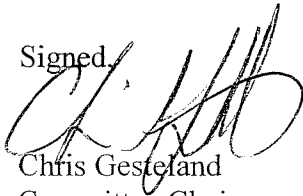
Committee Recommendation:

The committee has carefully assessed the information from the survey and has concluded that the community support needed to implement a dynamic K8 is lacking.

It is the committee's observation that this community needs some time to heal, rebuild, and reclaim trust. As part of re-building a strong, positive, and forward looking school community, we feel that our focus and energy would be best spent on creating the best K-6 school possible.

It has been clear to this committee, that studying a new model of educating our students is and always will be valuable. It has generated discussion and excitement about possibilities for the future. In looking towards the future of Highland Park, we are excited about our new building and a new beginning.

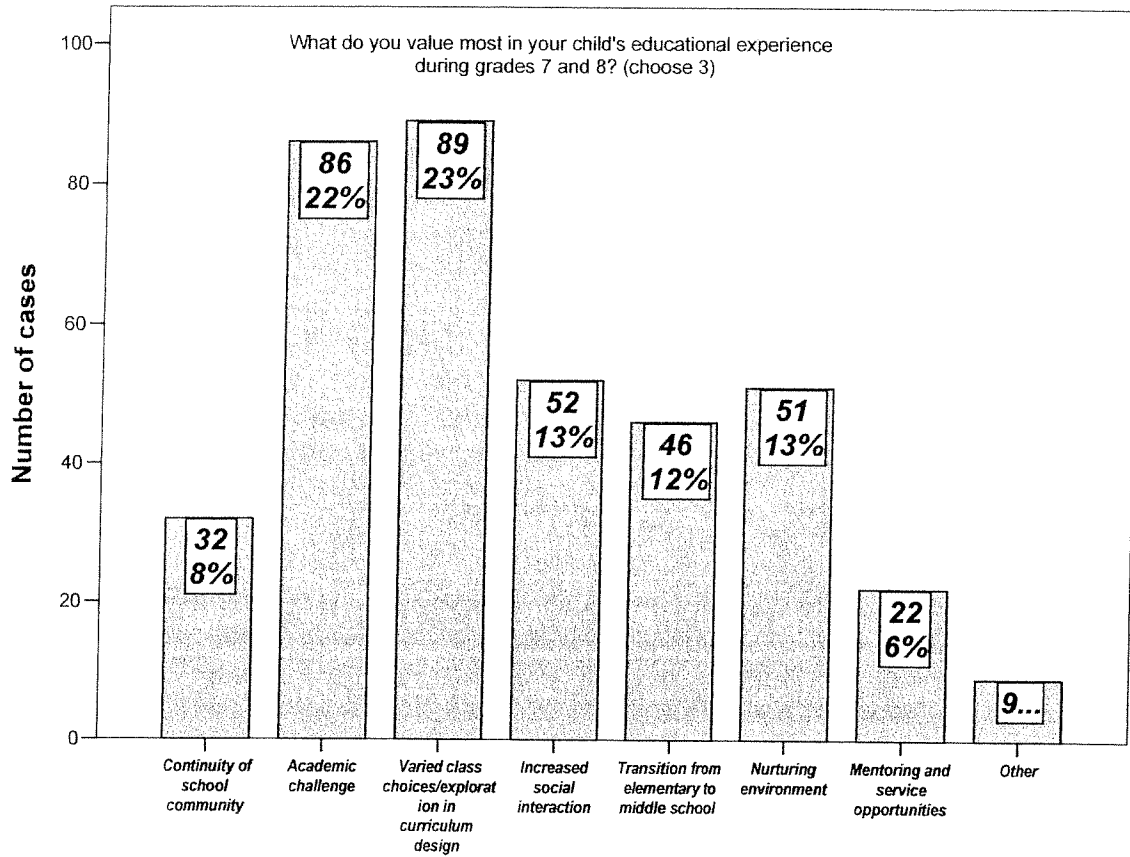
Signed,



Chris Gesteland
Committee Chair



Sue Parker
Principal



Statistics

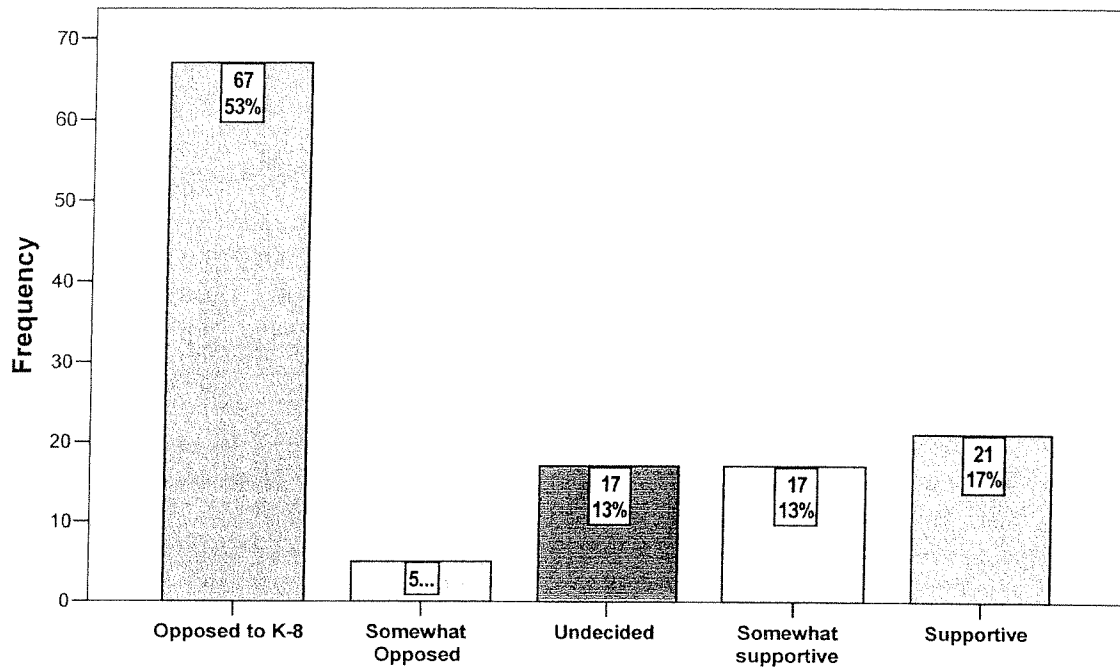
The phrase that BEST describes my views regarding the proposal to change Highland Park from K-6 to a K-8 is.....

N	Valid	127
	Missing	8

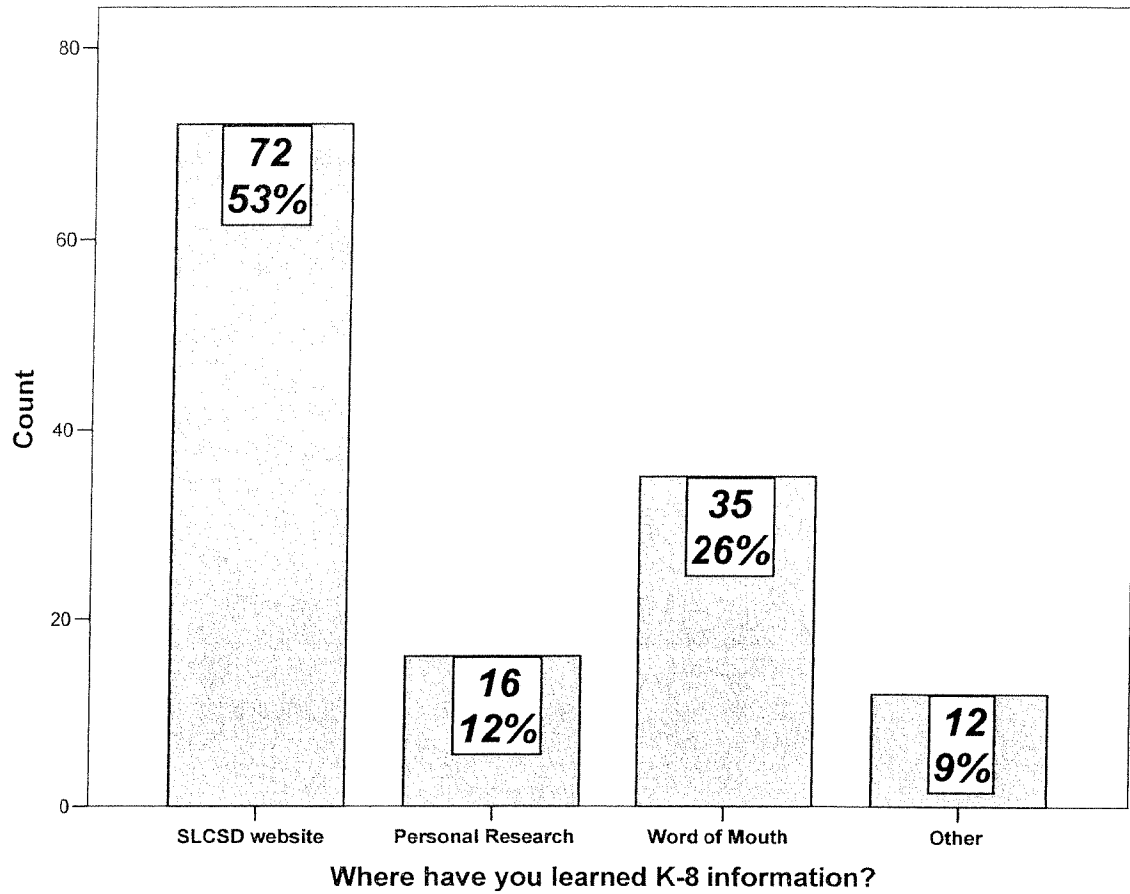
The phrase that BEST describes my views regarding the proposal to change Highland Park from K-6 to a K-8 is.....

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid		
Opposed to K-8	67	52.8
Somewhat Opposed	5	3.9
Undecided	17	13.4
Somewhat supportive	17	13.4
Supportive	21	16.5
Total	127	100.0
Missing	8	
Total	135	

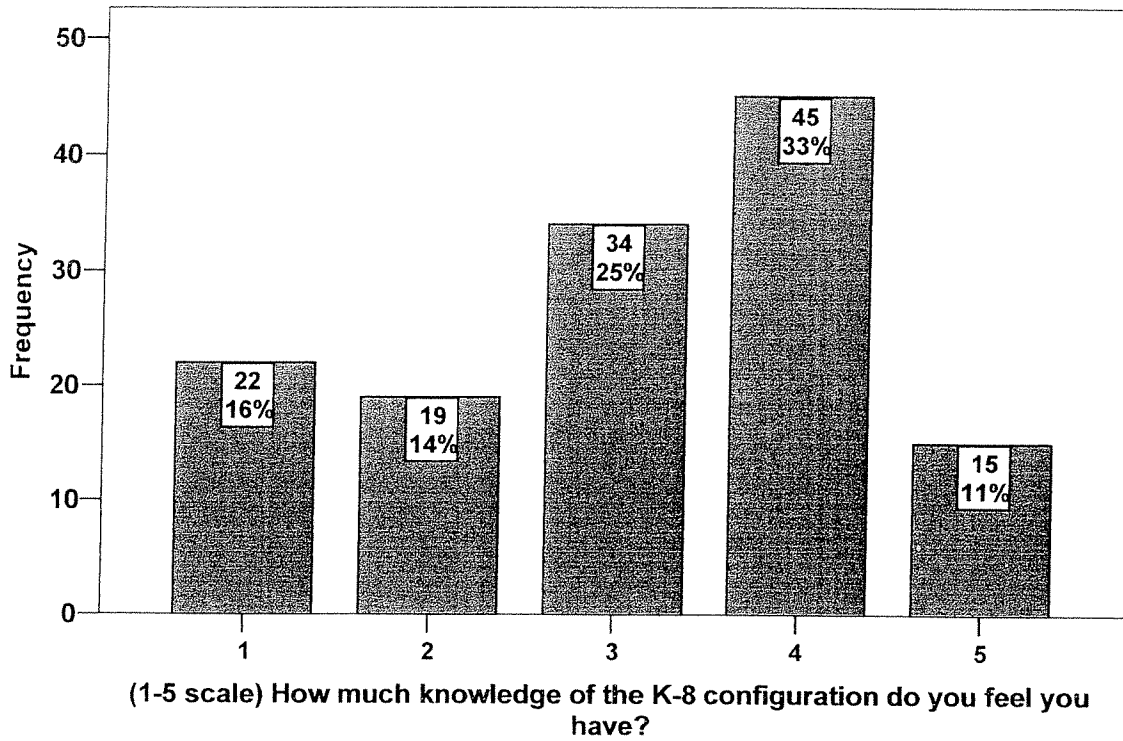
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The phrase that BEST describes my views regarding the proposal to change Highland Park from K-6 to a K-8 is.....



(1-5 scale) How much knowledge of the K-8 configuration do you feel you have?



How Many Children do you have currently attending Highland Park?

