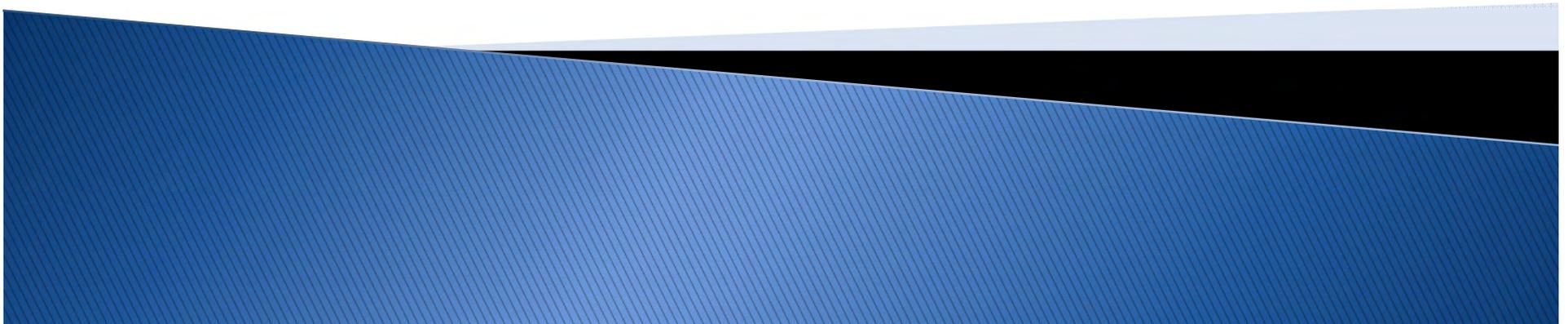


2011 Calendar Survey Results

March 23, 2011



Executive Summary

- ▶ APCP thought it was important to survey parents *this year* due to the significant changes in the 2010–11 school calendar.
- ▶ The survey had very high participation rates of over 40%, with one-third more parents participating than in 2007.
- ▶ About $\frac{3}{4}$ of parents are generally satisfied with the school calendar and the calendar process.
 - A significant minority had at least some dissatisfaction, but very few are highly dissatisfied
- ▶ A majority of parents preferred a shorter summer with more frequent one-week vacations.



Executive Summary, cont'd

- ▶ Most parents expressed satisfaction with the collaboration schedule of minimum days and parent-teacher conferences.
- ▶ Parents' open-ended comments reflected the full continuum from appreciation to frustration, and contained many useful suggestions.
 - APCP believes these comments need to be considered in the context of the District's broader priorities
- ▶ APCP recommends repeating the survey every two years to "check in" with parents and get their input on the process, the calendar, and 1-2 discreet calendar-related topics.



Calendar Survey Objectives

- ▶ The primary objective was to update parental input to the calendar, which was last gathered in 2007.
- ▶ Why this year?
 - This was a key year, as the school calendar was markedly different vs. previous years (longer summer, later start date, shortened February vacation)
 - In addition, the school schedule changed this year to incorporate parental and teacher input:
 - Weekly collaboration days (vs. monthly early dismissal days)
 - Two full teacher K–5 conference days vs. a full week of early dismissal days
 - Voluntary 6th grade conferences vs. structured ones



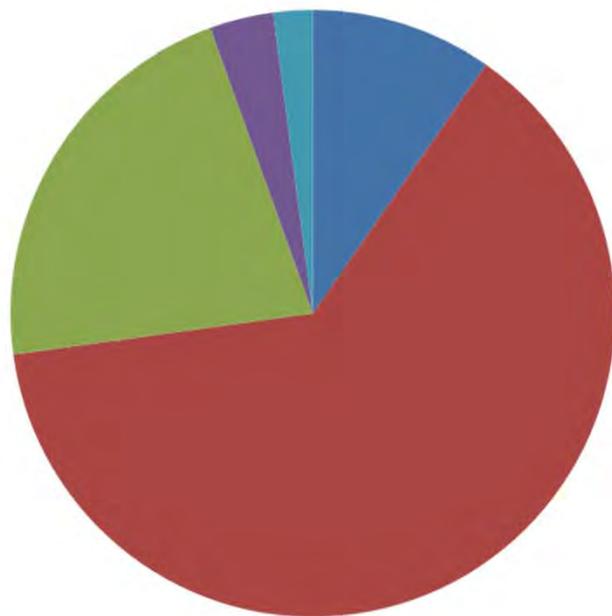
Survey Objectives, cont'd

- ▶ Additional goals of launching a calendar survey included:
 1. To encourage parents to read the background information regarding all the factors the District must consider in creating a calendar
 2. To educate parents, by the way of how the questions were worded, about the trade-offs the District faces (e.g., longer summers vs. less frequent holiday weeks)
 3. To provide actionable feedback to the District as an input to its decisions, but also to help the District, as appropriate, in *supporting* its decisions



Survey Results: Overall Satisfaction

Overall satisfaction with the structure / timing of school calendar



■ Very Satisfied

■ Generally Satisfied

■ Somewhat Dissatisfied

■ Very Dissatisfied

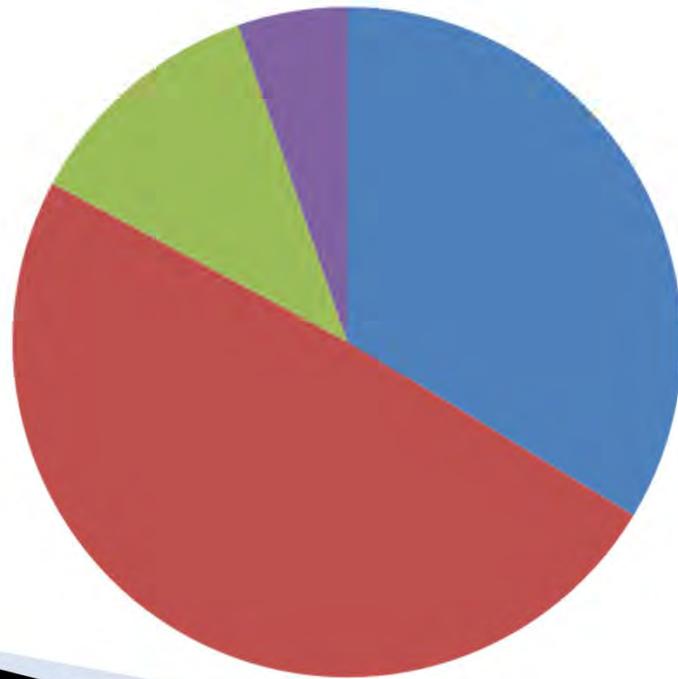
■ No Strong Opinion / Not Sure

▶ In general, parents were satisfied with the current calendar. 75% of those with an opinion were generally or very satisfied.

▶ This satisfaction level is up 20% vs. 2007.

Survey Results: Satisfaction with the Process

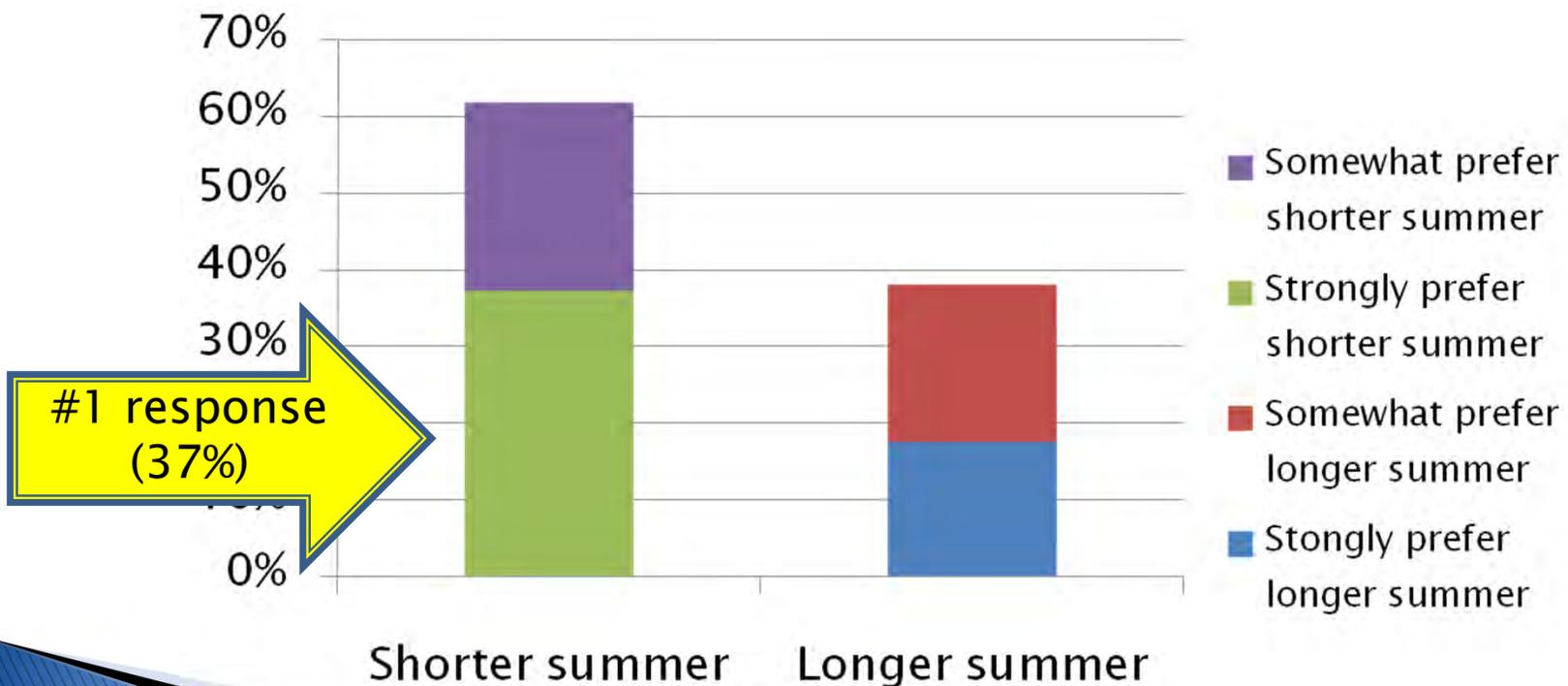
Over 80% of those who thought the calendar is an important educational issue were satisfied with the calendar/schedule process.



- Very Satisfied with the process
- Somewhat Satisfied with the process
- Somewhat Dissatisfied with the process
- Very Dissatisfied with the process

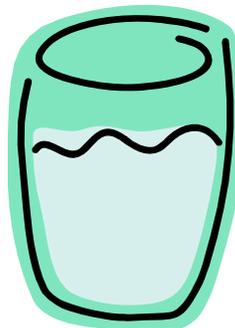
Survey Results: Vacations

- ▶ It is very difficult to make everyone happy!
- ▶ Of those with an opinion, ~60% preferred a shorter summer with more frequent one-week vacations, versus a longer summer with fewer one-week vacations.



Survey Results: Vacation timing

- ▶ Parents are also split on their choice of vacation timing.
 - When given a choice, *slightly* over half (54%) of parents with a preference preferred a February one-week break versus a full-week break over Thanksgiving



Survey Results: Collaboration Schedule

- ▶ Over $\frac{3}{4}$ (77%*) of those with an opinion were satisfied with the new school schedule for collaboration days and conference weeks.
- ▶ Not surprisingly, therefore, parents wanted to stick with the new collaboration schedule: 80%* of respondents with a preference wanted it to continue.

*Pertains only to parents for whom the question was applicable



Survey Results: Collaboration Days

- ▶ Details of the collaboration schedule were probed more deeply to assist with future planning.
- ▶ Specifically:
 - Parents preferred Mondays to Wednesdays by about a 2:1 margin
 - 72%* of parents with an opinion wanted K-5 and PMS collaboration days on the same day (but with almost a third of applicable parents ambivalent)
 - Parents felt less strongly about aligning elementary and PMS collaboration day release timing, with ~60%* preferring alignment.

*Pertains only to parents for whom the question was applicable



Survey Results: Conferences

- ▶ The District also wanted information about how important conferences are to parents.
- ▶ The answer is, very!

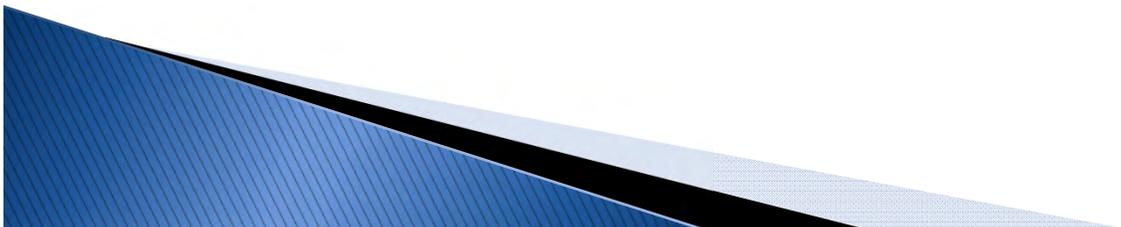


- 91%* of parents with a preference said that spring conferences were either very (62%) or somewhat (29%) important.
- Similarly, 70% of those with a preference thought that 6th grade conferences were important.

*Pertains only to parents for whom the question was applicable

Survey Results: Open-ended

- ▶ Parents' open-ended comments reflected a mix of opinions, ranging from frustration to appreciation and included a broad variety of specific suggestions.
 - Many comments reflect appreciation for the survey and the opportunity to weigh in
 - A number of comments requested that the calendar be finalized with as much lead time as possible
- ▶ APCP believes these comments need to be weighed against the quantitative results, which indicate parents are *broadly satisfied* with the calendar and the calendar process.



Calendar Survey Summary

- ▶ The APCP point of view is that the calendar survey can and should be continued to:
 - Be a feedback loop to constructively share opinions
 - Seek parental input into a few targeted, discreet issues
 - Educate parents on the many trade-offs involved in structuring the calendar
 - Provide a tool for reinforcing to parents that, while the District seeks their feedback, they are only one input into a complicated process
- ▶ Finally, while there was not a specific question about overall parent satisfaction, we feel that the many positive opinions expressed likely reflect high *overall* parental satisfaction with the District's performance.

