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RESULTS OF STEPHENVILLE I.S.D. SAFETY SURVEY

The following are key findings from a telephone and internet survey of N=400 residents in Stephenville ISD conducted January 28 – February 6, 2019. The margin of error to the results of this survey is +/- 4.9% at the .95 test level. The survey includes n=99 non-parents (25% of the sample) and n=301 parents (75% of the sample) and breakdowns of the responses between these groups can be found in the Survey Report.

1. Nearly eight out of nine respondents (87%) rated schools as “safe”. Two-fifths of respondents (41%) rated schools as “very safe”. See pages 7-8 of Survey Report.
2. Respondents were given six issues and ask to select the two that were most important to them. The top three were quality teachers (68%), school safety (47%) and programs that prepare students for jobs after high school (42%). See page 5 of Survey Report.
3. At the beginning of the survey, in an open-ended question, respondents indicated their concerns about safety include accessibility issues (16%), guns/shootings (15%), bullying (10%), transportation-related (10%), security/police (8%), drugs (5%) and emergency preparedness (5%). One-third of respondents did not have an answer, as 26% said they have no concerns and 8% were not sure. See pages 9-10 of Survey Report & verbatim report.
4. Over three-fifths of respondents (62%) think the district should spend more money on school safety, 24% do not, and 14% are unsure. Those who support more spending include 45% of those who believe the schools are very safe and 74% of those who do not think the schools are very safe. See page 21 of Survey Report.
5. Three-quarters (74%) believe bullying is a problem with 39% saying it is a big problem. Only 16% are *very* satisfied with what the district is doing to address bullying. In total, 56% are satisfied, 20% are dissatisfied and 25% are unsure. Three-quarters of respondents (76%) would support hiring more counselors. See pages 15-18, 25 of Survey Report.
6. Just over one-quarter (28%) strongly believe that the district has enough law enforcement engagement in its schools. In total 56% believe SISD has enough, 26% do not, and 18% are unsure. A majority of respondents would support adding more SROs (79%) and expanding the K9 program (79%). See pages 19-20, 26-27 of Survey Report.
7. When asked to pick one, a majority prefer expanding counseling (50%) over hardening school buildings (36%). A majority of those who say safety is the most important issue chose hardening (51%) over counseling (34%) while all other respondents chose counseling (56%) over hardening (30%). See pages 28-29 of Survey Report.
8. After a brief explanation of a Guardian Program, and being presented with arguments for and against it, over half of respondents (55%) strongly believe it is a good idea. In total, 73% say it is a good idea, 23% say it is a bad idea and 5% are not sure. See pages 30-31 of Survey Report.
9. After being presented with arguments for and against placing metal detectors in schools, over one-third (35%) of respondents strongly believe it is a good idea. In total, 66% say it is a good idea, 28% say it is a bad idea and 6% are not sure. See pages 32-33 of Survey Report.
10. At the conclusion of the survey respondents were asked for additional concerns or suggestions regarding school safety. The two themes mentioned most were “counselors/teachers/coaches/staff” (10%) and “fighting/bullying/other students/social media” (9%). See pages 34-35 of Survey Report and verbatim report.