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School Planning 2025-26 – Andrew Sibbald School Online Survey Comments March 2025

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.

1. Please share any other thoughts you may have about our SDP.

It is good that data sets from report cards are being used to implement programming and strategies for improvement. It's obvious to me that part of the deficiencies that are occurring are a gap in the supports available to students/school. Not enough EAs or too much time spent on "testing" (whether provincially mandated or not. This is a drain on classroom time, teacher availability and creates a sense of stress for students and what does it ultimately prove, as the CBE/province will not advance funding) there needs to be push back on these time intensive requirements and a big push to have teachers able to focus on lessons and planning.

Happy to see focus on K-3 teaching to deal with feelings of sadness and worry. These numbers are probably much higher as not all kids will respond honestly in a survey. Please have teachers keep a close eye on class dynamics. Both my kiddos loved the teachers and admin but found other kids often not nice or not friendly with people outside their "group"

From what I can see, understanding of Indigenous Culture is very high, while understanding of math is low. The plan to further correlate science learnings with indigenous ways of seeing rather than further correlating science learnings with "pure" science and math outcomes seems like a missed opportunity. Rather than focusing on how indigenous cultures see "science" (the environment), which is based on a more spiritual and cultural focus, present these ideas but then translate the general practices into science concepts. For example, students could run experiments or surveys in Fish Creek park that identify certain types of organisms in certain areas (e.g. do you see this plant or animal down by the creek, up on the grassy plains, in the forest, etc.). This would support numeracy (counting, adding, comparing numbers, even statistical review) and also ecosystem understanding (why it is important to protect all kinds of ecosystems). Science should be focused on the scientific method, statistics and math, and not on culture. We need to arm our students with how to look critically at information given to them on topics of science, economics, etc. to arm them in a world of "fake news" rather than just trying to teach them to "trust your (indigenous) elders". Science is about moving forward, not stopping progress. It is good to



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acknowledge different world views but do so in the context of true proven science.

I really like receiving the updates home in the grade 1 folders - telling me what letters, sounds, and words that Ethan needs to keep working on. You don't get that specific feedback and opportunity to help through only report cards.

I am not familiar with our SDP. These questions are very hard to answer without having read the sdp.

It is amazing to see that 94% of students, staff and parents feel like Sibbald is "welcoming, warm, respectful and safe". That's a really important one to have a positive response on. As a new family to the school starting midyear, we noticed right away how structures (ie. Patrols, staff presence and greetings in the mornings), communication (classroom blogs and Principal's Message) at Andrew Sibbald, are conducive to a welcoming and safe environment.

The SDP notes 12.2% of students are at risk. Resources should be redirected away from EDI/Reconciliation related political ideologies to help these at-risk children. These EDI/Reconciliation ideologies are far from universally accepted. Pushing this agenda, especially to children without engaging critical thinking, is no different than a religion. Just focus on getting 95% of kids reading, writing and embracing good physical and mental health.

2. Please share any other thoughts you may have about our school budget and fees.

I find the cost is very high for the service we get. I also find that the lunch supposition

Fees are reasonable, I do not feel they are out of line with what is provided. Sibbald has an active and engaged parent base/council and is able to fundraise for a lot of support for field trips, bussing and supplemental opportunities. This year, most of the residencies seem well organized and enjoyable for staff and students. It is not unreasonable to think parent council willingness and initiatives could be leveraged further for more opportunities for students. I guess I somewhat question things like board games for family loan with grant money when library furniture is needed or the funding and purpose of mural that keeps being mentioned.

Parent council does an amazing job of offsetting fees and is under appreciated, unknown by most parents. Thank you!

Love the enrichment/extra opportunities my child gets.



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Student supplies fees, field trip fees and other activity fees are reasonable for most families in our school. Lunch supervision fees seem high and may be difficult for some families to afford.

I would like to see different residences, as the same ones have been brought back multiple years. I value paying school fees that include our student supplies.

I love the activities that are provided and as a parent would be willing to pitch in extra funds to ensure my child is able to continue to do so even if budget does not allow.