

New Albany for Kids

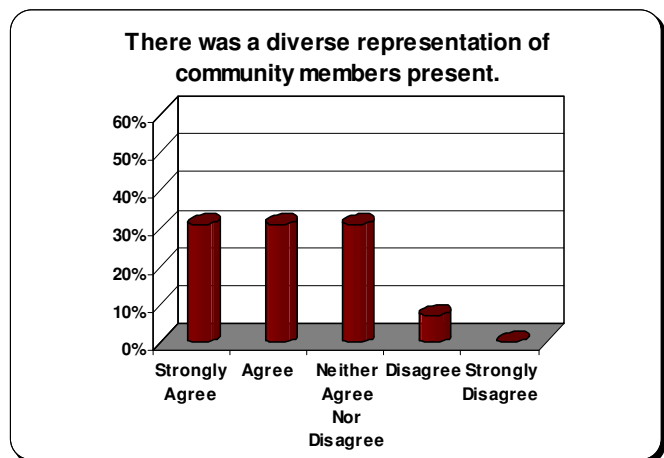
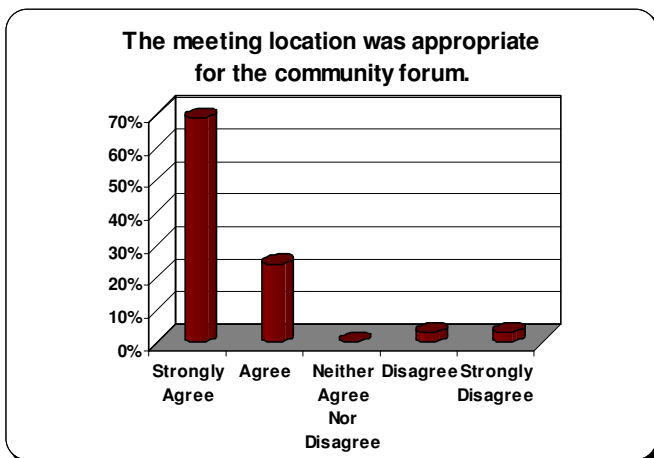
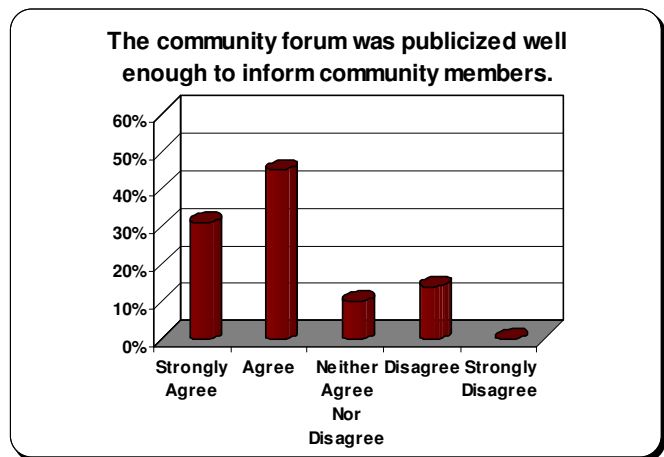
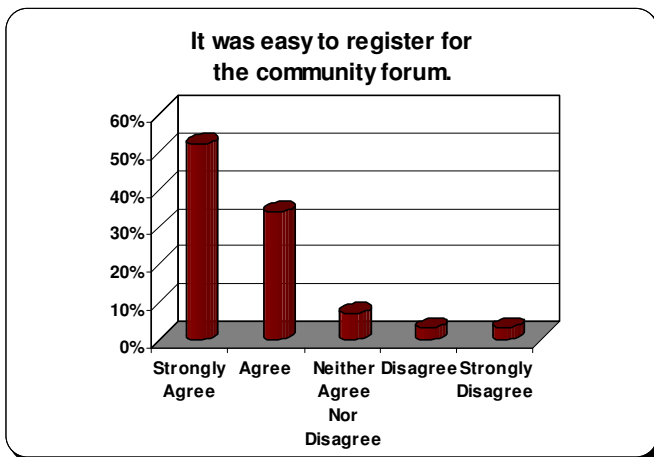
New Albany – Plain Local School District

Strategic Planning Community Forum – May 19, 2009

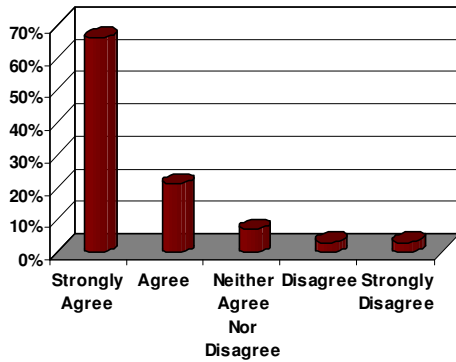
Results from Participant Evaluation Feedback

On May 19, *New Albany for Kids* hosted a community forum entitled “Envisioning Academic Excellence In The 21st Century.” We are very grateful that approximately 60 area residents came out to participate and many provided us with valuable feedback from the event. We’re happy to share the feedback with participants and everyone else in the community. We continue to commit to creating open, constructive dialogue throughout the community in our on-going advocacy for academic excellence.

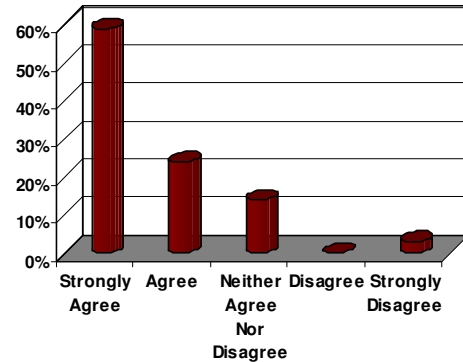
Participant feedback was strongly positive and supportive. Please take a few moments to review the forum evaluation feedback. We look forward to hosting more community events and hearing from members throughout the community.



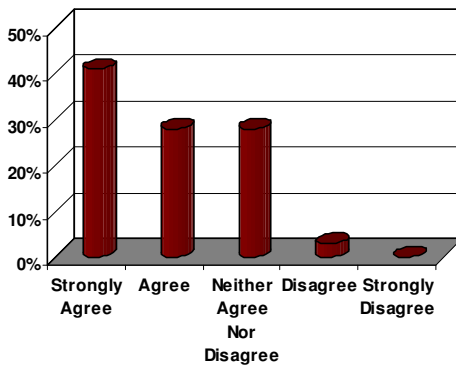
Facilitators clearly explained the focus group process.



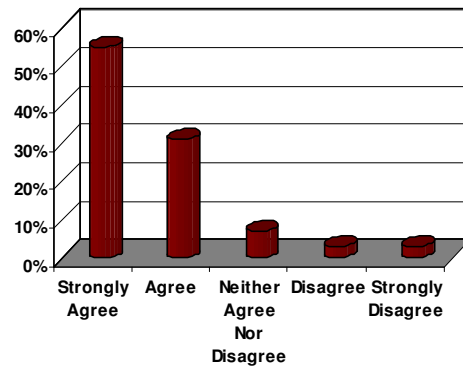
My ideas were recorded accurately during the breakout sessions.



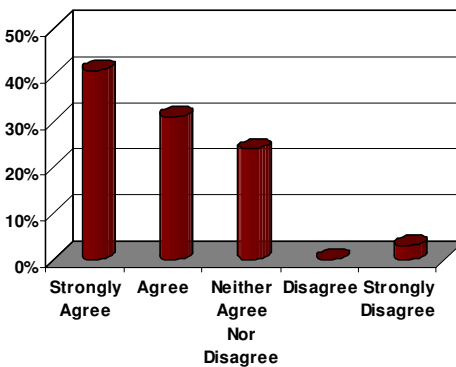
“Sticky dot” voting was a fair process to represent the challenges of making choices.



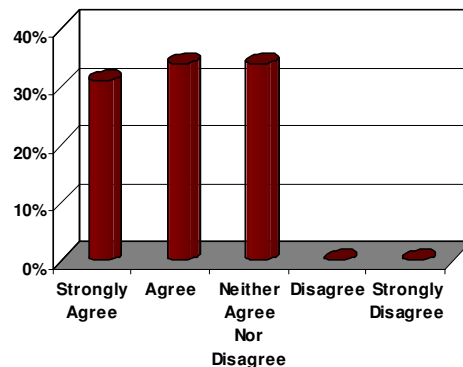
After attending this forum, I will encourage others to attend similar forums.



I would like to attend community forums on other topics.



I would like to assist with other community engagement efforts.



OPEN-ENDED QUESTION

Please briefly identify what you consider to be the single most important thing we can do to impact the quality of our schools in the next five to ten years.

Not surprisingly, comments in response to this question largely mirrored the themes identified during the group breakout session. Here is a sampling of some comments organized by concept.

- Develop a comprehensive strategic planning process.
 - “Leadership and administration need to be strategically focused and not mired in tactical details.”
 - “Develop and implement a strategic plan.”
 - “Break down the bureaucracy and put in place a strategic planning process that is well run to optimize our finances without shortchanging our most valued assets - our children.”
 - “Being a transparent organization / school district with agenda clearly laid out for all to understand.”
 - “Identify and benchmark ‘excellence in education’ and create a plan for achieving it.”
- Desire for strong leadership.
 - “Restore credibility of Admin / Board regarding financing.”
 - “Improve Board/tax payer communication.”
 - “Develop or hire leadership with vision, passion, expertise and ability to create a "great" school district.”
 - “I do think that we need new leadership.”
- Concern about facilities and class size.
 - “Facilities should be our major focus, but...we are going to have to do a lot to improve the community perception of the district.”
 - “Reduce the class size and overcrowding by building a new building.”
 - “Lower the teacher to student ratio.”
 - “Right size classes during longer school year.”
- Need to define and pursue academic excellence.
 - “Retain excellent teaching staff and attract highly qualified new staff.”
 - “Attract talented educators while balancing budget.”
 - “Raise academic expectations.”