FOSB BUDGET SURVEY

JANUARY 2026

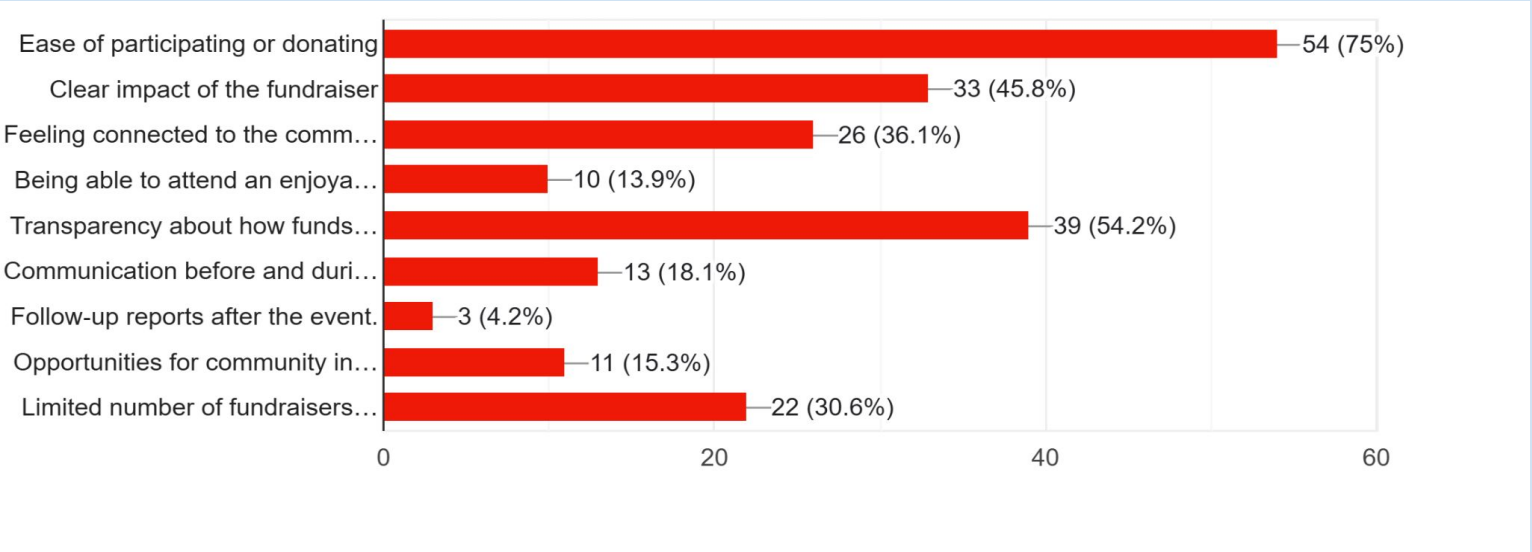
FOSB BUDGET SURVEY

Number of responses - 72

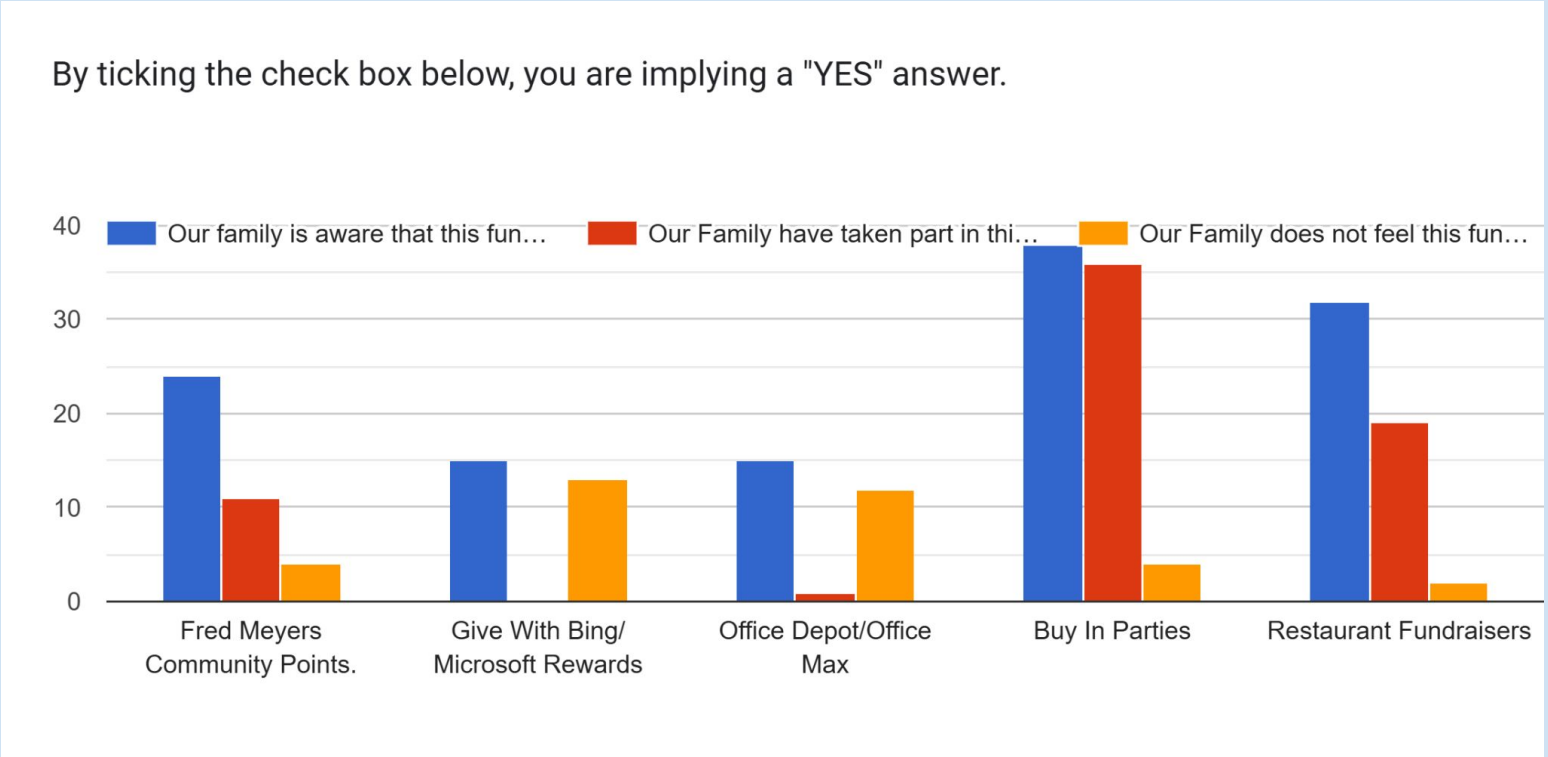
Breakdown of the respondents	**Total Respondents**	**1st Year**	**2 - 5 years**	**6 - 8 years**	**8+ years**
Elementary Students Only (46%)	33	2	24	5	2
Middle School Students Only (32%)	23	5	10	3	5
Elementary & Middle (22%)	16	1	3	8	4

Three Aspects of Fundraising that are the highest priority to families

1) Ease of Participating or donating
2) Transparency about how funds are used.
3) Clear Impact of the Fundraiser.



ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISERS



Comments on “Ways to make fundraising more meaningful”

“participating more with the global school community in the North End expanding our community beyond our walls.” *

“It would also be nice if other events did not ask for donations on top of the fundraising events. “

Guidelines like “if every family gave X amount, we could cover the cost of XYZ for the whole school year”

“Go to an event and donate at the event that we just enjoyed.”

“Use funds to help subsidize the cost of after school programs, ski bus, camps, school supplies, etc.. Help make things less expensive for all”. **

“Please continue offering childcare options for parents for the auction.”

“It might be nice to provide some events that are specifically geared to “getting to know people”.

“More direct link to student or school outcomes”

“more frequent smaller contributions rather than one bigger contribution in the fall. encouraging recurring monthly donations”. ***

FOSB Replies to some comments -

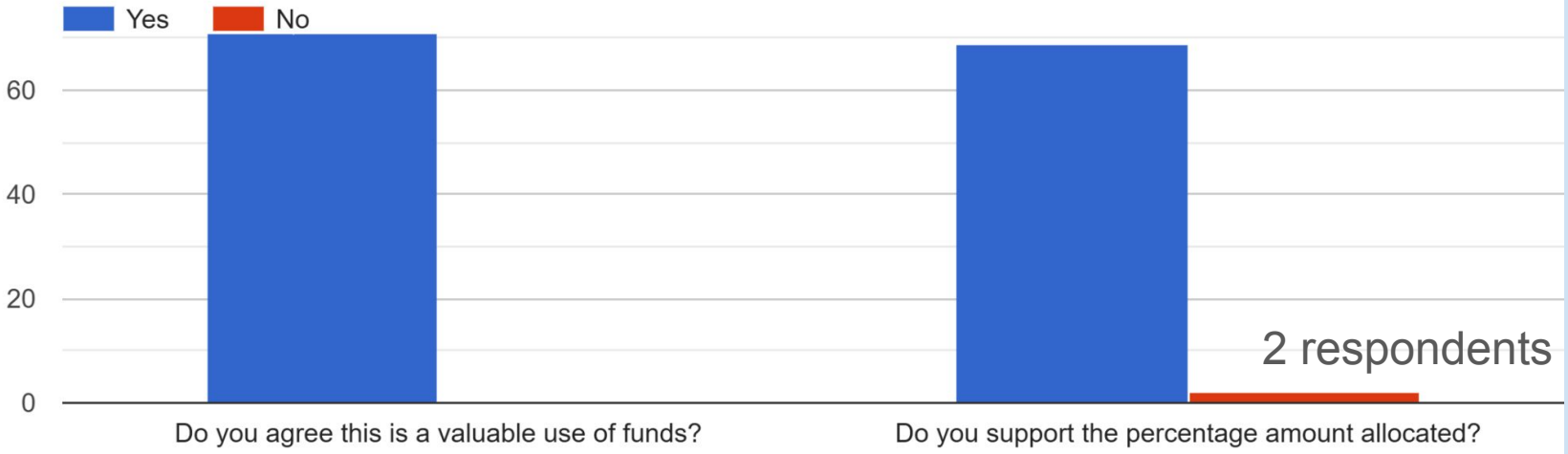
*FOSB are members of CANSSPA Alliance.

**FOSB provides scholarships for after school programs, camps, field trips and school supplies. The ski bus is run independently of FOSB

***Monthly donations is an option through givebutter (our fundraising platform)

School Grant (47% of the Total Budget)

The School Grant is approximately 47% of the total budget allocated. This grant fills gaps in staffing support not funded by Seattle Public Schools and ...s and programs that would otherwise go unfunded.



Elaborate on School Grant Answer

“More funding for arts programs and staff”.

“Since SPS doesn't properly fund our school it's an appropriate allocation./ I wish SPS fully funded staffing, but happy to allocate this amount /It's too bad this is needed and not funded by the district”

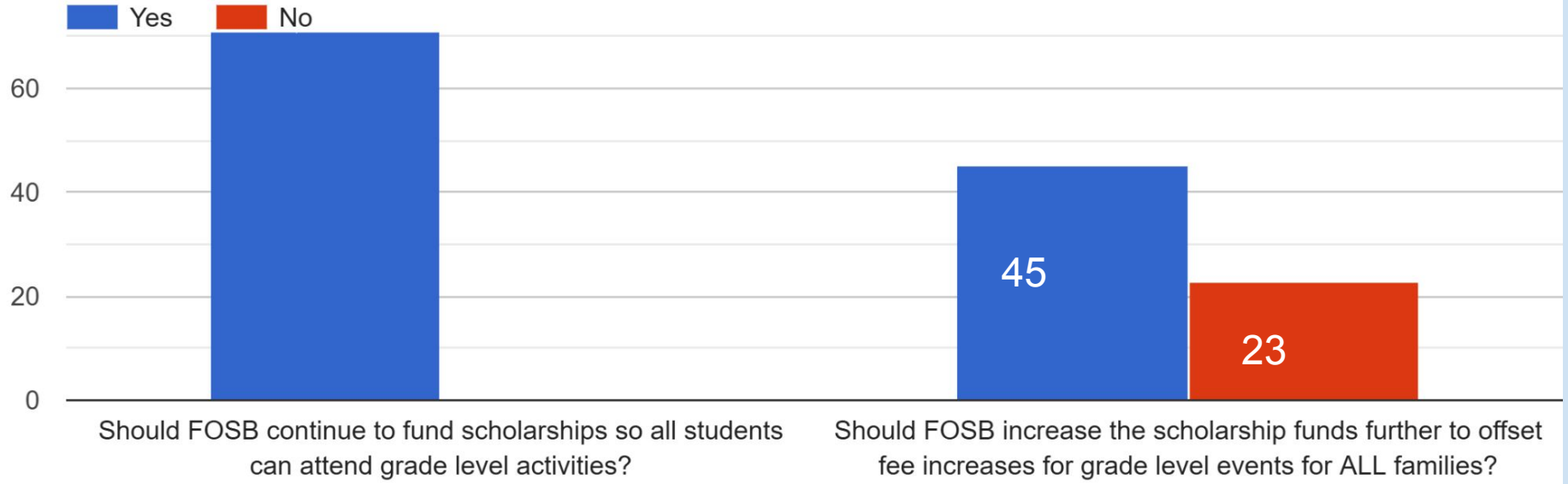
“I have questions on the accountability of how those funds are utilized (I.e. is it supporting a staff need that I actually believe is necessary or effectively addressing a need for the students)”

“I’d like to see FOSB partner more with the school to leverage their contribution towards activities the community finds meaningful, like environmental education, social emotional learning; community service. Any way to tie the grant to specific outcomes or programs we’d like to see at the school?”

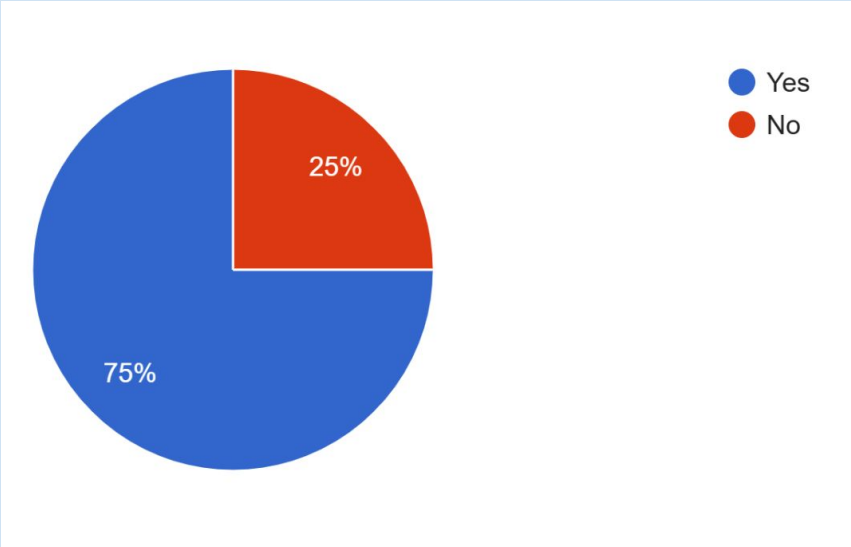
“We could allocate more to staffing”.

“I would give more if the school was able to communicate more needs that would help ease the day to day of the staff and teachers”.

Scholarships (25% of the Total Budget)



YEAR BOOKS



RESPONDENTS	***YES***	***NO***
ELEMENTARY	26	7
MIDDLE SCHOOL	16	7
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE	12	4

OTHER FACTORS FOSB SHOULD CONSIDER - GRADE LEVEL ACTIVITIES.

"The more notice families are given the easier it is to budget. - costs broken down more so parents can see where that money is going."*

"Add a donation option or "adopt a student" option."**

"Purchase the yearbook when purchasing school photos? "***

"Drop yearbooks, at least for elementary / Make donations optional for yearbooks! I don't want any kid denied one but I'm happy to kick in for them!"

"Are scholarships always just 100%? Consider asking families to specify either partial or full scholarships". ^

"Getting grants or other 3rd party funding for any of this?"^^

FOSB Replies to some comments -

*Fees due for the year were available on FOSB website in September. Where possible the fee details are given.

**There is a school pay option to donate to camps.

***Yearbooks are paid for in early September to avail of early bird discounts.

^Partial payments are available for all school pay fees charged.

^^This would be a great option if a volunteer had time to donate to this.

OTHER FACTORS FOSB SHOULD CONSIDER - GRADE LEVEL ACTIVITIES.

School photos / Lunch debts/Fund the Arts!

“More work to sort out how to modify amazing community-building events and hands on learning to circumvent sps volunteer constraints”.

We currently don’t charge for events so the only financial burden is on the volunteers putting together the events. The community givers are bearing the burden of time and money that exceeds the grade level budget.”*

“Enabling grades to feel empowered on how they can support at a grade level as well as school in times of need like wish lists, field trips, buses etc.”

“Dedicated tutoring resources that are built into the school day including before and after school. Help subsidize tutors for kids Partner with a company. Or vouchers. “

FOSB Replies to some comments -

*FOSB tries to foster a culture of reimbursing for any expenses linked to activities etc.

OTHER FACTORS FOSB SHOULD CONSIDER - GRADE LEVEL ACTIVITIES.

“Underwrite a portion of the cost of camp for EVERYONE.””It would be great to put that $140k school grant over towards camp costs instead, making camp super cheap and/or free for everyone”.

“I think it's a good idea for FOSB to offset the cost for all families to keep costs low”

“Possibly a bit more guidelines for what would qualify you for financial aid./Sliding Scale similar to DiscNW”

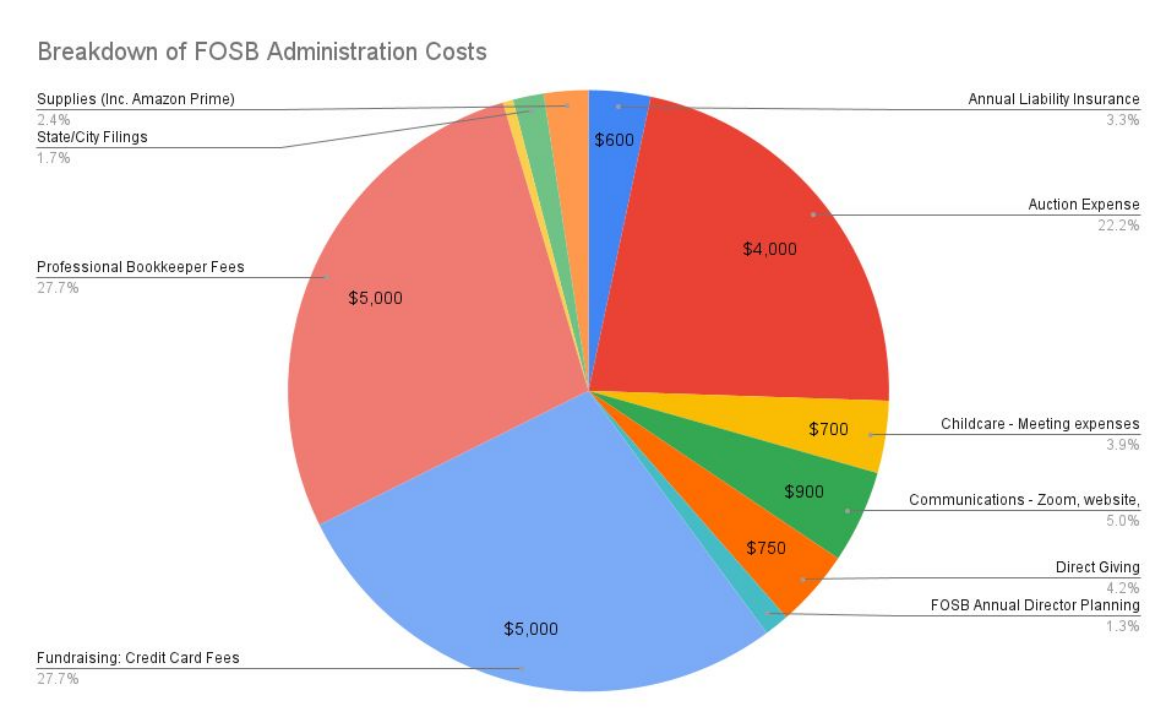
“So long as families know about expenses upfront for the year ahead, they can decide whether they can pay all at once, in installments, or request a scholarship.”*

“Income based allocation for event scholarships (sliding scale) with higher fees for high incomes.”

FOSB Replies to some comments -

*THis year FOSB changed and fees for the year were on the FOSB website in September. Where possible the fee details are given.

Administration costs - Are the costs JUSTIFIABLE? .



Yes - 81 %

Issues

- Credit Card Fees
- Book - keeping Fees
- Childcare Costs
- Auction Expenses.

Please note that about 90% of the credit card fees are covered by donors.
This is considered a donation so is credited to the income for the fundraiser & debited from the Credit Card Budget line item.

SUGGESTIONS TO MINIMIZE COSTS.

“ACH payments instead of credit cards” *

“Monthly auto withdrawals” *

“Volunteers for childcare - Middle schoolers (certified) & give service credit”**

“People to donate time for bookkeeping”***

“Sell stuff from lost and found especially the valuables”.

“Host a massive schoolyard sale each year to help families with spring cleaning and donate proceeds to school”.

“check-writing and making it easy for parents to submit checks” ^

FOSB Replies to some comments -

*ACH and monthly auto withdrawals are methods available on givebutter.

**For insurance reasons, it is difficult to accommodate volunteers for childcare.

*** the Co - Treasurers do the majority of the day to day bookkeeping but it is in the bye laws that an external CPA oversees the book-keeping.

^Paying by check is always an option

SUGGESTIONS TO MINIMIZE COSTS.

“$4000 for auction expenses - if its just an online auction, that seems high” *

“QR codes at events for extra donations ”

“Do we really need Amazon Prime” **

“Encourage cash giving”. ***

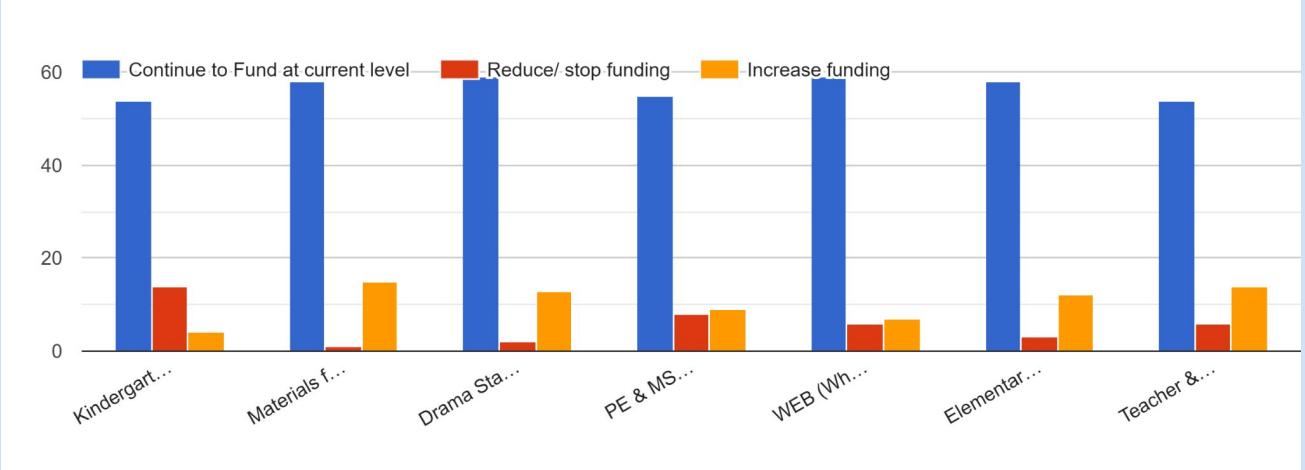
FOSB Replies to some comments -

*The Auction has expenses to run, the online auction is just a portion of the event.

**Amazon Prime is required to lower costs on deliveries.

*** Accepting cash is not an option for both traceability and accountability difficulties.

SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORT.



additional school programs you believe should be supported

Counselors /mental health support programs/Special Ed staff

Art and music/Art supplies for the art teacher.

“School infrastructure needs serious help. More janitors/better cleaning.”

“My kids tell me that most of the PE equipment is broken.”

“Any program, class, supply needs that require out of pocket expenses from families.”

“Expand middle school exploratory options that would be amazing- esp foreign language or more STEM options.”

“Book sets for middle school classrooms. I want less screen time, more real book reading!”

“Could we pay for a safety patrol program run by staff?”

“Bus Costs”

School Staff Support

School Staff Support (27%) funds professional development, classroom supplies support, evening staffing support and staff appreciation. Do you b...acts your family and the broader school community?

72 responses

COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

91% - SAY YES TO SUPPORTING

COMMENTS
GOOD BUT MAYBE HAVE LESS OF THEM

Student Centered Activities

93% - SAY YES TO SUPPORTING

COMMENTS
Kindergarten T- shirts - are they required?

BULK BUYING OF CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

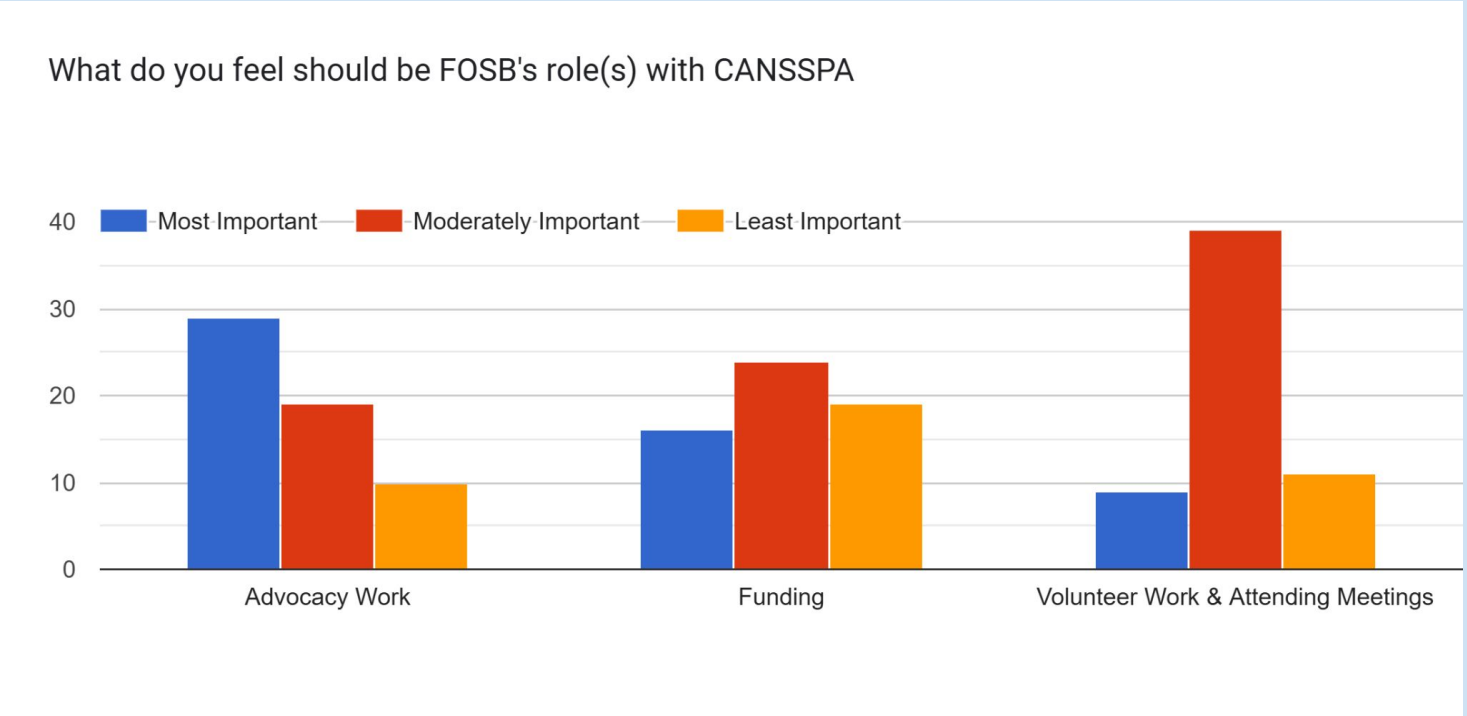
LESS TIME CONSUMING - 82%
FINANCIALLY BENEFICIAL - 33%
PREFER TO PROVIDE THEMSELVES - 6%
NOT BENEFICIAL - 7%

COMMENTS

- WHAT SUPPLIES WERE PURCHASED.
- LESS WASTE & DUPLICATION - GREAT IDEA.
- REMOVED STRESS OF WAITING ON TEACHERS
- GIVE PEOPLE THE OPTION.
- THE AMOUNT WAS HIGH
- ARE THE FUNDS MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE CLASSROOM

CANSSPA

83% OF RESPONDENTS WERE UNAWARE OF THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR CANSSPA



CANSPAA FUNDING FROM FOSB

YES - 39% NO - 41%

COMMENTS

“What are the benefits of donating to this organization for Salmon Bay”

A fixed % after a certain threshold is met / Donation amount should depend on how much is left over after meeting budget.

“Need more information on CANSSPA”

“Please explain why you joined and how you currently support them, the amount you donate”

“I do not think that FOSB has enough bandwidth to communicate effectively about our own spending, let alone another entity. We should continue to offer CANSSPA access to our donors/community by providing links to their fundraisers. We can also offer CANSSPA a speaking opportunity “

“Community members are supporting FOSB because it directly benefits Salmon Bay. FOSB can promote CANSSPA to community members to donate to the organization but that should be the community members choice.”

THANK YOU TO ALL FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS SURVEY