

## 1. What do you feel are barriers to parent engagement in your school?

Time

the biggest struggle is that my son is non verbal. so being that he is high needs in a high needs class depends greatly on the balance of the class. the classroom NEEDS at least 2 extra hands to ensure proper support is given the class is extremely sensitive to each others needs and there can be days with multiple behaviors

The time of day that things usually happen and I think, in general, people are busy and unable to add more to their plate. It has to be about something that matters to them.

How busy our lives are with the kids extracurricular activities. Doesn't leave any free time for being involved in anything else

COVID, of course. Open communication about current parent council initiatives.

Time restraints between parents work schedules, extra curricular student activities and life in general

MS Teams inaccessible, lack of communication from teachers of my kids and their principals - and no way to reach them!

not meeting in person

Covid. Lack of information about what is going on and what is needed

lack of events/ activities for parents to get to know each other and form community within school

Not enough communication and defense of our children. Bring back PTA. All parents voices should be heard not just the ones that the PIC agrees with.

## 2. What topic(s) is/are most relevant to you, as a parent supporting a student in our schools, in the current school year?

The mental health of the staff matters as much as that of our family and students , with short staffed classrooms the burnout rate is higher and the students feel it and react which affects the learning for the MEP kids. and cause possible regression

Outdoor play opportunities, empathy development

Mental health.

Mental health-coping strategies to deal with stress. Getting students caught up academically

Mental health and positive peer relationships

Mental health

Having my children able to communicate with both parents via their Teams and Email (currently children cannot receive anything from parents)

having enough support staff in the primary MEP class

diversity

Children's mental health and how the current circumstances of our world will impact them. Most adults understand social cues. Children don't especially with masks on. These are vital lessons taught throughout life and when they can't be heard or understood through the mask why would they ever speak up when something is bothering them. Don't need to be a psychologist to know this. It's called parent intuition.

Balancing technology and relationships, ensuring basic needs are met

### 3. Considering parent involvement and engagement, how would you like to see allocated funds spent this school year?

on classes like <https://www.bebavebekind.ca/index.html>

I like listening to speakers and having things available to listen from home are great.

More EAs to support teachers

Workshops, into the students, activities that encourage families to be together.

On making technology more accessible to those students that need it!

kids having a special event outside of the school

Green school/climate initiatives (outdoor classroom space, pollinator yards, gardening program)

field trips, diversity related community events

### 4. Please share any specific themes you would like to see CDSBEO Parent Involvement explore.

I would like to see continued support with mental health for our children.

explaining stimming, and normalizing the behaviors that go with autism and other diagnosis so the typical kids have a greater understanding of it.

Mental health

Supporting emotional wellbeing of students and staff

Teaching math at home, giving parents a course on phonological awareness (the binder!!!)

Teacher accountability for passing curriculum to the kids and proactively informing the parents

Autism Acceptance and education

Environment, Empathy development

diversity, LGBTQIA+, bullying

Grading. Have our voice heard at the Ministry of Education.