

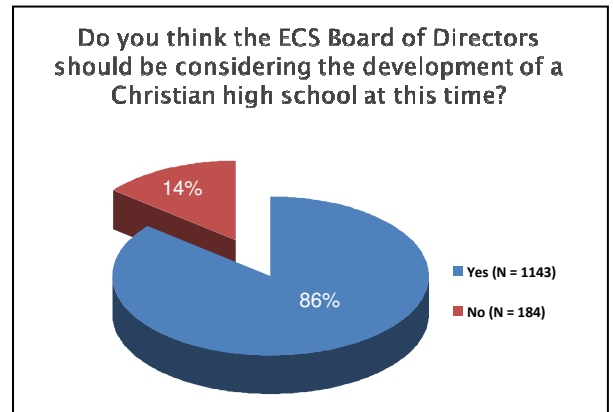


Update on Potential Christian High School

Updated: November 16, 2009

RESULTS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDY – At the School Board meeting on November 9, staff from the University of Southern Indiana presented the results of two public surveys conducted to measure the interest and demand for a potential Christian high school as part of Evansville Christian School. Highlights of the results include:

- 1,341 adults responded with 28% currently having students at ECS (380 respondents).
- 249 children responded (age 18 and younger) with the majority currently attending ECS.
- The vast majority of respondents (86%) feel that the School Board should seriously consider the development of a Christian high school with close to unanimous support among those with children currently at ECS.
- The vast majority of respondents (85%) feel that they would be very to somewhat likely to send their children to an ECS high school today with acceptable cost and location, including 94% of those with students currently at ECS and 80% of those without children at ECS.
- For both adults and children, a Christ-centered education was the most important factor when considering a high school, followed by high academics, quality teachers, and a safe environment.
 - Adults also feel that the cost of tuition, a focus on morals/values, and a high standard of conduct are important.
 - Children also feel it is important to have opportunities for extracurricular activities (esp. athletics) and attend the same school as their friends.
- Two-thirds of the respondents indicated that they are somewhat to very likely willing to financially support the development of a new Christian high school.



USI concluded that overall, adults and children who responded to the surveys, indicate a significant interest and willingness to support a new Christian high school. Further, support for such a high school is strong even among those who do not currently send their children to ECS, suggesting that there is real demand for a new Christian high school.

Based on the survey results, the School Board concluded that there is strong support for the development of a Christian high school and expressed support for further investigation. Further, the Strategic Planning Committee was charged with preparing a feasibility study and submitting a recommendation for Board approval.

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As the School Board reflected on the survey results, a few insights emerged:

- About 1,600 surveys were completed including 1,000 from parents who do not have children at ECS - so this is obviously an important issue for families - both at ECS and the general public. We received double the number of responses from the general public than USI hoped to receive.
- USI was amazed at the amount of quality feedback we received to the open-ended questions. Parents (as well as students) were very thoughtful in their feedback. We received 1,000's of comments to consider as we proceed and look for themes.
- The vast majority of people that responded said they would be somewhat or very likely to send their children to a Christian high school if tuition and location were acceptable - this included 94% of those with students currently at ECS.
- The almost unanimous support from parents who currently have kids at ECS is an incredible testament and endorsement of the job our staff are doing at ECS right now - parents clearly want more of what we offer.

We have also begun to review the input detail and want to share a few comments and themes:

- *I will be praying for the ECS Board as they consider this possibility.*
- *Thank you for considering this!*
- *I have worked as a vendor with the staff at ECS and I have an elementary education degree, and can't express how impressed I am with the faculty and staff.*
- *I am very encouraged that the ECS Board of Directors is considering a high school option. We have been praying for such a school in Evansville for the past 20 years and will continue to support and encourage the formation of a Christian high school.*
- *This is the most exciting idea I have heard in a long time. I'm thankful you are pursuing this matter.*
- *I teach at a local public high school. When I have a student in my class who attended ECS through middle school, they stand out. They are hard workers. They know how to study, and care about their grades. They are polite and mannerly, and are a positive example to other students. I can attribute that to their families and their educational experience up to that point. Attending ECS seems to have been a positive experience for any student I have had in class who went there. Because of that, I would consider sending my child there in the future, even though I am a public school teacher.*

Watch for updates and opportunities to be involved. Continue to pray for wisdom as we seek His will for the future direction of our school and for a spirit of unity.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5-6*