

From: Angie Colvin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 8/12/2021 4:58:04 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: FHS surveys and results

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Mr. Golden and Williamson County School Board Members,

I am writing to you today to address some concerns I have regarding the FHS surveys that were provided to WCS students and parents. I am a former Child Advocate and trained Forensic Interviewer of children and a current WCS parent. My experience and training in Forensic Interviewing allowed me to recognize that these were biased surveys that were sent out. What I mean by that is, due to how some of the questions were asked and the use of leading questions, the survey results will be flawed. Here are some of the questions they asked and why these will not provide valuable or reliable data.

This was a survey sent out by FHS to WCS students:

"8) I feel safe at my school
Don't know, strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree"

- This question provides no opportunity for explanation or rationale which will not produce usable data. For example, you could be told that 40% of students answered this question with "disagree". However, the problem becomes, "why don't these children feel safe at school?" This question requires follow up in order for the answers to be viable. The same thing applies for the next two questions.

"12) I like being at school
Don't know, strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree"

-Again, if they answer disagree to this question, what is the reason behind their answer? The problem is that again there could be many positive or negative reasons for their answer on this question and they are not provided with an opportunity to elaborate.

"13) My School takes students opinions seriously
Don't know, strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree "

-How do we know if a school is or isn't actually taking children's opinions seriously? There is really no good way to use the answers from this questions without further explanation regarding those answers.

There were two questions asked that are considered leading questions. This first one was on the surveys sent out to the children.

"15) What do you like most about your school?"

-This is considered a leading question because it assumes the child or children like something about their school. Students will feel compelled to answer this even if they would not typically have anything to say because you are implying that they should like something about their school. I know we all hope that the kids can find at least one thing to like about their school, but that just may not be the case. The non-leading way to ask this question is: "Is there anything you like about your school? If so, please explain."

Mr

This last one was the worst question of all and it was asked of both WCS students and parents. This is also considered a leading question.

"16) What do you want to see changed about your school?"

- Again, this question implies that there IS something that needs to be changed about their school. Children are especially vulnerable to leading questions and will feel compelled to provide an answer even if they might not normally have anything to say on this topic. Therefore, these answers will also be unreliable. Again, to be non-leading this question could have been formatted like this: "Is there anything about your school that you would like to see changed? If so, please tell us more about that."

As you can see, the formatting of these questions and their potential answers are concerning. I have no knowledge as to how FHS intends to use the data from these surveys or even if they will use the data from these surveys. However, I felt it was very important that you all be aware of the potential for flawed and unreliable answers that might be presented to you from these surveys. This is not to say that there was any malicious intent in the formatting of these surveys and questions. It could very well be an honest mistake. However, with the upcoming discussion and possible vote to extend another contract to FHS, as well as the potential to utilize and implement any recommendations they may make, I believe it is extremely important that you are all aware of these concerns and can apply this knowledge to any current and/or future reports that FHS may provide you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and consider the information provided.

Thank you,
Angie Colvin
District 5