

No Parent Left Behind
~
*Getting Families Engaged
through PTOs*

Presented by

PLTI Alumni

Parent Support Committee



March 18, 2009

Schools Represented

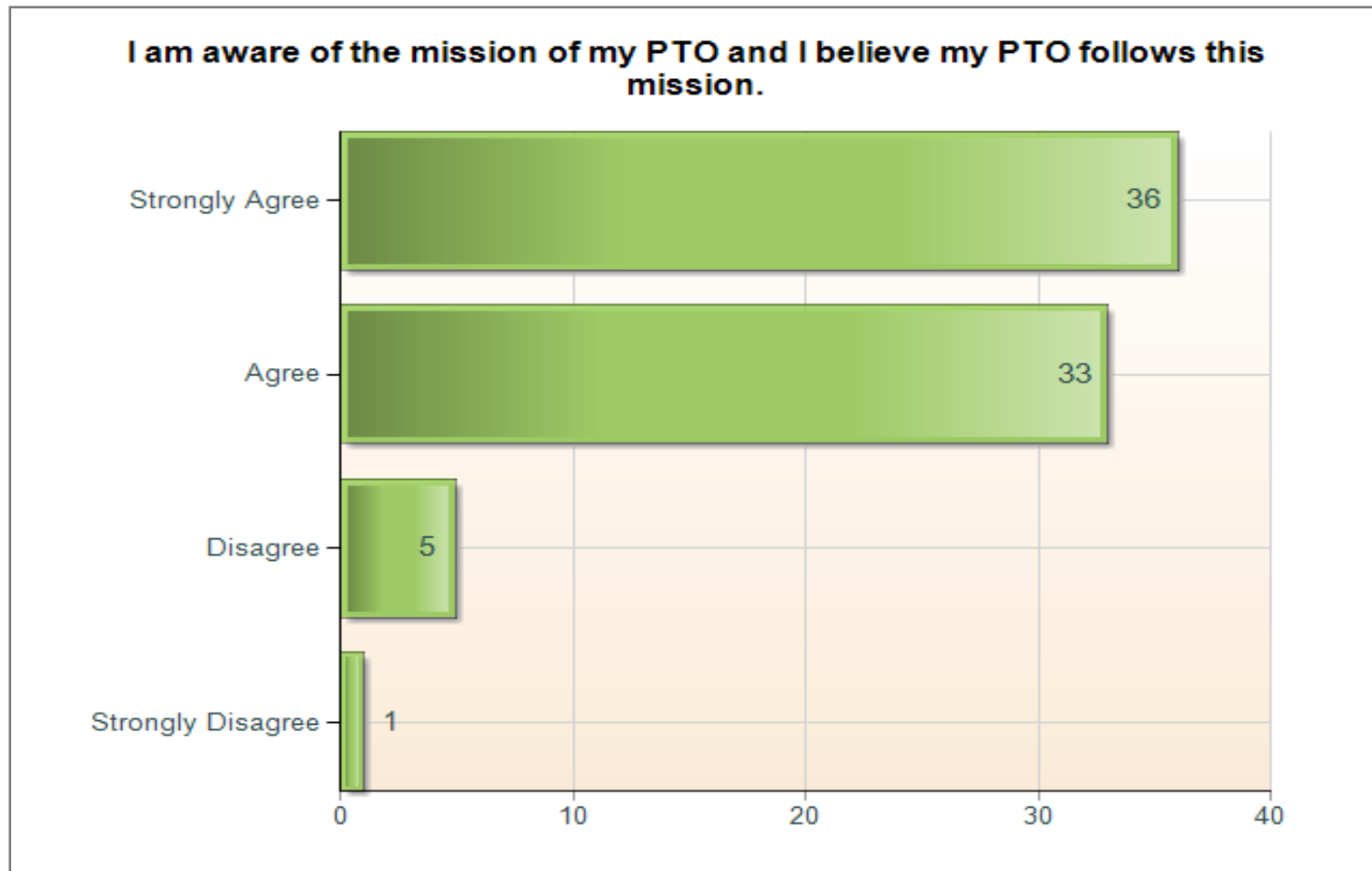
1 - 8 responses from each of K - 12
Stamford Public Schools

Response rate

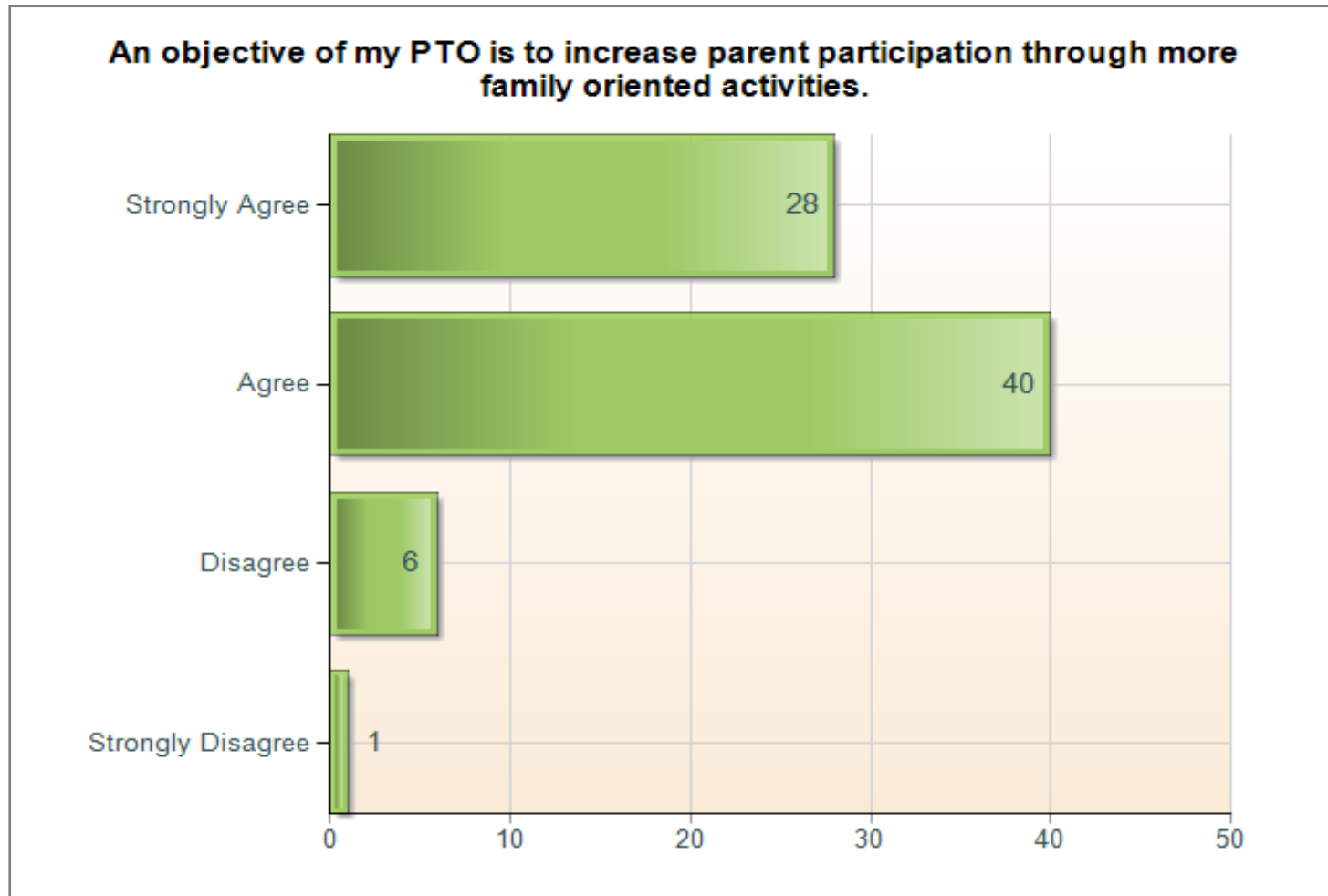
Email Invites	177	
➤ Visits	107	60%
➤ Total Respondents	100	56%
➤ Partial Results	25	14%
➤ Complete Results	75	42%



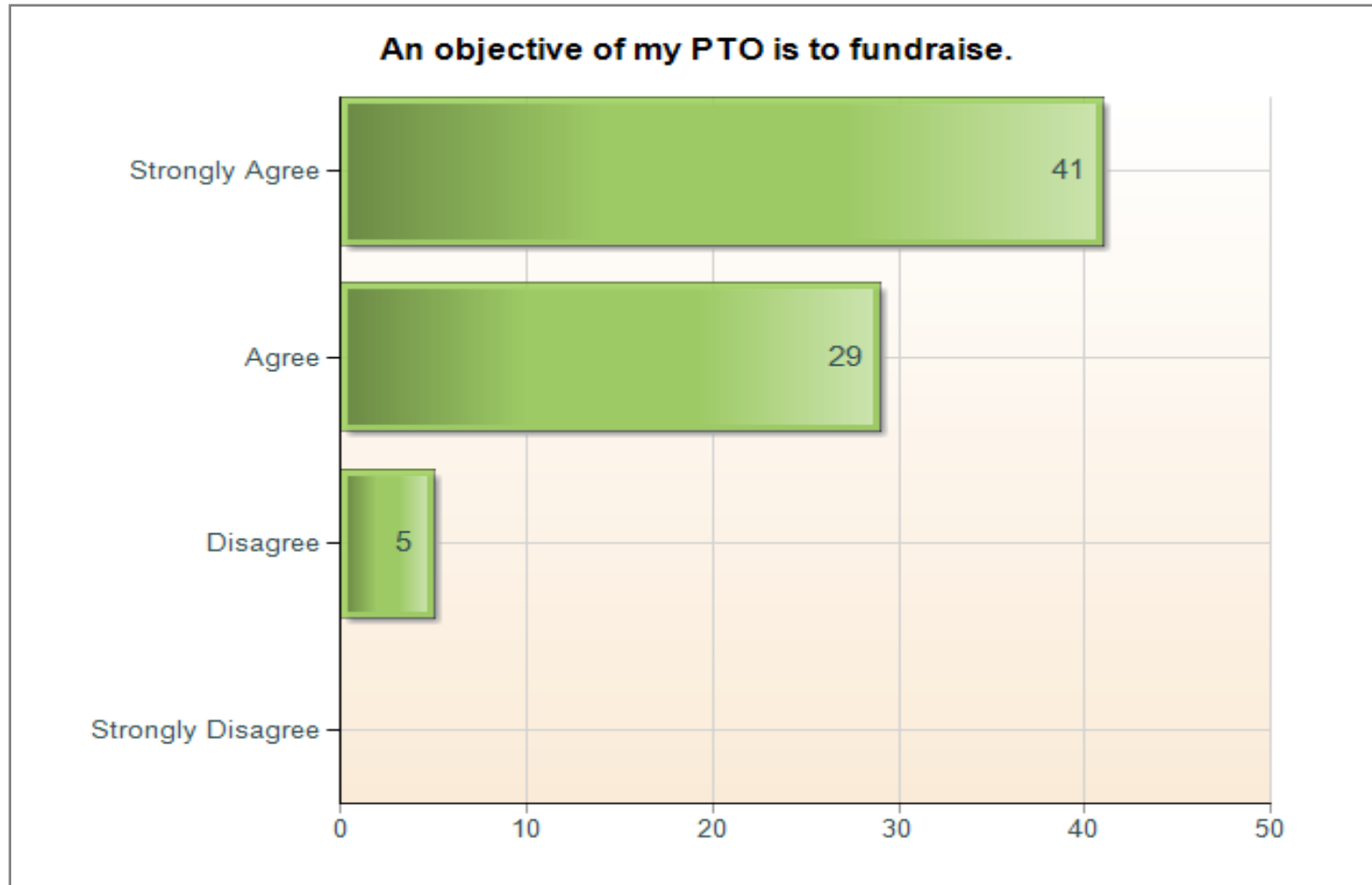
Mission and Objectives



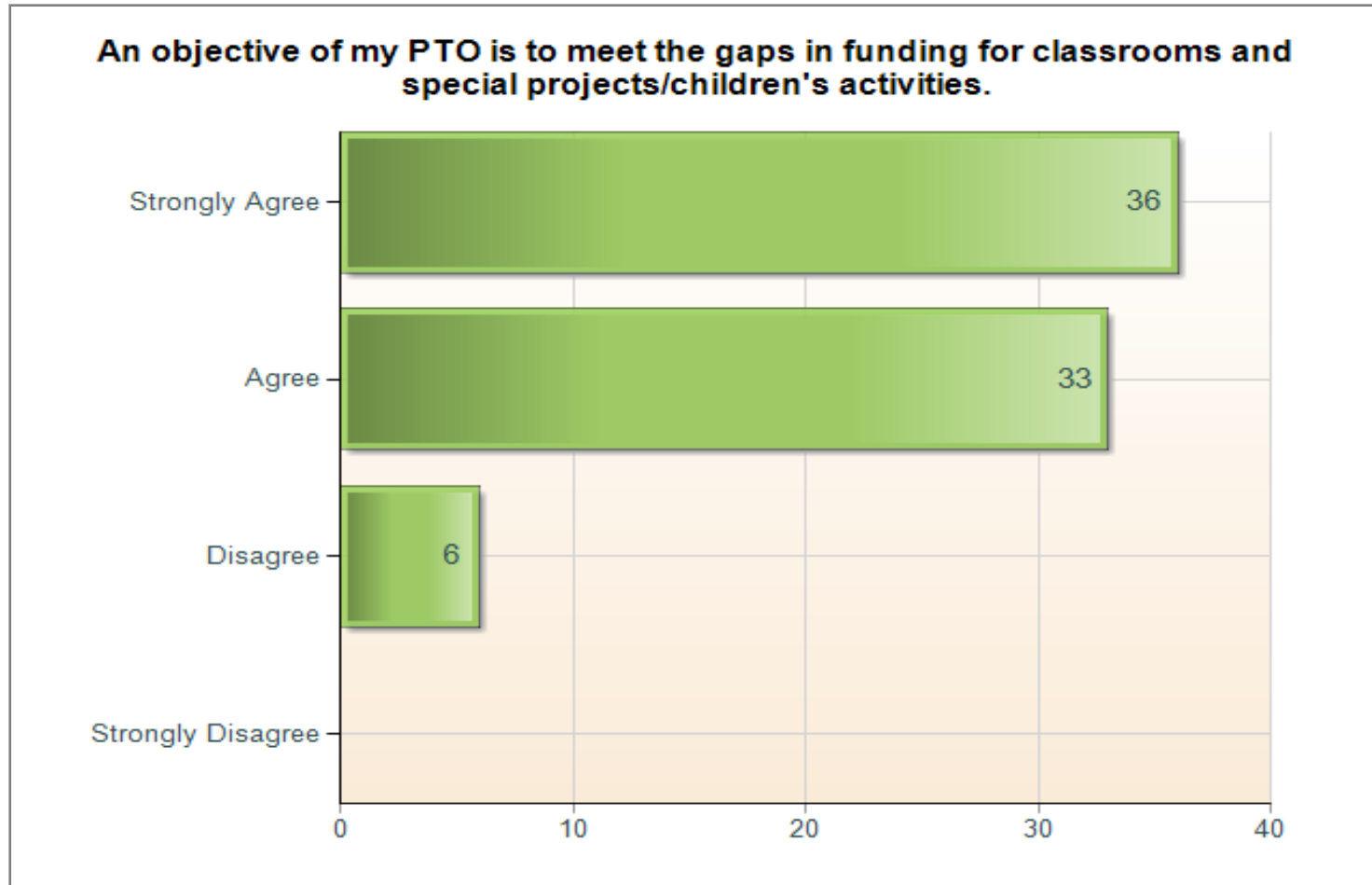
Mission and Objectives ~ contd.



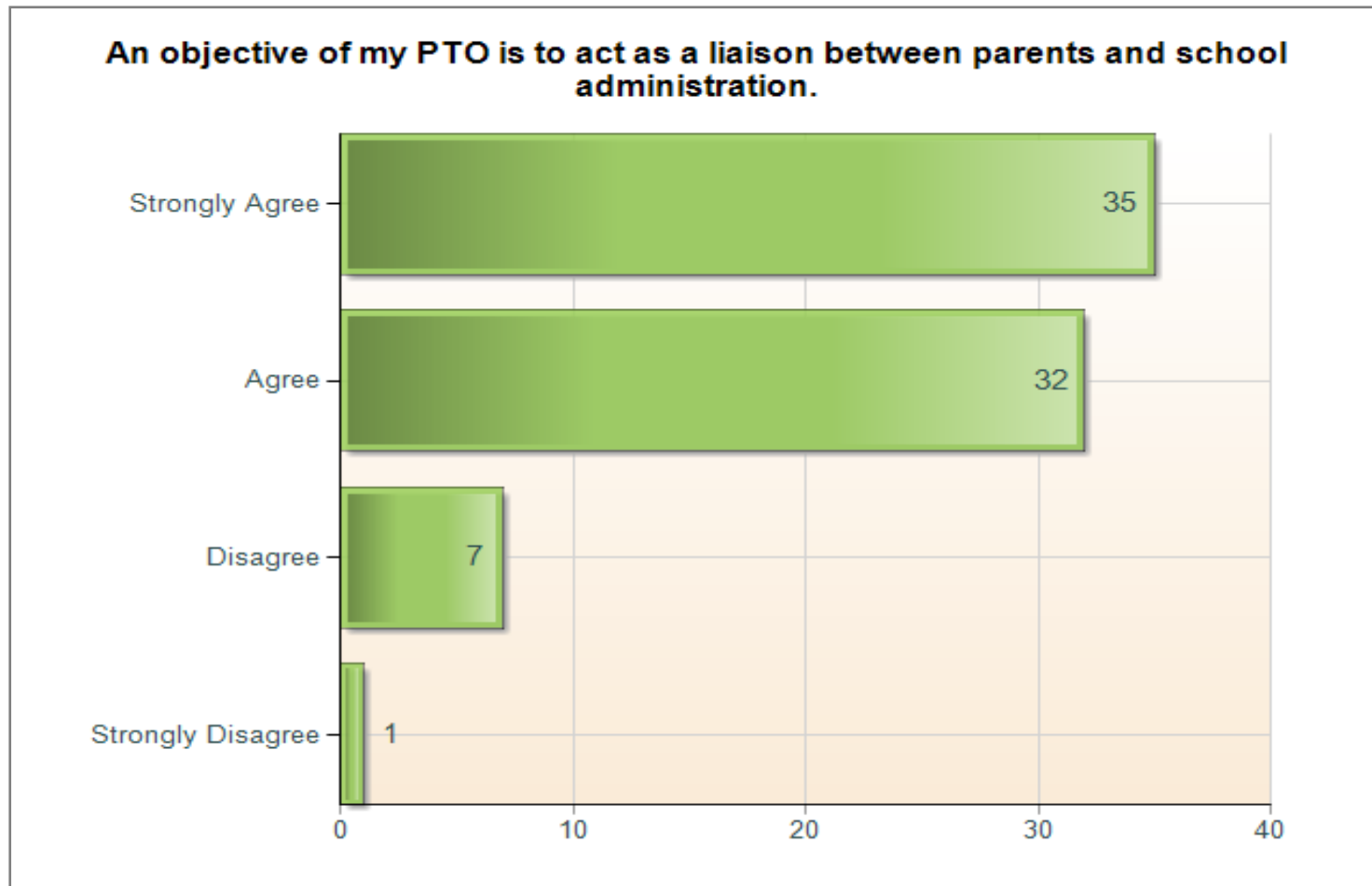
Mission and Objectives ~ contd.



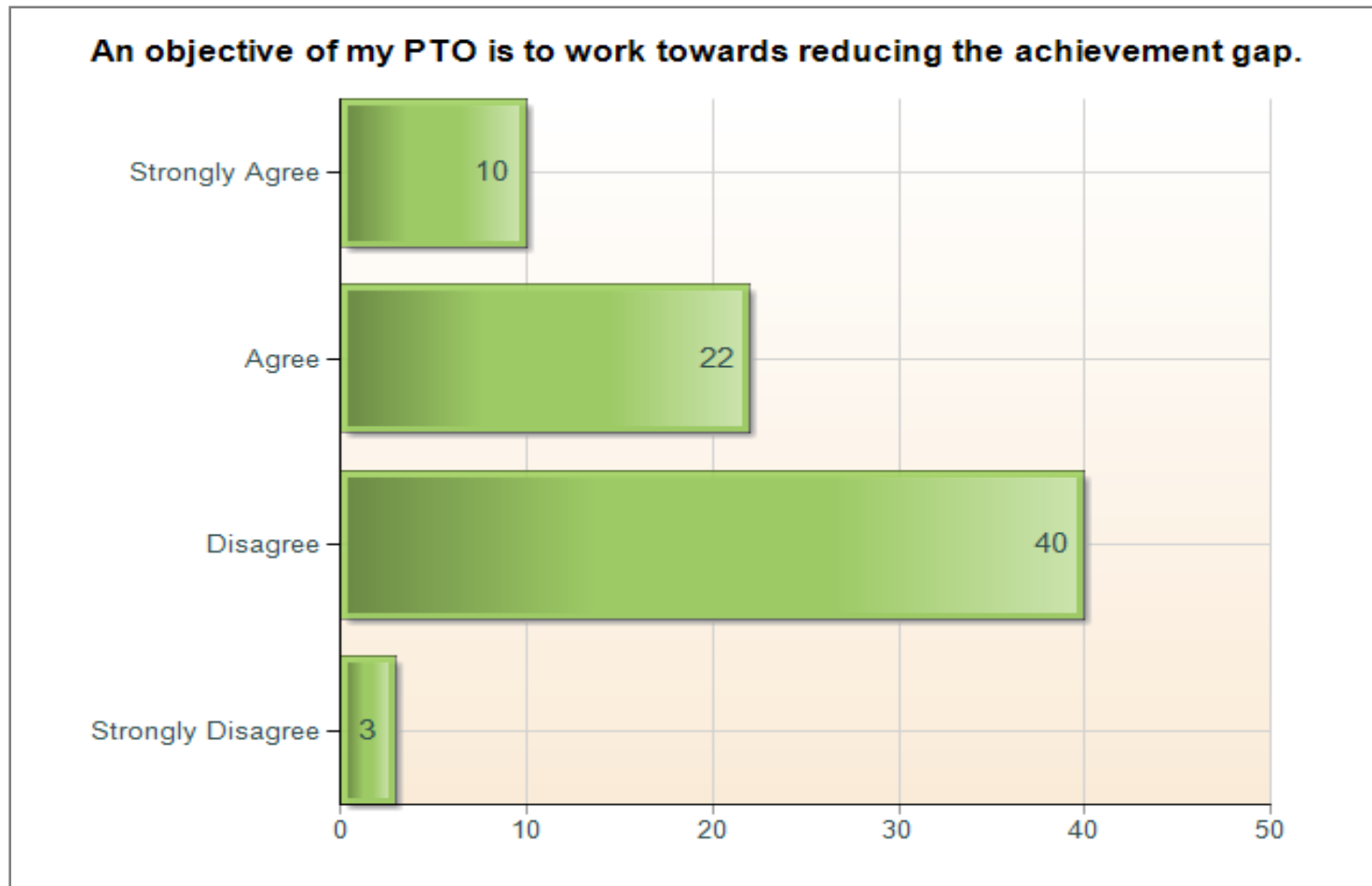
Mission and Objectives ~ contd.



Mission and Objectives ~ contd.



Mission and Objectives ~ contd.



Budget ~ Fundraising

<u>Types of Income</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Annual Fundraising	94%	6%
Special Events	72%	28%
Donations	80%	20%
Grants	23%	77%

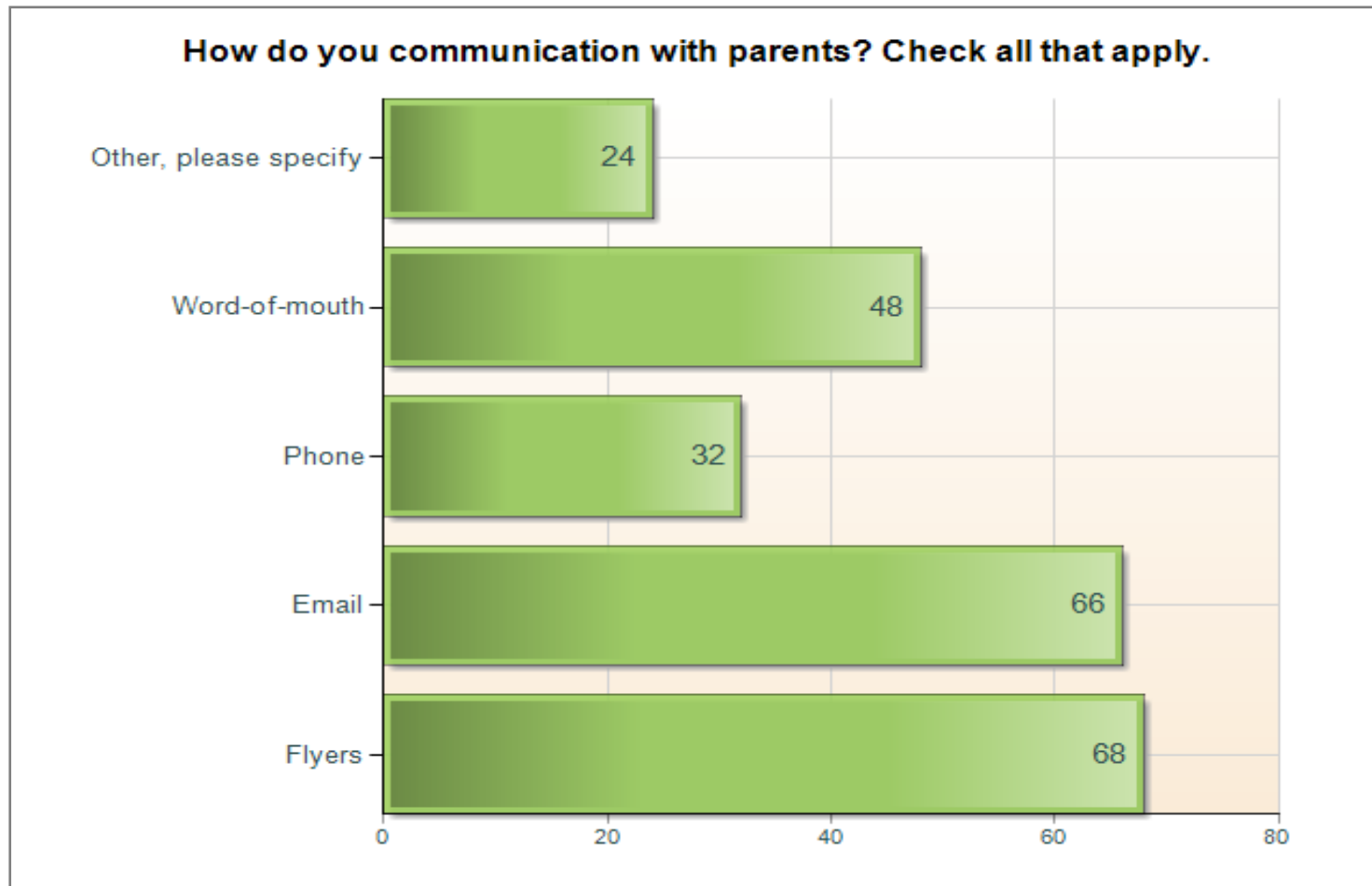


Budget ~ Expenditure

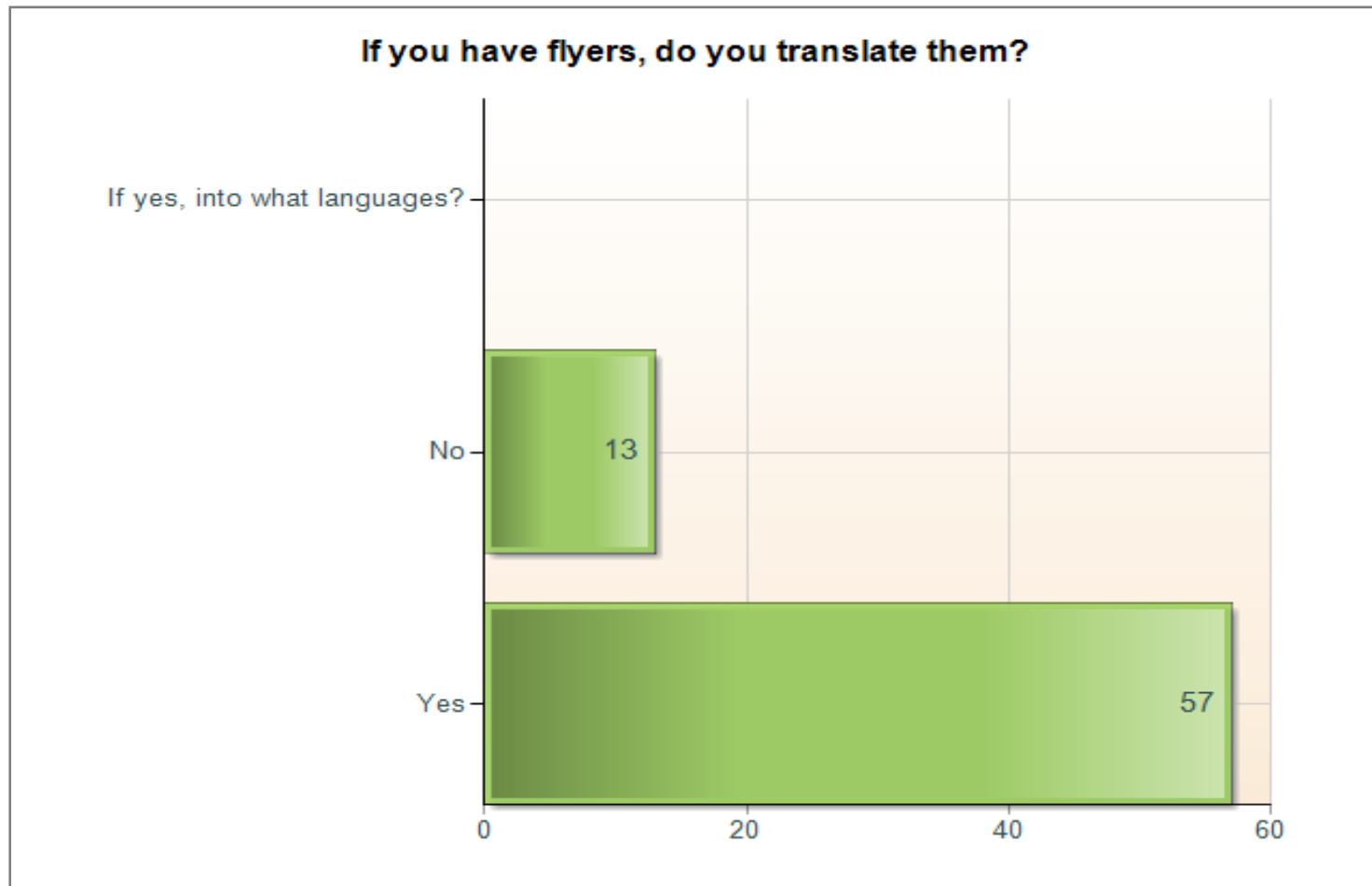
<u>Types of Expenditure</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Student Activities	93%	7%
After School Programs	45%	55%
Principal and Teacher wish lists/appreciation	80%	20%
Charitable Donations	48%	52%
Family and Special Events	23%	77%



Parent Communication & Participation



Parent Communication & Participation ~ contd.

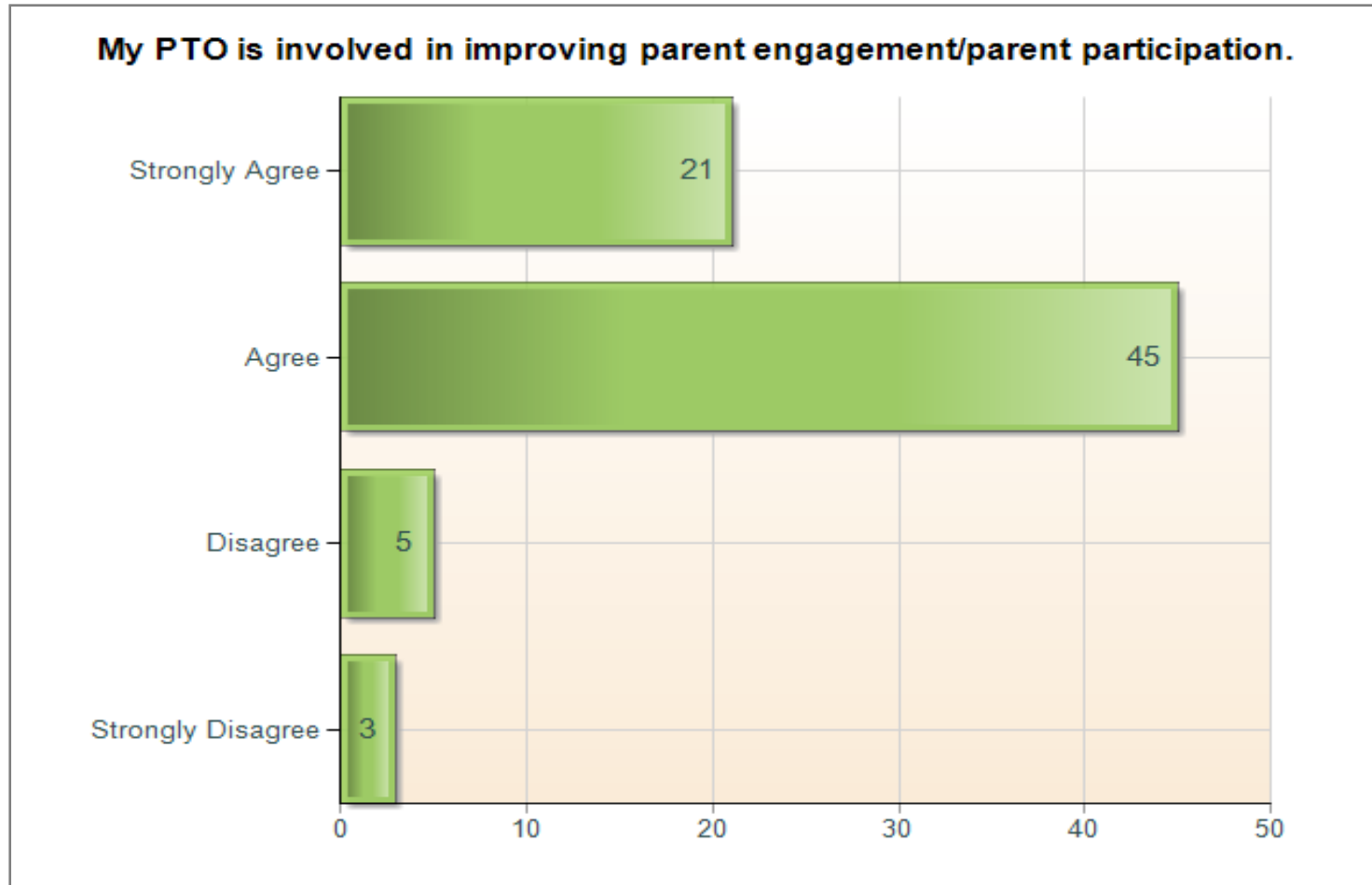


Welcoming Parents

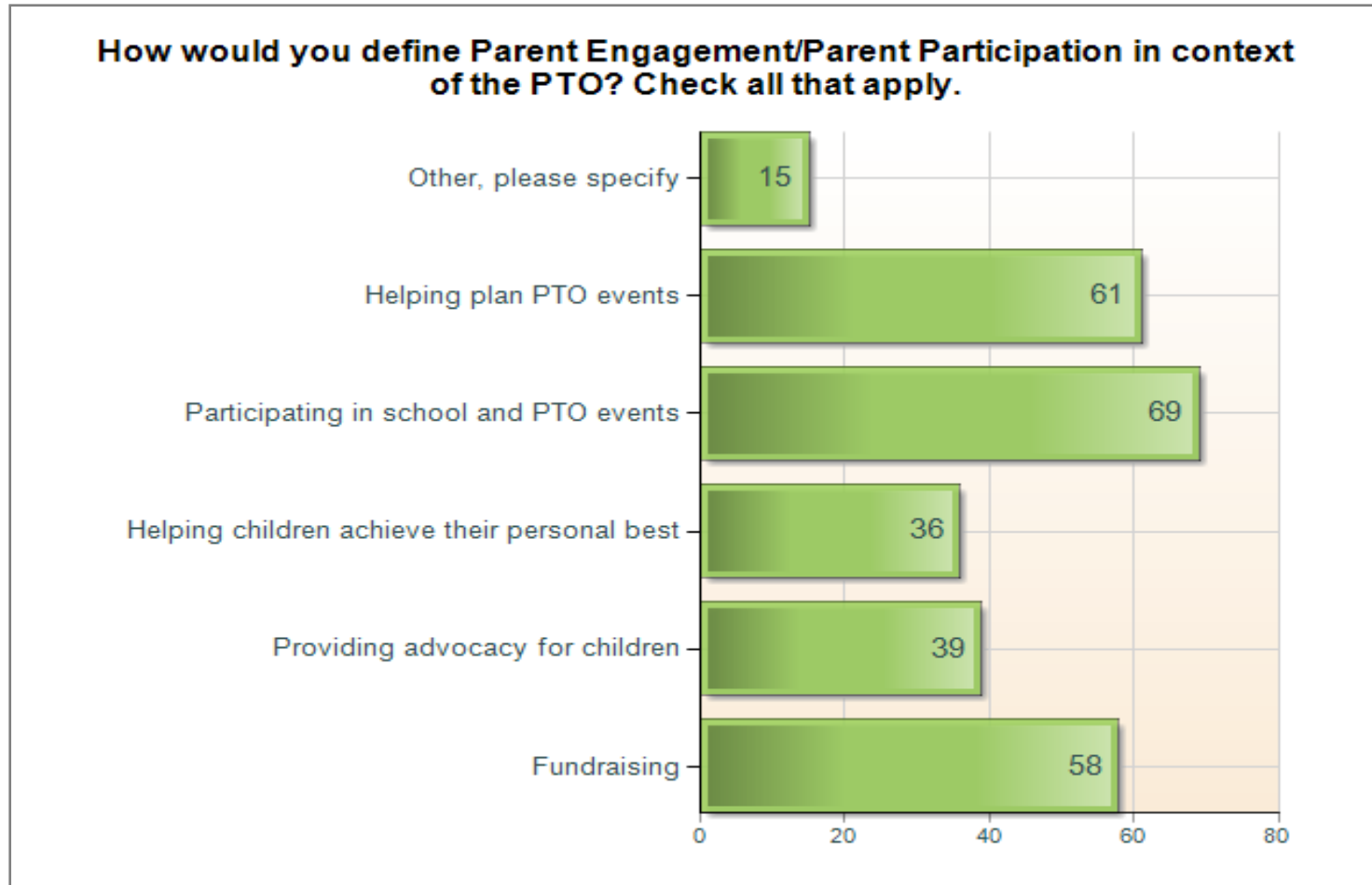
76 % of respondents have a process in place to welcome new parents and maintain linkages with parents who are already PTO members



Parental Engagement



Parental Engagement ~ contd.

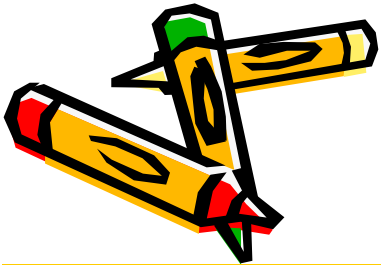


Activities which
elicit maximum
parent participation



* Family Nights:

- ❖ Bingo
- ❖ Parent/Child Dances
- ❖ Science fair night
- ❖ Art show
- ❖ Book fair
- ❖ Multicultural Night
- ❖ Literacy Night
- ❖ Family pasta night
- ❖ Boys & Girls night out
- ❖ Skating night
- ❖ Math Night
- ❖ Potluck Dinners
- ❖ Game night
- ❖ Halloween Hop
- ❖ Read A Thon
- ❖ Ice Cream Social
- ❖ Talent Show
- ❖ Health Fair



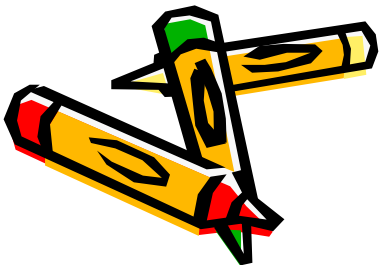
* Parents only activities

- ❖ Parents Night Out
- ❖ Guest speakers at meetings - CMTs, new curriculum, internet safety, principal chat, etc.
- ❖ BOE Candidate Forum
- ❖ Discussion groups: how to help children with homework and social emotional development, group for bilingual parents to share special concerns
- ❖ Welcome Coffee & Volunteer Fair on 1st day of school



* Student activities which draw parents

- ❖ Moving Up Ceremony and Graduation
- ❖ After Prom
- ❖ Events which showcase student work
- ❖ Multicultural Concerts and Performances
- ❖ Halloween parade
- ❖ Winter and Spring concerts and musicals
- ❖ Junior Achievement
- ❖ Fashion Show
- ❖ Holiday Sing-a-long



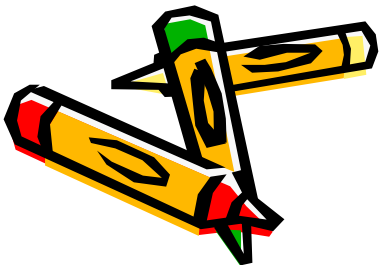
* Other Events

- ❖ Family Fun Fair or carnival
- ❖ Back to school picnic or barbecue
- ❖ Parent-Teacher Softball game



* Helpful Hints

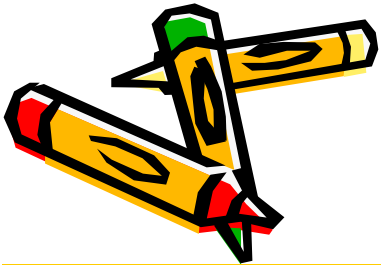
- ❖ Have weekend events
- ❖ Have first PTO meeting during Open House
- ❖ Have PTO meetings every other month
- ❖ Have morning and evening meetings
- ❖ Hold inexpensive or free family events during the school day to eliminate childcare issues
- ❖ Anything with food is great
- ❖ Have childcare and transportation available



Administrative & Faculty Involvement

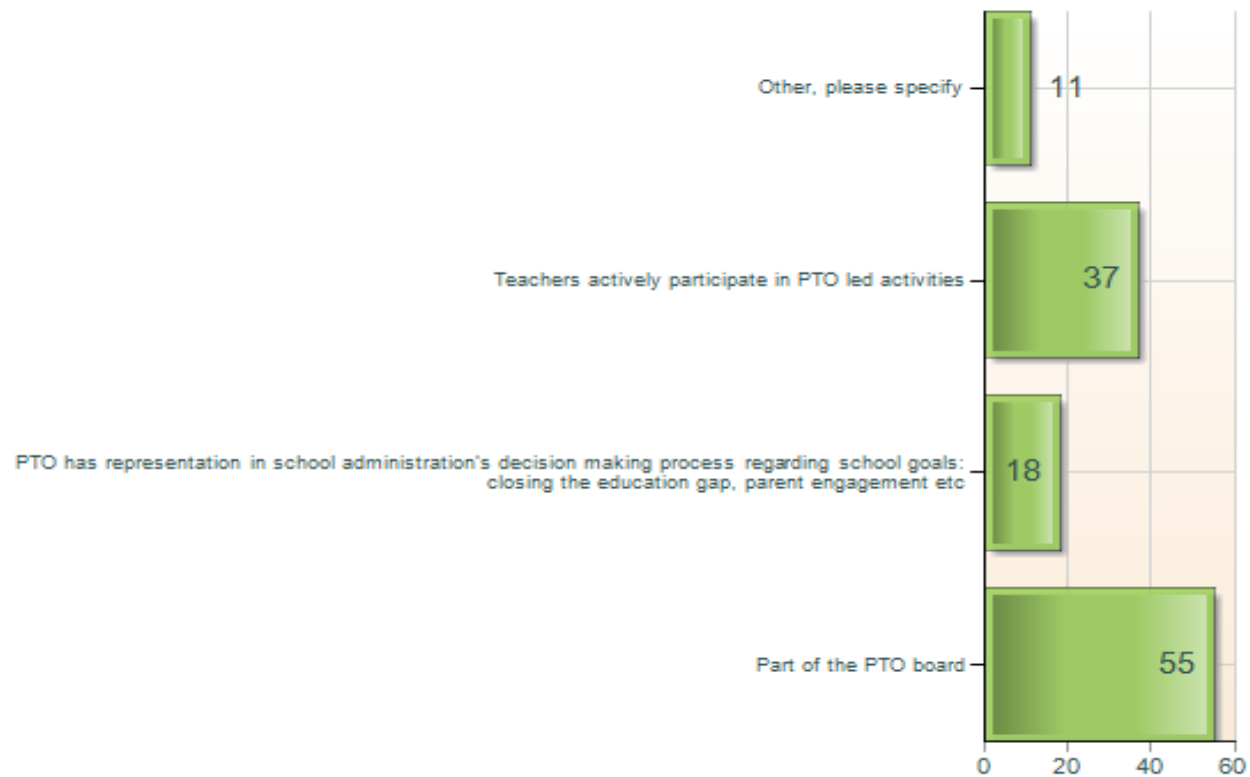
75% of the respondents feel the PTO is closely engaged with school administration and teachers to support the education goals of the school.

75% also feel that the School Administration and Faculty are a critical part of the PTO and its decision making.



Administrative & Faculty Involvement ~ contd.

If you agree with statements #29 and #30, please specify how are teachers and school administration are involved with the PTO. Check all that apply.

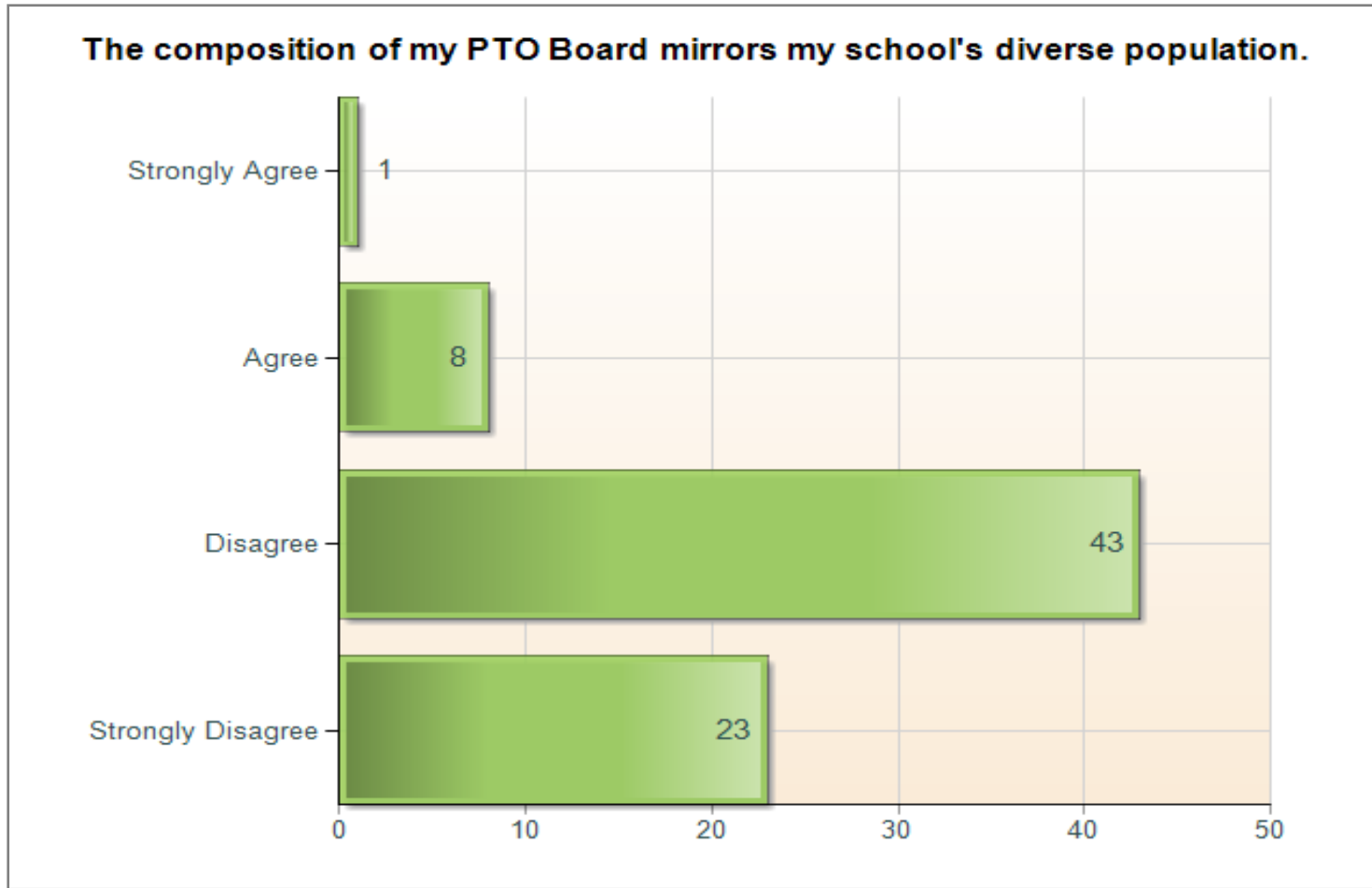


Diversity

56% of the respondents feel the PTO makes an effort to get nominations from a diverse group of parents for leadership roles within the PTO.

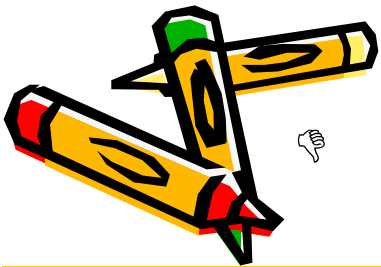


And



Reasons why efforts to get a diverse group failed

- ✎ Efforts are made through emails, flyers and still no success.
- ✎ The board asks only for nominations from present board members.
- ✎ Lack of communication amongst the many groups - people do not read emails or attend meetings.
- ✎ No direction from leaders/administrators/downtown to provide effective approaches.
- ✎ Language/cultural barrier and transportation are difficult to overcome.
- ✎ Many parents are working 2 jobs and don't have the time.
- ✎ People tend to operate in their own social circles and are uncomfortable going outside those circles. Some groups form cliques.
- ✎ The same people always seem to be in charge of the PTO.



Tips on getting nominations from a diverse group

- 👍 Ask teachers and parents to encourage parents and get recommendations.
- 👍 Attempt to obtain representation from all grade levels.
- 👍 Communicate with the parent facilitator to help engage those who may not have the confidence or English skills to participate.
- 👍 Create search committee and make it diverse.
- 👍 E-mail announcements, flyers, newsletters.
- 👍 Word of mouth
- 👍 Personal contact and invitation
- 👍 Get parents to first chair an event or committee and then ask them to join the board.
- 👍 Get parents engaged in the beginning of the year and follow up immediately.



Contact Information

For questions and further information:

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