

C.R. district workers' poll shows improvements

By Kristina Andino

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CEDAR RAPIDS — Ninety percent of a hodgepodge of workers in the Cedar Rapids school district would recommend others work there.

Last night, school board members saw results of a survey of 552 employees not based in schools, support staff, and workers in the district offices. It included employees of the transportation, purchasing, and other departments, non-school secretaries, off-site administrators, and others. All custodial, grounds, food service workers and other employees were also surveyed regardless of location.

At the prior school board meeting, the district got B's and B-pluses from students, staff and parents during a first-time Harris poll.

That poll did not poll all district workers, so district administrators developed a separate survey using about 15 to 16 percent of the overall Harris questions, said Jay Marino, associate superintendent for organizational effectiveness.

Just more than 95 percent answered yes to the question, "Do you enjoy your work?" Sixty-three percent of participants answered "no," and 37 percent "yes" to the question: "Is your workload too high?"

The district's opportunities to improve were also highlighted. Only nearly 62 percent of respondents said their salary was fair for the work they do. Around 42 percent said staff excellence is not recognized and rewarded.

This district poll will always be given along with the Harris poll, and administrators will work on improving the results, Marino said.