

ORION / SHERRARD

Consolidation Survey

Results Summary

SURVEYS MAILED	<u>Sherrard</u>	<u>Orion</u>	<u>Reported</u>
6,808	4,494	2,314	
Completed Surveys Returned	733	595	YES
Completed Surveys w/o District Designation	21	10	YES
Completed Surveys / LATE	49	26	YES
Surveys Returned BLANK	68	2	NO
Sent by Sherrard but Circled as Orion		0	
Sent by Orion but Circled as Sherrard	5		YES
Orion - Split Husband/Wife		1	YES
Total Surveys Returned by District	876	634	
Percent of Return	19.5%	27.4%	
<i>Rockridge (Results not included)</i>	1		NO
<i>Neither District (Results not included)</i>	1		NO
Survey Copy on WHITE Paper	1		YES
	3		
Grand Total Number of all Returned Surveys=	1,513		
Grand Total Percentage of all Surveys Returned=	22.2%		

RESPONSES TO SHERRARD AND ORION CONSOLIDATION SURVEY QUESTIONS 2, 3, 4 IN ROUNDED PERCENTAGES

SHERRARD

	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL RESPONSES
Question #2 Do you favor the consolidation of the Sherrard and Orion School Districts?	14%	63%	23%	809
Question #3 Would you favor consolidation if consolidation would provide greater curricular opportunities for current and future students?	30%	52%	18%	793
Question #4 Would you favor consolidation if your district was experiencing financial difficulties?	31%	48%	21%	787

ORION

	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL RESPONSES
Question #2 Do you favor the consolidation of the Sherrard and Orion School Districts?	17%	63%	20%	632
Question #3 Would you favor consolidation if consolidation would provide greater curricular opportunities for current and future students?	46%	39%	15%	610
Question #4 Would you favor consolidation if your district was experiencing financial difficulties?	50%	33%	17%	618

SHERRARD SURVEY THEMES

- 1 **BUSSING/Transportation ISSUES (e.g. nightmare, excessive, too long, increased? Student driving dangers)** 265
- 2 **BIGGER is not (always) better, Sherrard is big enough or too big now. If I wanted bigger I'd move to QC or Chicago, want to avoid RI. Can't take care of kids already here (3)** 243
- 3 **SHERRARD is OK-fine on its own (will remain strong, increase enrollment, tax base will increase, has \$, New Bridge, Fyre Lake development, strong above average curriculum & opportunities, WHY? No need to consolidate)** 181
- 4 **TAX Issues (e.g. taxes will go up, taxpayers want input, taxes are too high already, taxes would go up in Sherrard while Orion taxes will go down, no tax relief, Orion taxes too high, Orion needs to raise taxes)** 175
- 5 **YES to Consolidation. Greater Curricular/Financial future (benefits both districts, look to future, good fit with Orion, academically good, more homeowners to spread costs, higher GSA, more \$ for education, better sports competition, state incentives, pooling of resources, stronger schools, no problems with it, good size high school, increased state funding, add Cambridge, bigger is better, all for it, schools closed w/o consolidation) To keep programs, enrollment going down, do before \$ problems or close schools, more consolidations are inevitable, it will happen, Sherrard absorbed by others, good leaders needed, soccer team worked out, check it out, Winola was good, don't lose Orion, if it is necessary.** 149
- 6 **Class Size too large (less attention, less 1-on-1, bigger classes, education not better but worse, less curricular opportunities, teachers cut, special ed. concerns, schools closed,)** 107
- 7 **INFORMATION needed (meetings, staff/facility usage, if lower taxes, if it helps with finances, curriculum, schools staying open, or improves sports/bussing, what's best for pupils, will Sherrard schools stay open)** 104

SHERRARD SURVEY THEMES

- 8 **CUT Expenses: Explore OPTIONS. Wasting \$ now. Cut spending (especially the fat at the top) in salaries, basics not more curriculum, cut bus trips and drivres taking busses home, no ABC, no 4-Block, no Intersessions, keep good teachers, reduce administrators, back to basics, seek Grants, new Supt.** 102
- 9 **NO to Consolidation. Will never happen. Demographics not compatible, Winola was not good, consolidation hurt before and NO tax relief, will make district less attractive to homebuyers, financial benefit to employees and not taxpayers, Winola treated poorly in last merger, only happen when backs are against the wall, have already merged, stupid idea, still no pool or tennis courts, won't pass a vote, incentives not guaranteed, need a new school and administrator, not another county, already lost Coyne Center. If consolidation will move away, home school or go to private (20).** 95
- 10 **Stress ACADEMICS not extracurricular/sports. No new sports field. Will adversely change sports/band classification, fewer kids in activities, more violence, more competition.** 83
- 11 **Local Control/Identity issue (mascot, loyalty, discipline, rivals, meshing of pupils, grading system, too many pupils, increased violence, small communities need their school, live here for close knit community, will take years to work, more problems not benefits, won't solve problems, may save \$ but hurt kids, big problems in 5 years (increased taxes))** 67
- 12 **Orion in Financial difficulty (do not want their debt, \$ benefits for Orion only, high salaries)** 56
- 13 **Orion should go with Cambridge, Coal Valley, Geneseo etc. (36) Viola go to Aledo. (1) Not with Orion (6) Sherrard go with Rockridge, Cambridge, Alwood, Milan or Aledo. (9) Pupils attend school in their own county. (2) Break up Orion to surrounding districts. (1)** 55

ORION SURVEY THEMES

- 1 **ORION with another district (Cambridge, Alwood, Galva, any smaller schools) Look at other studies (fund raisers, fees)** 266
- No to Consolidation with Sherrard (**NOT** with Sherrard (72). Limits extracurricular participation and larger school conference (22). Will move away, home school or go to private school (25). **NO \$ benefit to Sherrard/Sherrard has growth (10). Demographics are different (5). Businesses and Home sales/valuations will suffer (33). Sherrard offers less education and sports opprotunities (6). Orion pupils will be lost in the system (6). Orion can not lose its High School (25). Increased costs of merged salaries (3). Won't help curriculum or taxes (2). Consolidation is a bandaid (14). Orion should be taking Consolidation offers and not making them (5).** 228
- 3 **BIGGER is not better. Sherrard is too big. Too far. Too great a distance. Moved here (stay here) for the small schools (55). Sherrard would be too big at 950+ (7). Increase in violence.** 209
- 4 **INEVITABLE (Necessary, declining enrollment. Small schools will have to merge or curriculum will suffer. Will happen sooner or later. Orion will last 5 years before enrollment and finances force the State to consolidate or divide up Orion (24). Boards will spend the incentives/the choice is not ours. Consolidate before "our back is against the wall" while we have options .)** 148
- 5 **BUSSING/Transportation ISSUES (e.g. Excessive time on bus. Student driving dangers. Extracurricular driving)** 136
- 6 **YES to Consolidation with Sherrard (Good fit, Better academics, Benefits both, Better \$ situation (60). Soccer worked well (1). Yes if it improves curriculum and good for both (30). Economy of Scale (4). Better Sports, New Leadership, New Ideas (14). No more cutting programs (9). Turmoil initially, but it will work its way out (7). Better Extracurricular (1). Sherrard and Orion in BHASED and Sherrard has good facilities (2). Will drive up scores (1).** 129

ORION SURVEY THEMES

- NO NEED-Orion is financially OK on its own and will continue to grow with more people moving here.**
- 7 **Consolidation won't happen. Orion is good now, good test scores, safe, do not need Sherrard, no benefit. Orion will make it on their own. Orion will solve its own problems.** 100
- TAXES ISSUES (High taxes driving away families and not attracting new. Do not raise. Will go up with/without Consolidation. Tax money is poorly used. RAISE Taxes if necessary (13). Higher taxes without Consolidation (2).)**
- 8 **Need More INFORMATION (Taxes, facility usage (55). Will we keep our teacxhers/staff (5). Don't Know (18). Where is all the money going (1).** 79
- 9 **REDUCE COSTS/Cut Expenses (Get spending in line. Cut staff/administrators if declining enrollment. Back to Basics. High teacher/administrator salaries. Better money management. Eliminate Sports.** 55
- 10 **LOCAL CONTROL (mascot, rivalries, loyalty, discipline, violence, meshing of pupils (30). Adversely affect older kids (3).** 33
- 11 **Class Size too Large. Less 1-on-1 attention (30).** 30
- 12

SHERRARD and ORION THEME COMPARISON

<u>SHERRARD THEME</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ORION THEME</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>
1	Bussing/Transportation	265	1	Orion with another District	266
2	Bigger Not Better	243	2	NO to Consolidation	228
3	Sherrard OK on its own	181	3	Bigger Not Better	209
4	Tax Issues	175	4	<i>INEVITABLE</i>	<i>148</i>
5	YES to Consolidation	149	5	Bussing/Transportation	136
6	Class Size too large	107	6	YES to Consolidation	129
7	Need More Information	104	7	Orion OK on its own	100
8	Cut Expenses	102	8	Tax Issues	86
9	NO to Consolidation	95	9	Need More Information	79
10	<i>Academics Not Sports</i>	83	10	Cut Expenses	55
11	Local Identity	67	11	Local Identity	33
12	<i>Orion in Financial Debt</i>	56	12	Class Size too large	30
13	Orion with another District	55			

<u>Sherrard and Orion</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Bigger Not Better	452
Bussing/Transportation	401
NO to Consolidation	323
Orion with another District	321
YES to Consolidation	278
TAX Issues	261
Need More INFORMATION	183
CUT Expenses	157