



Grandview Heights City Schools
Findings from the June
Online Survey Regarding
Facility Planning

June 2017

17-3152

Research Purpose and Methodology

This report presents the findings of a second online survey conducted on behalf of the Grandview Heights School District to obtain community input into the district's Facility Planning Process. Following the first phase of research, some facility options were eliminated and TRIAD Research worked with the Grandview Heights Schools to develop a new survey to explore community opinions of the three remaining options.

Following the schools' community presentation held on June 8, 2017, this second online survey became accessible to the public and it was active until July 5, 2017. The anonymous online survey was available through the district's website. The community was informed about the survey in the June newsletter as well as through other means.

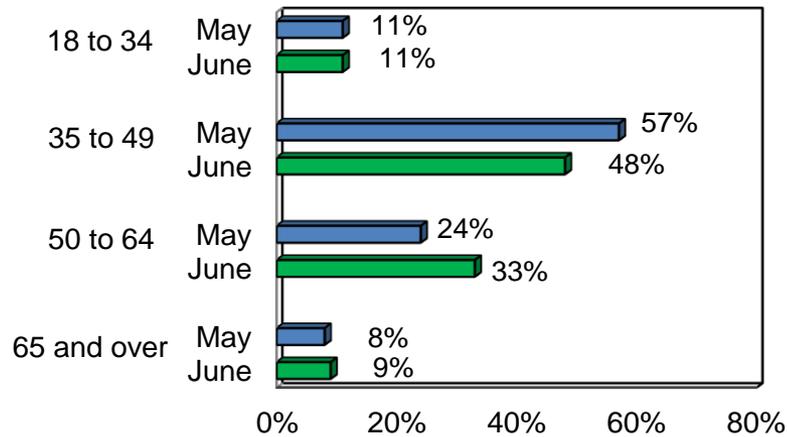
A public link was used so residents who share a computer at home, use a public computer lab, or took the online survey using a district device would be able to participate. To avoid duplication, we reviewed the IP addresses to help ensure there was no coordinated effort to skew the survey results. With no direct evidence of this occurring, we did not exclude any responses from the analysis.

A total of 450 responses to the survey were received from the public, although not everyone answered every question. Because people could opt-in to participate in the survey, this self-selected sample of respondents likely has more knowledge and motivation to weigh in on the district's facilities issues than the broader community.

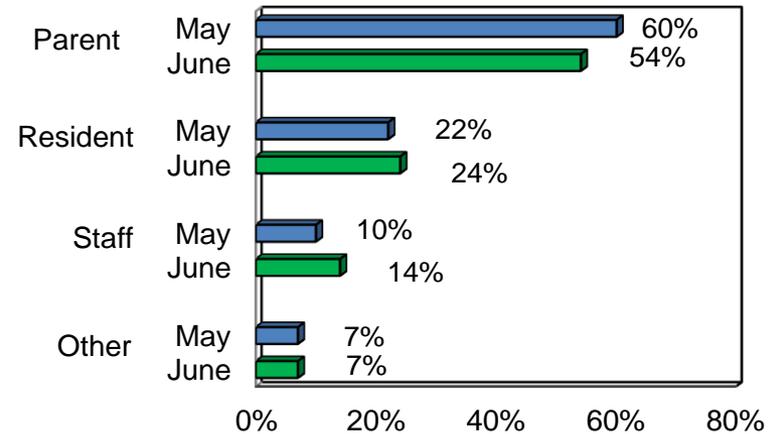
Tables giving a breakdown of the results by type of respondents (parent, resident, staff and other), age, gender and other variables are also provided.

Over half of the respondents to the online survey (54%) are parents.

Q10 AGE OF RESPONDENTS



Q11 TYPE OF RESPONDENT



- Once again, all age groups are represented in the survey. Over half of the respondents are under age 50 (59%) while the rest (42%) are age 50 and over. In addition, over half (54%) are parents of a Grandview Heights school student, while just a fourth (24%) identified themselves as interested residents.
- Along with this, half (50%) reported attending one or more facility planning meetings – 4% June 8 only, 21% June 8 and others, 25% previous meetings only. The other 50% have not attended any facility meetings. Parents with school children were more likely to have attended the meetings (54%) than residents (38%).
- Nearly two-thirds of all respondents (63%) indicated that they have been in one of the Grandview Heights school buildings 10 or more times in the past year. Just 9% have not been in the buildings recently, while the remaining 28% have been in the buildings 1 or 2 times (12%), 3 to 5 times (9%) or 6 to 9 times (7%).
- About two-thirds of the respondents were women (64%) and one-third were men (36%).

Based on this make-up, the survey respondents are likely to be more informed about the schools and the facility issues than residents of the school district overall.

Ninety percent or more of all those responded were aware of each of four factors being considered in the facility planning.

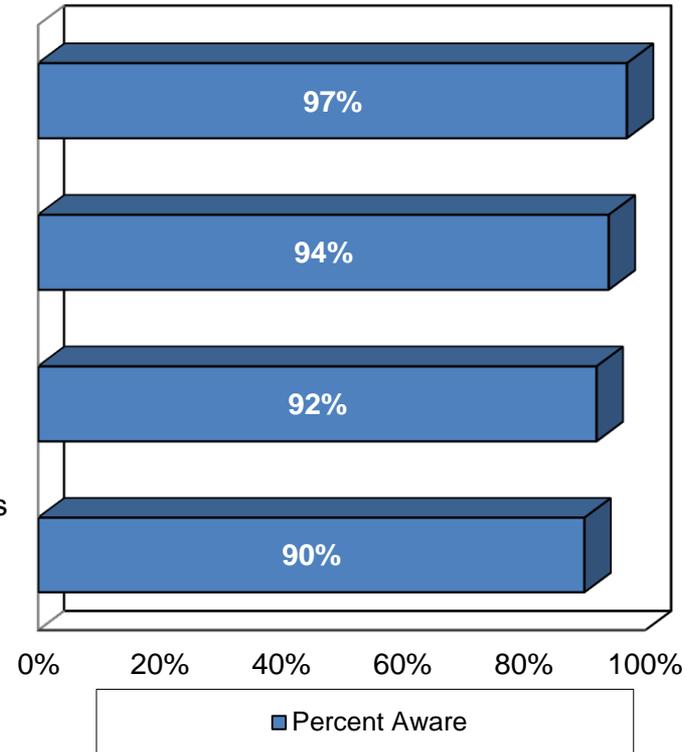
Q1 PERCENT AWARE OF FOLLOWING FACTORS IN FACILITY PLANNING

The district's three school buildings - Stevenson Elementary School, Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School, and Grandview Heights High School - are on average 90 years old. (Q1a)

Any significant upgrades to the buildings would require a voter approved bond issue. (Q1d)

Older buildings make it more challenging to fully use some of today's new instructional technology and teaching methods. (Q1c)

The Facilities Assessment Study found that the district's school buildings need over \$44 million in deferred maintenance and repairs, and to make the buildings accessible to students and visitors with disabilities as required by the American with Disabilities Act. (Q1b)



- Awareness of each of these four items was high among all demographic groups.
- It was only slightly lower among residents versus Grandview Heights school parents.

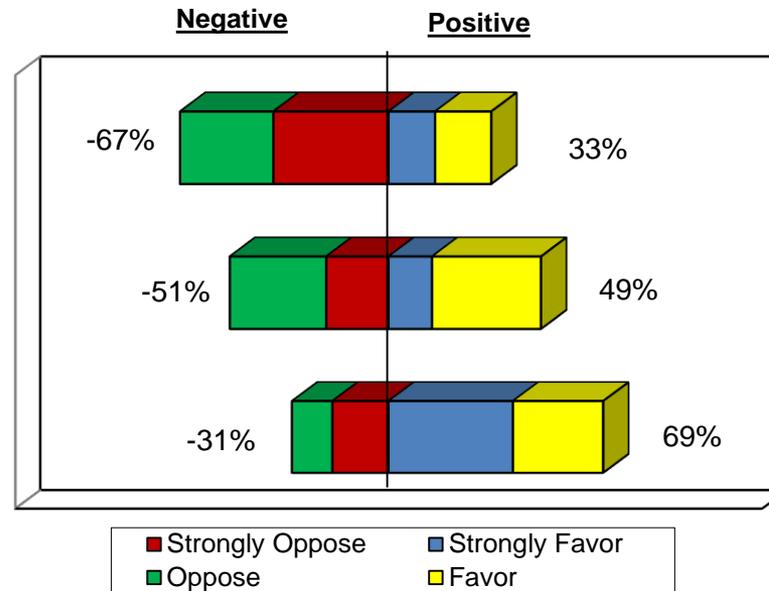
Survey respondents were most likely to favor the plan to repair and renovate the elementary and high schools and build a new intermediate/middle school.

OPINION OF THREE FACILITY PLANS

Option A – Make only modest repairs to all three school buildings (Q2)

Option B – Renovate and repair the three existing school buildings in their current locations (Q3)

Option C – Repair and renovate Stevenson Elementary School, build a new school for grades 4 through 8, and repair and renovate Grandview Heights High School (Q4)



- Of the three plans tested this time, two-thirds (69%) favored Option C – *Repair and renovate Stevenson Elementary School, build a new school for grades 4 through 8, and repair and renovate Grandview Heights High School. This plan would address all of the identified repairs and maintenance issues, make some spaces more conducive to teaching and learning, and allow for increased operational efficiency. This option is estimated to cost between \$45 and \$50 million.*
- Half of the respondents (49%) favored Option B – *Renovate and repair the three existing school buildings in their current locations. This plan would address all of the identified repairs and maintenance issues, plus make some spaces more conducive to teaching and learning. This option is estimated to cost between \$50 and \$55 million.*
- Just a third (33%) favored the lowest cost Option A – *Make only modest repairs to all three school buildings. This plan would NOT fully address all of the repairs and maintenance issues, nor would it update the learning environments. This option is estimated to cost between \$30 and \$35 million, and would leave unaddressed issues that would need attention in the future.*

There was some variation by respondent type and age, but Option C was the strongest plan with all subgroups.

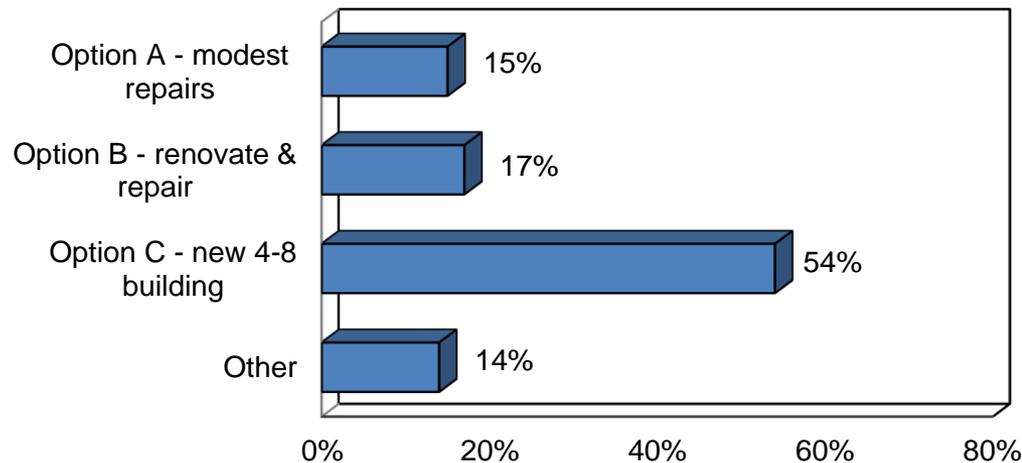
- Two-thirds of parents (67%), residents (66%) and those in the other respondent category (67%) favored Option C to repair and renovate Stevenson Elementary and the high school and build a new school for grades 4 through 8.
- And 85% of school faculty and staff members favored this plan.
- Support for Option C was also higher among 18 to 34 year olds (83%) and 35 to 49 year olds (71%) than it was among those age 50 and over (64%).

- Over half of parents (54%) favored Option B to renovate and repair the three existing buildings in their current locations as did 58% of those in the other respondent category.
- Just two-fifths of residents (42%) and school staff members (40%) favored this option.
- Here too respondents age 18 to 34 (63%) and 35 to 49 (53%) were more likely to favor Option B than those age 50 to 64 (43%) and 65 and over (28%).

- Only about a third each of parents (34%), residents (39%) and the other respondents (35%) favored Option A to make only modest repairs to all three school buildings while roughly two-thirds were opposed to this plan.
- Just 15% of school staff favored Option A.
- Those age 65 and over were slightly more likely to favor this option (42%) than those under age 65 (33%).

Over half (54%) think Option C is the best plan for the district and community.

Q5 OPTION THINK IS BEST FOR DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY



When asked which of these three plans they think is best for the district and community, over half (54%) chose Option C to repair and renovate Stevenson Elementary, build a new 4-8 school and repair and renovate the high school.

A third (32%) preferred one of the plans to repair the buildings without any new construction. That is, 15% preferred Option A to make only modest repairs and 17% chose Option B to renovate and repair the three current buildings.

There were also 14% who chose 'other.' Over half of these 61 respondents (n=34) favored a new K-8 building, one new central school for all grades, all new buildings, a new 4-12 building, some variation of Option C, or said replacing is better than repairing. Many of those who favor all new or more new buildings think this would be more cost effective, better educationally better for the district, or think the old buildings will continually need repairs.

There were 21 respondents who preferred a 'tax neutral' option or a lower cost plan, making only the necessary repairs or none of the choices given. Many of these respondents are concerned about the tax burden/ cost/ affordability, where the money for maintenance has gone in the past, or don't think repairs, renovations or new buildings are needed.

The remaining six respondents did not give an answer or indicated that they need more information.

There was some demographic differences on the option chosen.

About half or more of nearly all subgroups chose Option C as the best plan for the district.

- Half each of both parents (51%) and residents (50%) preferred Option C while this increased to 77% among school staff members.
- Only 42% of those in the other respondent category chose Option C while 35% chose Option B as the best plan. There are just 31 respondents in this subgroup which means these results should be viewed with caution.
- By age, support for Option C was somewhat higher among 18 to 49 year olds (56%) than those age 50 and over (50%).
- 20% of 50 to 64 year olds chose Option B while 20% of senior citizens preferred Option A.
- Also, note that 28% of 18 to 34 year olds chose Option B as the best plan. Perhaps some of them have strong feelings for keeping the current intermediate/middle school.

Various reasons were given for supporting the different plans.

Respondents were asked to explain why they chose the option they did. Some people gave more than one response while a few did not give any explanation.

Many of the 66 respondents who chose Option A as best for the district cited the lower cost or taxes are too high.

- Least expensive option, most affordable, most likely to pass (36%)
- Taxes too high, can't afford, drive people out of Grandview, against a tax increase (21%)
- Don't believe that the schools/learning environments needed updated, kids learn fine, don't fix what's not broken, don't need new schools (17%)
- Buildings are historic, important to community, people live in Grandview for older homes/charm, plan keeps EILMS, against new construction (12%)
- Don't trust schools, don't believe \$44 million is needed for deferred maintenance, choose needs vs. wants (12%)
- \$30 to \$35 million falls within debt ceiling, why looking at other plans (6%)
- Need more information, want detailed spending (6%) and
- No response (21%).

Of the 78 respondents who think Option B is the best plan for the district, over a third said they like the character of the old buildings and want to keep it, or they don't want new buildings or to tear down the old ones. Along with this, some said this plan would still address all the issues or everything would be done at once.

- Like the character of the old buildings, important to Grandview Heights, keep history/tradition (28%)
- Still makes improvements, addresses all of the issues (22%)
- Get it done all at once, best use of money, fiscally responsible (15%)
- Don't want/need new buildings, no reason to tear anything down, only need repairs (9%)
- Schools high performing already, don't need latest classrooms/trends (6%)
- Keeps Edison, 4-8 separate, keep enough space (6%)
- Need a plan to keep schools in good shape, don't understand how go to far behind, need to trust schools (5%)
- Don't want kids displaced, going to school in pods during construction (2%)
- Other/need more information (6%) and
- No response (31%).

Over half of all respondents chose Option C and many liked this plan because they think it would be better to replace Edison while at the same time it maintains the historic buildings of Stevenson and the high school.

- Edison needs replaced, better/cheaper than renovating it, has most problems, it's a hodgepodge, hard to get around in, would have a new building (35%) and
- Maintains Stevenson and/or high school, historic buildings, auditorium, maintains locations, keeps Stevenson separate (22%).

Others cited the cost or that they think Option C is best plan because it addresses all of the needs.

- Cheaper than Option B, less expensive, cost effective, best use of money, get most for the money, lower operating costs (28%)
- Best plan/approach, addresses all of the needs (17%)
- Meets the needs for future education (10%)
- It's time, should do it right, more than band aid repairs, Option A only covers some of the needs (5%) and
- Middle plan, compromise (1%).

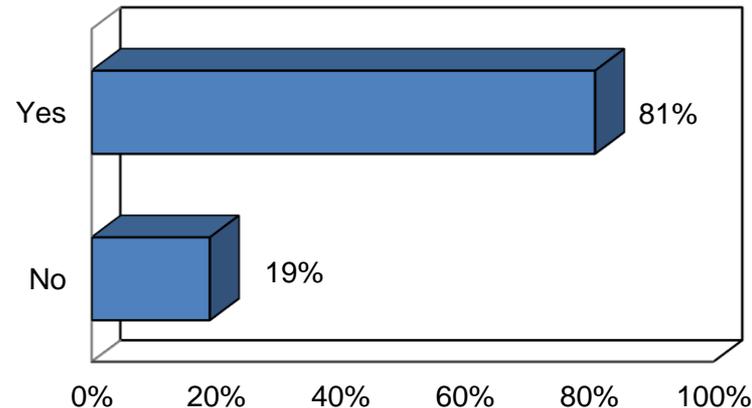
There were 5% of these respondents who indicated that they are concerned about the cost of this plan, taxes, passing a bond issue and whether the community would support it.

There were 2% who would like more information and 9% had questions or concerns, such as don't understand how there is so much deferred maintenance, how long will these repairs and renovations last, where will kids go during renovations, keep the commons and/or middle school gym, use LEED standards, possibly replace the high school in the future, and make sure there is enough space for the future.

About a fourth (22%) did not give a reason why they chose this plan.

Four-out-of-five respondents indicated that they are aware of the problems with the Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School building.

**Q7 AWARE OF CHALLENGES OF EDISON INTERMEDIATE/
LARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

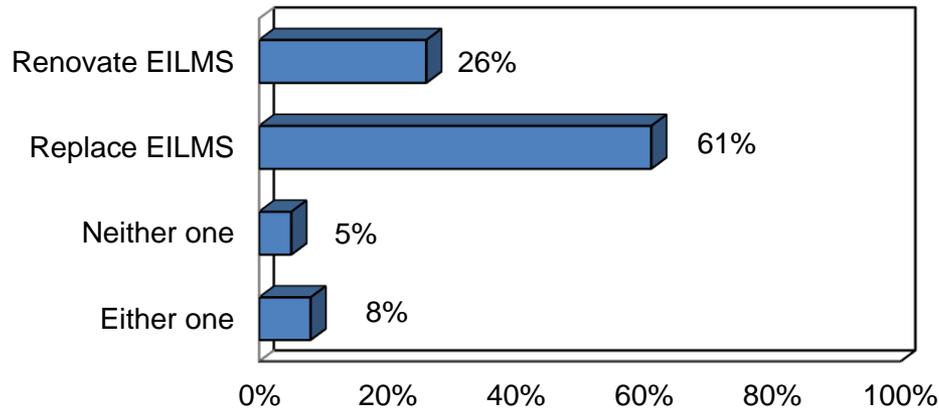


Respondents were told in the survey that *Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School (EILMS)* consists of four different buildings/additions that have been attached and has resulted in a structure with mismatched roofing systems, multiple outdated and inefficient heating and cooling systems, and limited access to students with disabilities. Overall, 81% said they were aware of these challenges.

- About a fourth of residents (24%), other respondents (22%) and 18 to 34 year olds (28%) were not aware of these structural issues at the intermediate/middle school.
- One-fifth of 35 to 49 year olds (20%) also weren't aware compared to 14% of those aged 50 and over.

Knowing about these challenges at Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School, 61% think the building should be replaced.

Q8 KNOWING ABOUT THESE CHALLENGES, WOULD IT BE BETTER TO RENOVATE EILMS OR REPLACE EILMS



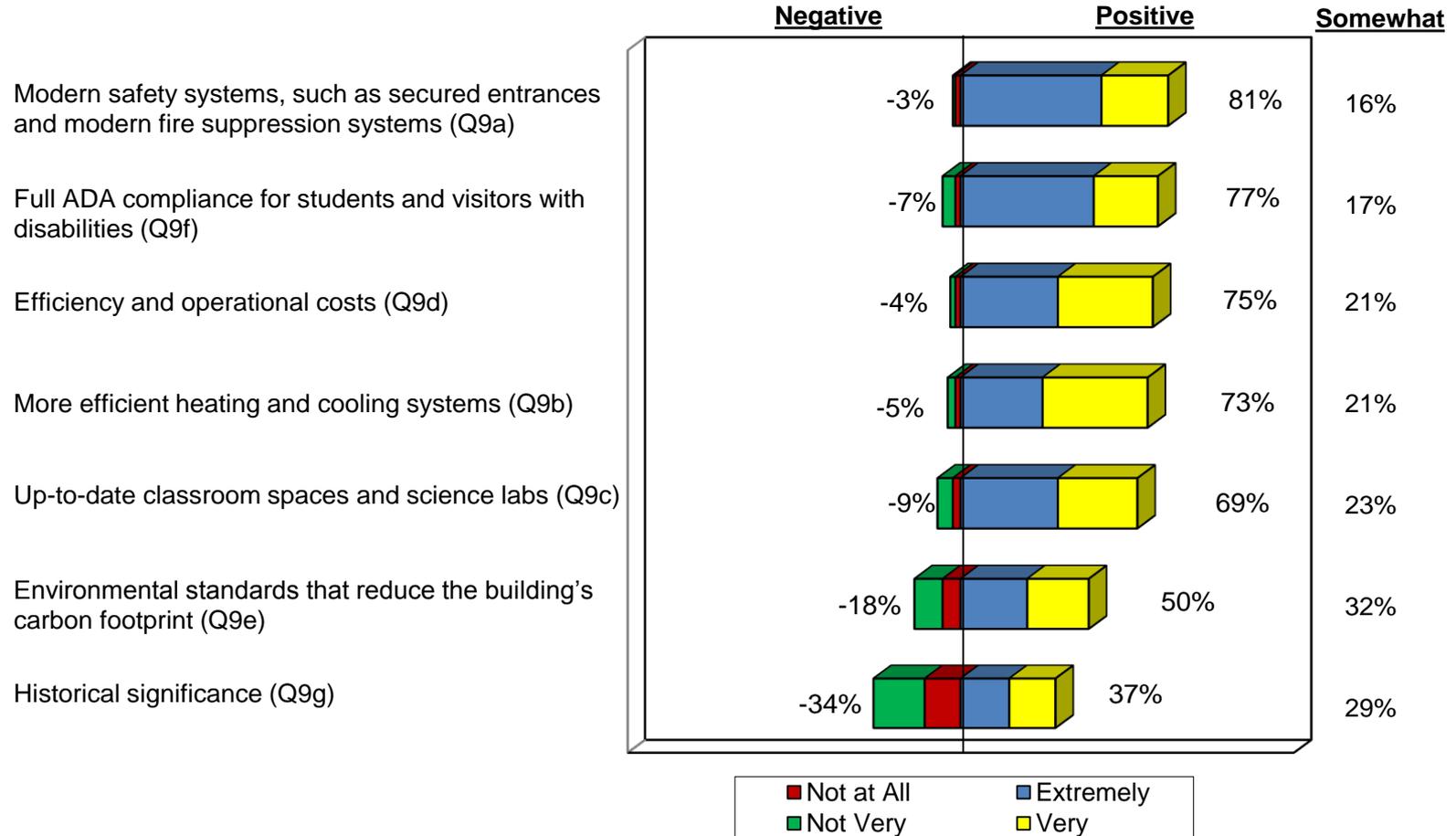
Well over half (61%) think it would be better to replace Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School (EILMS) knowing about its challenges while only a fourth (26%) think it would be better to renovate it.

- A majority of all subgroups think it would be better to replace the intermediate/middle school given its challenges.
- Over half of parents think replacing EILMS would be better, but 30% chose renovating it. Again, some parents may feel stronger about keeping the current intermediate/middle school.
- Two-thirds of who weren't aware of the problems with EILMS (65%) think it would be better to replace it with a new building after being told about its challenges and just 20% preferred renovating it.
- 60% of those aware of the problems at EILMS favored replacing while 28% think it would be better to renovate it.
- Also, 64% of those who preferred Option B think it would be better to renovate EILMS when told about the challenges of the building, but 23% of them said EILMS should be replaced.

If the district decides to replace EILMS with a new building, residents need to be made more aware of its challenges and limitations to renovating it.

Five of the seven benefits of updating Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School were very important to a majority of respondents.

Q9 IMPORTANCE OF BENEFITS TO UPDATING EILMS



Rated highest as the most important benefits when exploring the options for Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School were:

- Modern safety systems, such as secured entrances and modern fire suppression systems (81% extremely or very important)
- Full ADA compliance for students and visitors with disabilities (77%)
- Efficiency and operational costs (75%)
- More efficient heating and cooling systems (73%) and
- Up-to-date classroom spaces and science labs (69%).

Just half (50%) rated *environmental standards that reduce the building's carbon footprint* is extremely or very important to them.

And only 37% said the *historical significance of EILMS* is extremely or very important to them while nearly as many (34%) said this is not very important or not important at all to them.

There were some demographic differences worth noting.

- With the exception of historical significance, school teachers and staff rated each of these items higher in importance than parents and residents.
- Those in the other respondent category also rated each one higher in importance than parents and residents, including historical significance (55%).
- Residents and parents rated each of the items about the same. But residents rated efficiency and operational costs more important (76%) than parents (70%) and also efficient heating and cooling systems (74% vs. 69%).
- Parents placed a little more importance on up-to-date classrooms and science labs (65%) than parents (63%).

Key Findings

This second online survey measured support for the three remaining facility plans following a series of community meetings and community research through an initial online survey and focus group.

In this survey, there is clear support for Option C in this survey to renovate Stevenson, replace Edison/Larson with a new building and renovate the high school. (The original Option 2b.) Overall, 69% of survey respondents favored this plan including 67% of parent respondents and 66% of resident respondents. In addition, of the three plans tested, over half (54%) favored this one. This too included half of parents (51%) and residents (50%).

But we should be cautious here. While this is the strongest plan of the three tested, there is not overwhelming support for it. Both parents and other residents of the district will need more information about why building improvements are needed and why the district is examining different facility plans.

Half of the respondents overall (49%) also favored Option B (the original Option 1b) to repair and renovate the three existing school buildings, but only 17% chose this as the best plan for the district and community.

Just a third (33%) favored Option A to make modest repairs to all of the buildings, but not all of the building repairs and renovations. Only 15% indicated that this would be the best plan for the district.

Furthermore, 61% think it would be better to replace Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School after being told that EILMS consists of four different buildings/additions that have been attached and this has resulted in a structure with mismatched roofing systems, multiple outdated and inefficient heating and cooling systems, and limited access to students with disabilities. A fourth (26%) preferred renovating the building. Overall, 81% indicated that they were aware of these structural challenges at EILMS.

Five strong benefits to updating EILMS emerged and they included having modern safety systems (81% extremely or very important), full ADA compliance (77%), efficiency and operational costs (75%), more efficient heating and cooling systems (73%), and up-to-date classrooms spaces and science labs (69%).