

Monroe School District

Community Survey Report

Spring 2022





Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

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Our Process



Each household within the District was mailed a paper survey.
Respondents could:

1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions

or

2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

Survey Information

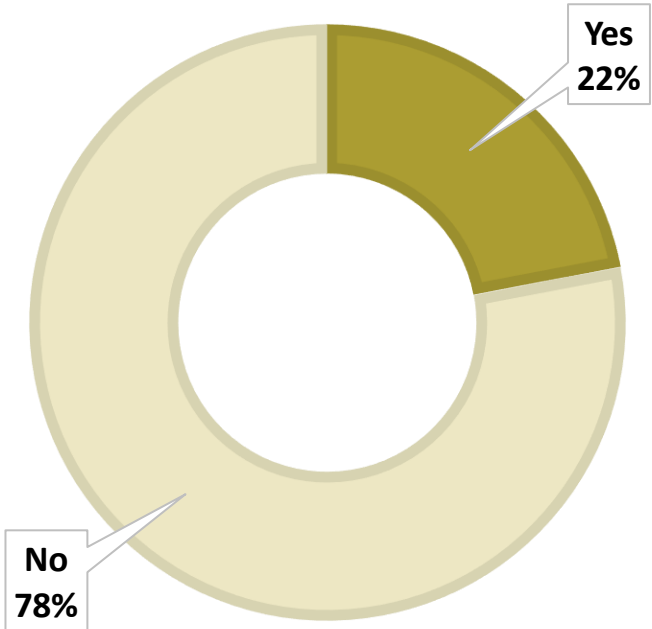


- **January 2022** survey window
- **1,322** total respondents
- **17%** participation rate
- +/- **2.75%** margin of error
- **92%** of participants live in the district

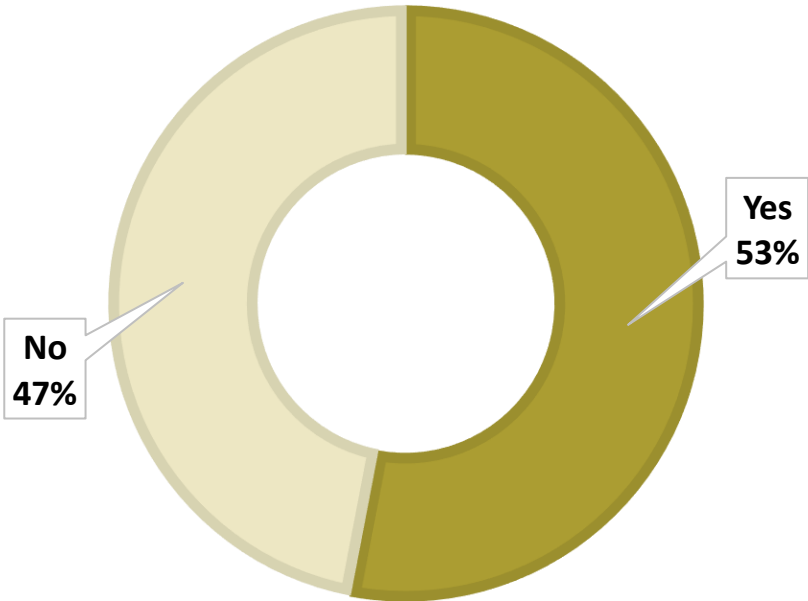
Respondent Information



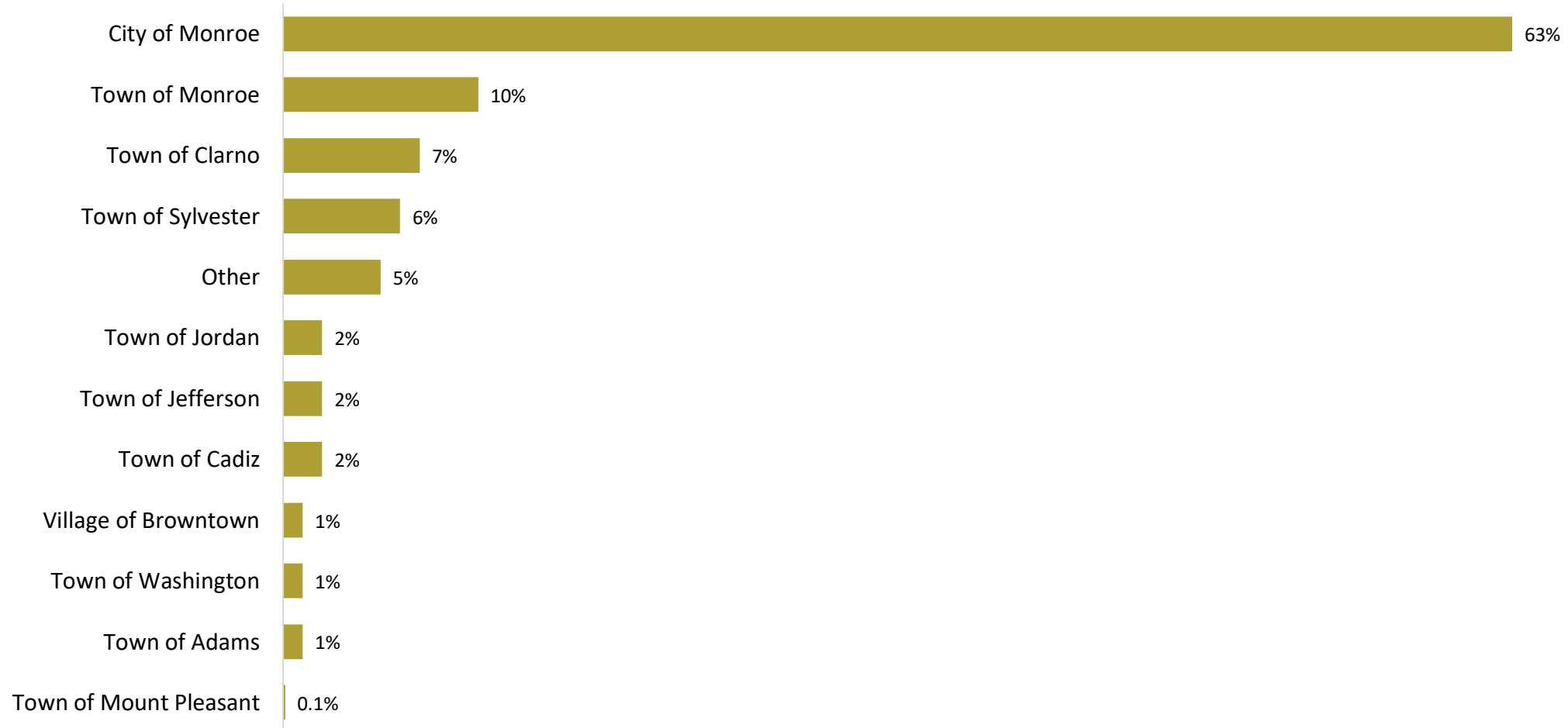
Are you an employee of the Monroe School District?



Do you have a child/children attending school in the District?



Respondent Information 2/2



Planning Background



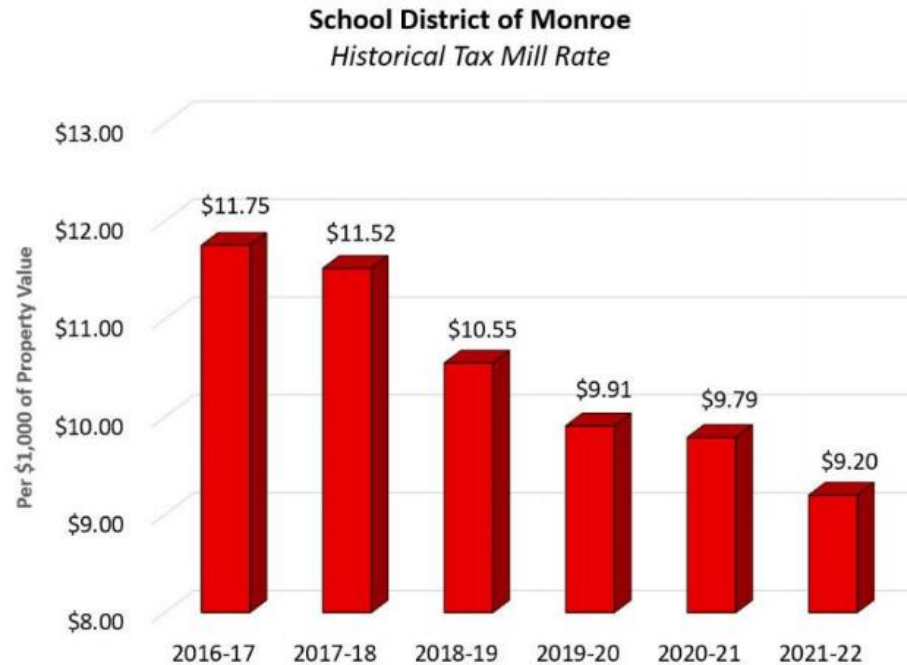
The School District of Monroe has earned a reputation for excellence. According to the latest state report cards, we score above state averages in math, English language arts, and graduation rates. We are also proud of our athletic teams and co-curricular activities, which continue to be a source of pride in our community.

Our primary focus will always be to enhance student learning. At the same time, we have also been working hard to control costs and increase operating efficiencies.

Planning Background



As you can see in the chart on the following page, the School District of Monroe's tax mill rate (which is used to calculate the District's portion of property taxes) has been declining.



Facility Challenges



A comprehensive facilities study identified the following issues at:

Monroe High School (ADA, water infiltration, tech ed)

Abraham Lincoln Elementary (Plumbing/heating, air supply)

Facility Challenges: Monroe High School



- Parts of the foundation were poorly constructed, causing walls in some classrooms and the west science wing to sag and crack.
- Water infiltration is causing mold, impacting the air quality.
- Many building systems (including heating, electrical, plumbing, roofs, windows, etc.) have reached or exceeded their service life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly repairs.
- The building has significant Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance/accessibility issues.
- The cafeteria is undersized and inefficient for serving the current student population.
- The technical education (“shop”) area lacks the space and equipment to support our future curriculum and better prepare students for careers in our region.
- The building lacks a secure entrance to properly control visitor access.

Facility Challenges: Abraham Lincoln Elementary



- Many major building systems (including plumbing, heating/ventilation, and electrical) have exceeded their service life and need to be replaced.
- Portions of the building's exterior, including windows and doors, need replacement.
- Due to their age, classroom floors, lighting, ceilings, and cabinetry need replacement.
- Air supply to classrooms does not meet current code requirements.
- The gym floor is delaminating and needs to be replaced.
- Many classrooms are small and lack the flexibility for small-group instruction and student collaboration.

The DFC identified the following two options as the most viable long-term solutions:



Option 1 - Close Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Middle School converts to 4-6th grade, renovate Monroe High to serve 7-12th

Option 2 – Renovations to Elementary and Middle Schools, close Monroe and build a new High School

Option 1:

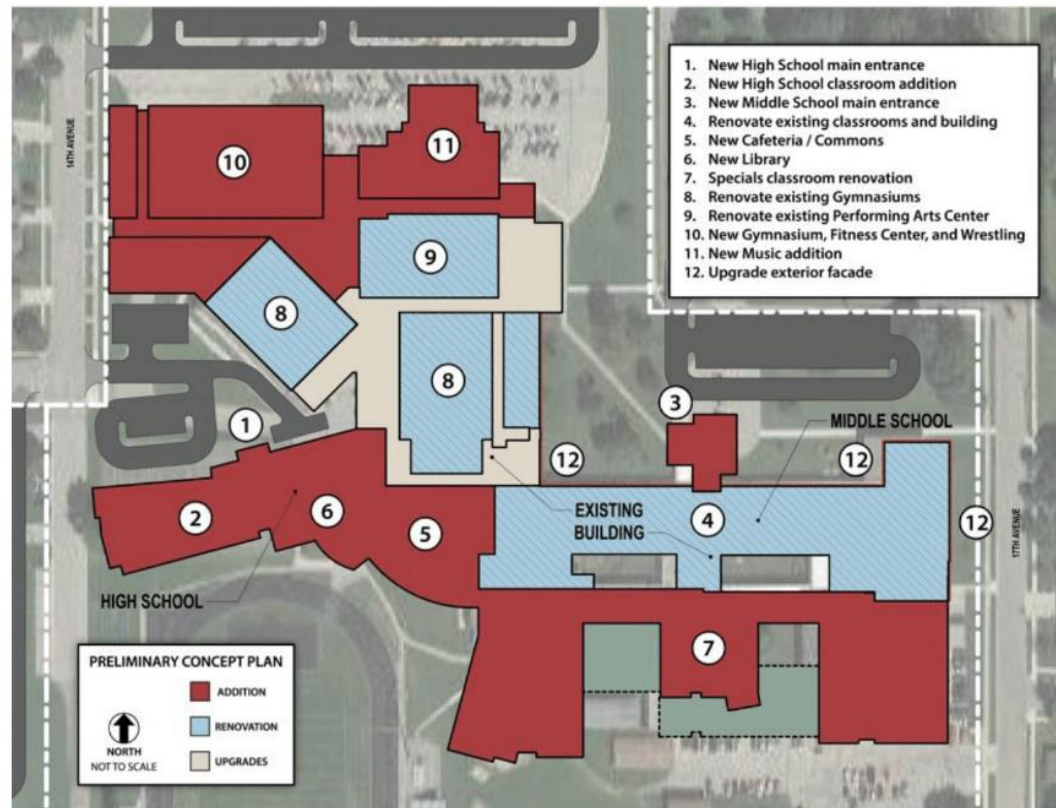


- Close Abraham Lincoln Elementary and reconfigure Northside Elementary and Parkside Elementary to serve students in prekindergarten (PK) through 3rd grade.
- Convert the middle school to an intermediate school, serving all students in 4th through 6th grade. The project would also remodel the science labs and update spaces to support the curriculum.
- Renovate and expand Monroe High School to serve all students in 7th through 12th grade. Approximately 30% of the building (including the portion with the failing foundation) would be demolished. This building would function as two separate schools under one roof. The middle school and high school would have different entrances and offices.

Option 1:



The diagram below is a preliminary concept. This option would require work to be done during the school year. It would take longer and would create more disruption to school operations as compared to Option 2.



Estimated cost: \$86 million

Option 2:



- Continue to operate Abraham Lincoln, Parkside, and Northside as elementary schools.
- Continue to operate Monroe Middle School to serve students in 6th through 8th grade.
- Renovate Abraham Lincoln Elementary, replace the aging building systems, and address the other needs identified on page 3 of the survey.
- Renovate the middle school cafeteria.
- Build a new high school on a new site (location yet to be determined).
- Close the existing high school.
- If the community supports building a new high school, more detailed drawings would be developed once the site has been identified.

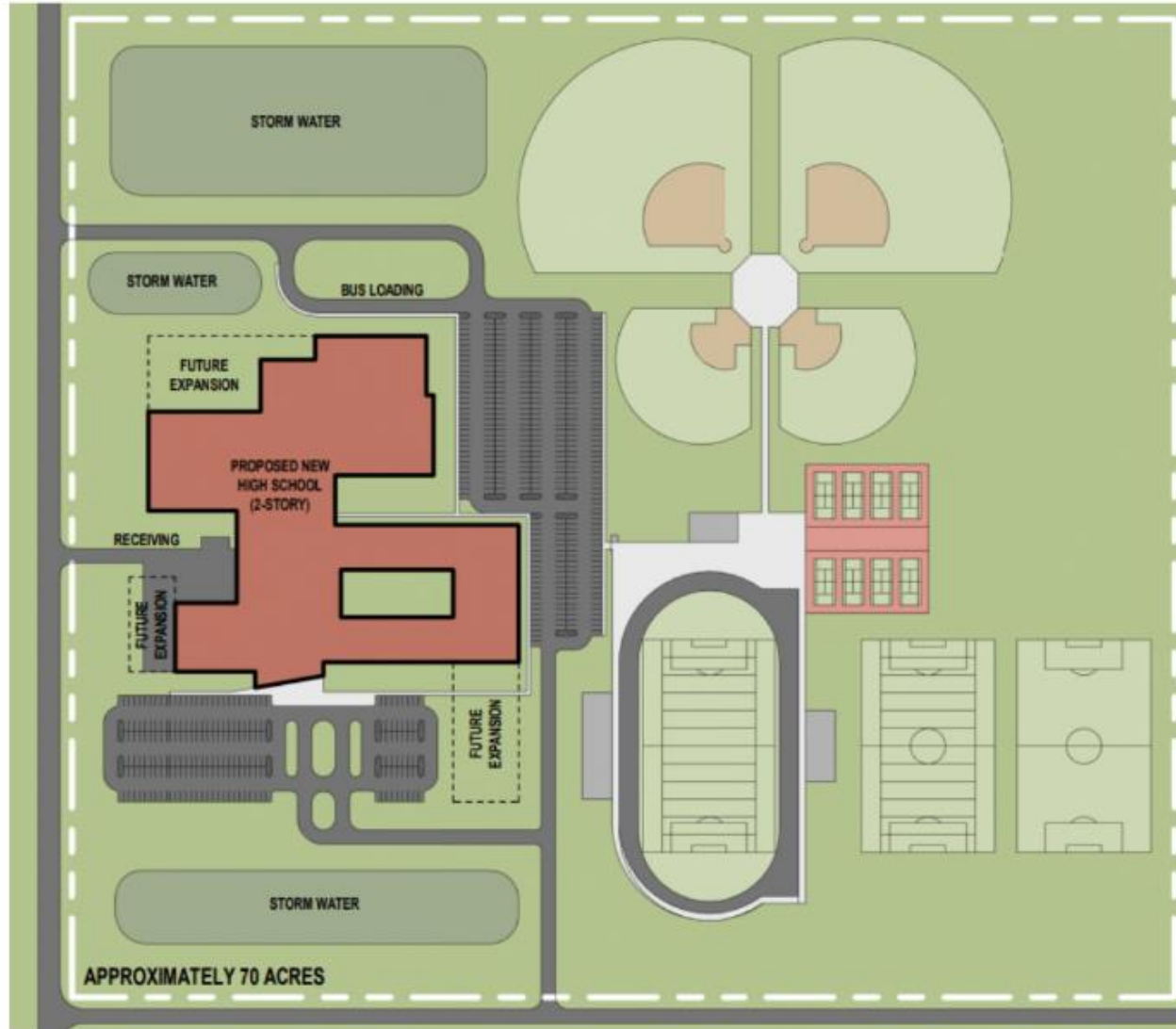
Option 2:



The new high school would be designed with the following:

- Flexible classrooms and spaces for student collaboration and project-based learning.
- Modern technical education (“shop”) classrooms to support courses in engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, woods, welding, and electronics as well as a commercial kitchen.
- Four-court gym and auditorium for performances.
- Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic.
- Energy-efficient systems and more natural lighting.
- Ability to serve current enrollment and be easily expandable for future growth/expansion.

Option 2:

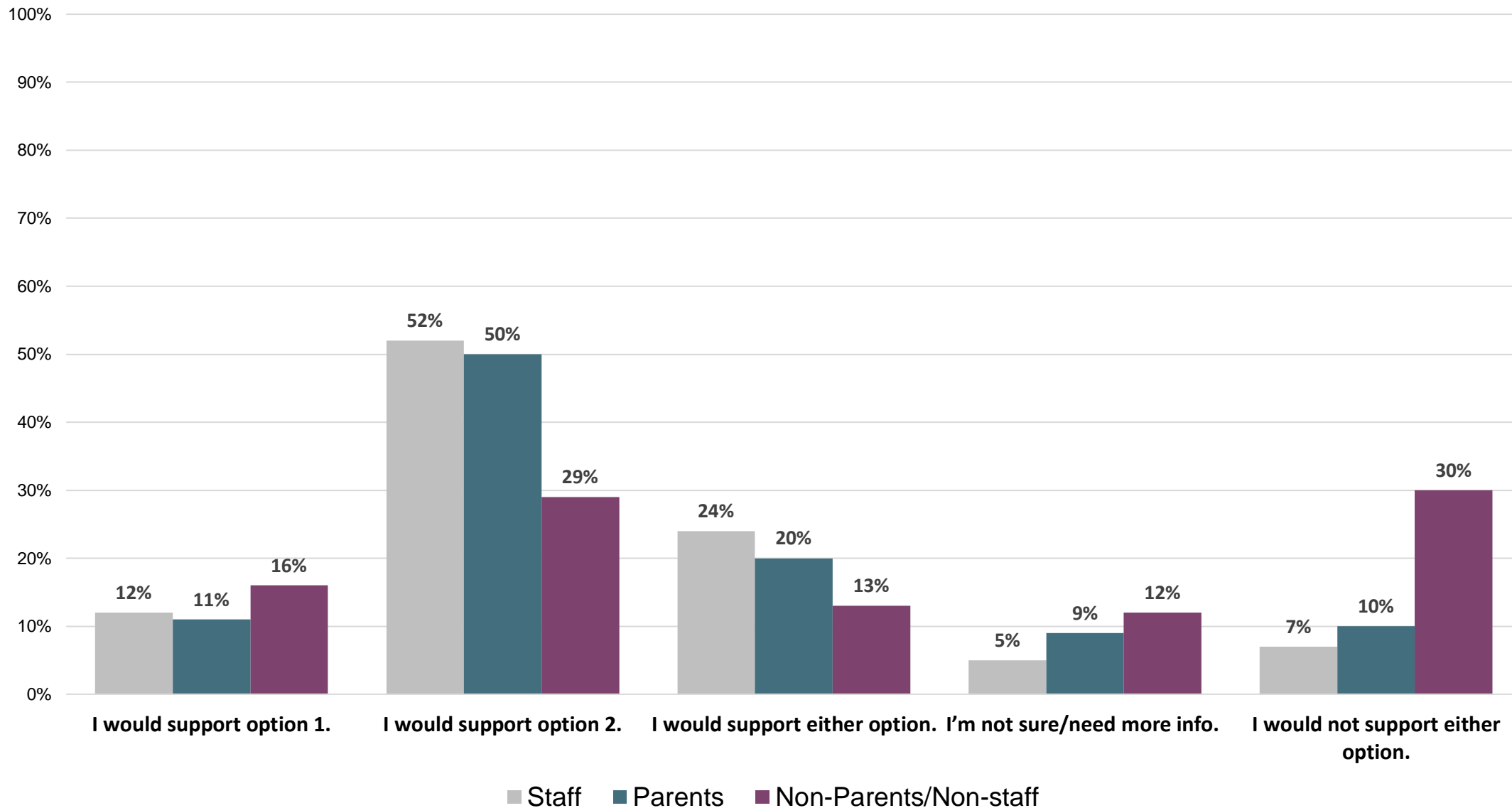


Estimated cost: \$88 million

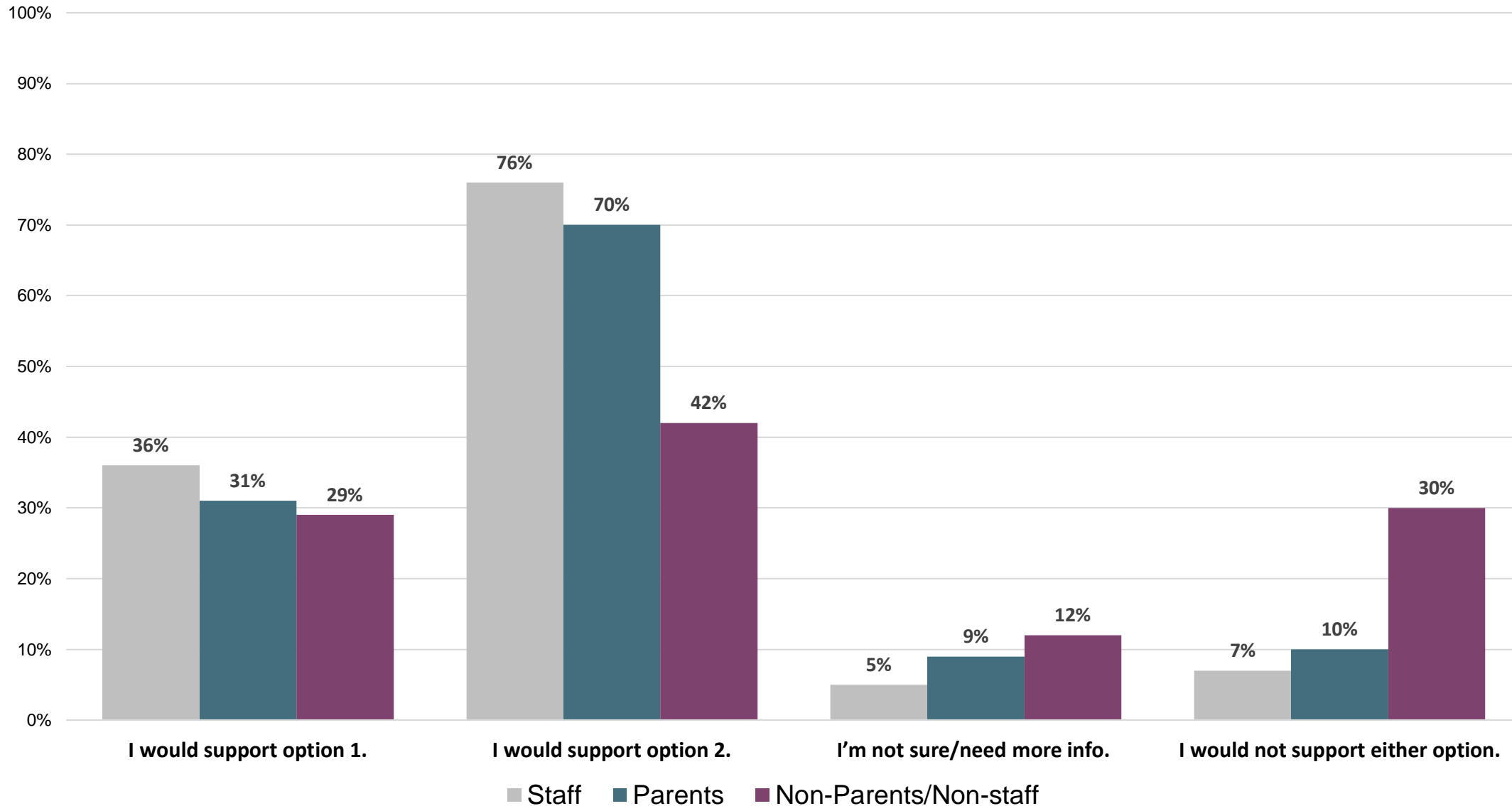


Results

Support by Option



Support by Option



How well are we doing in the following areas?

Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)



Item	Staff	Parents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parents (Non-Staff)
Delivering a high-quality education	3.15	2.92	2.81
Keeping the public informed	3.13	3.00	2.85
Managing funds appropriately	3.29	2.86	2.69
Building pride in the community	3.24	2.93	2.92

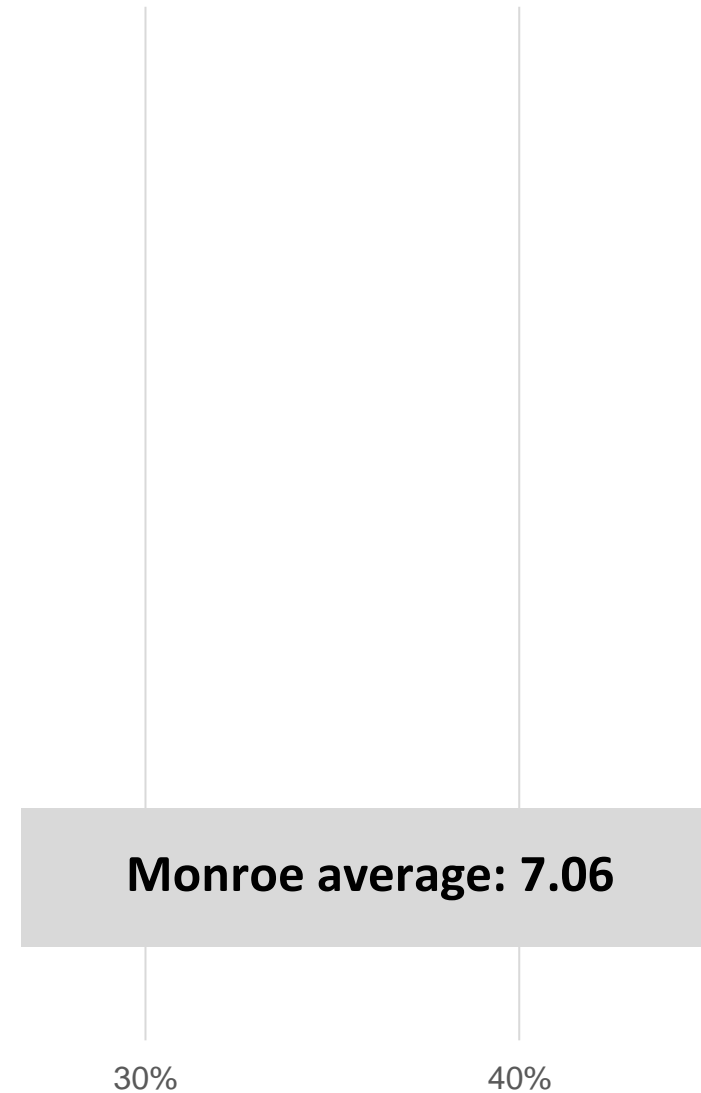
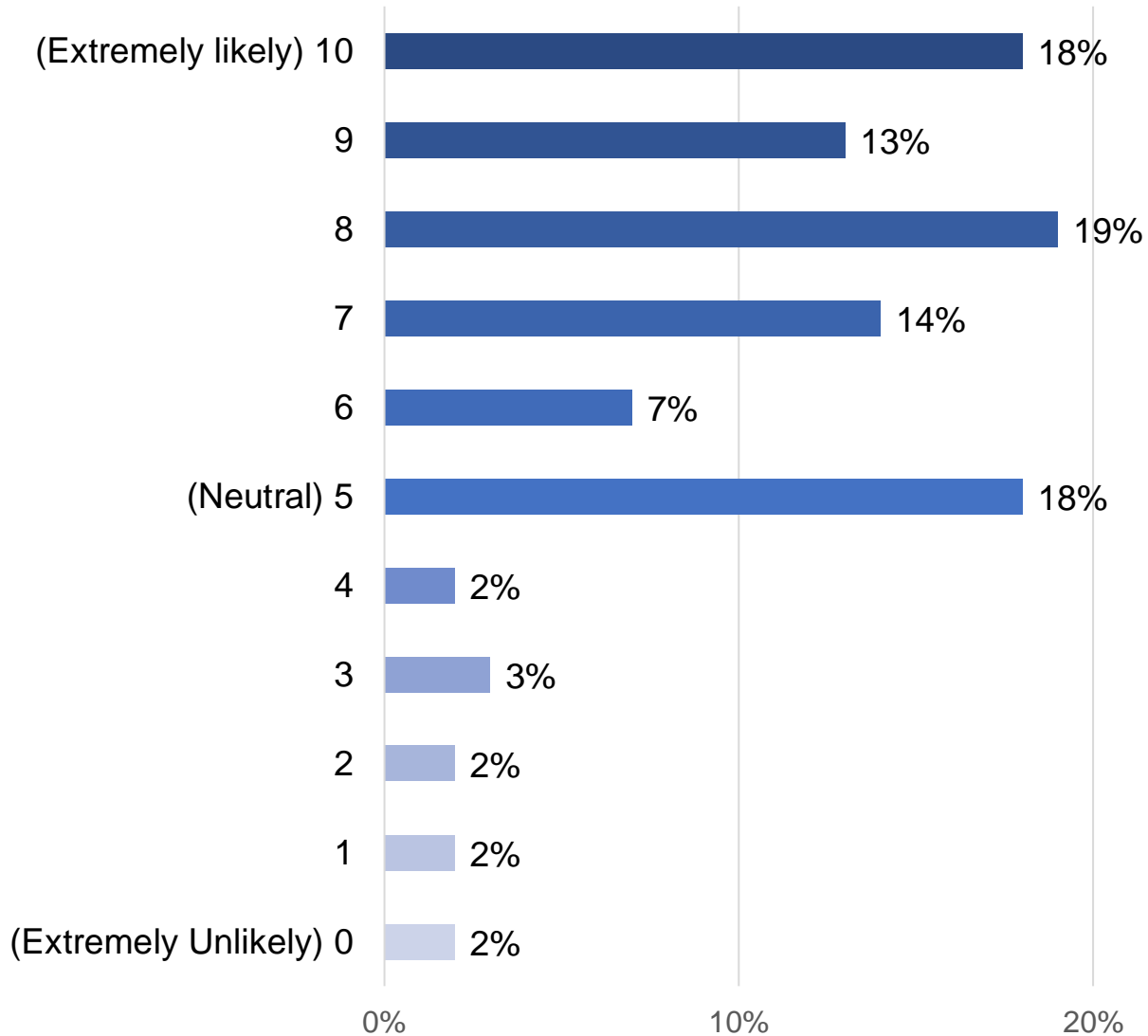
How well are we doing in the following areas? *(All Respondents)*



Item	Percent "Great" or "Good"	Average	Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	77%	2.94	22 nd
Keeping the public informed	78%	3.00	83 rd
Managing funds appropriately	71%	2.91	60 th
Building pride in the community	76%	3.01	42 nd

How likely are you to recommend the District to a friend or family member?

(All Respondents)



What did we learn?



- Option 2 (building a new school) is preferred over Option 1 (remodeling the existing school) by all three subgroups
- There is sufficient support for putting Option 2 on the ballot in November and letting the voters decide.



Questions or Comments?



Thank you!