

Thought Exchange

Themes & Key Findings

Question: After reviewing the video/ slide presentation, what are your thoughts or questions about the District's Phase 2 expansion/ renovation recommendations?

August, 2023





PARTICIPATION


Breakdown of Participation



Which of the following best describes your role within the Wilson School District?



503
Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
69%	(345)	Parent/ Guardian
20%	(100)	Staff Member
2%	(8)	Student
19%	(96)	Community Member
2%	(10)	None of the above

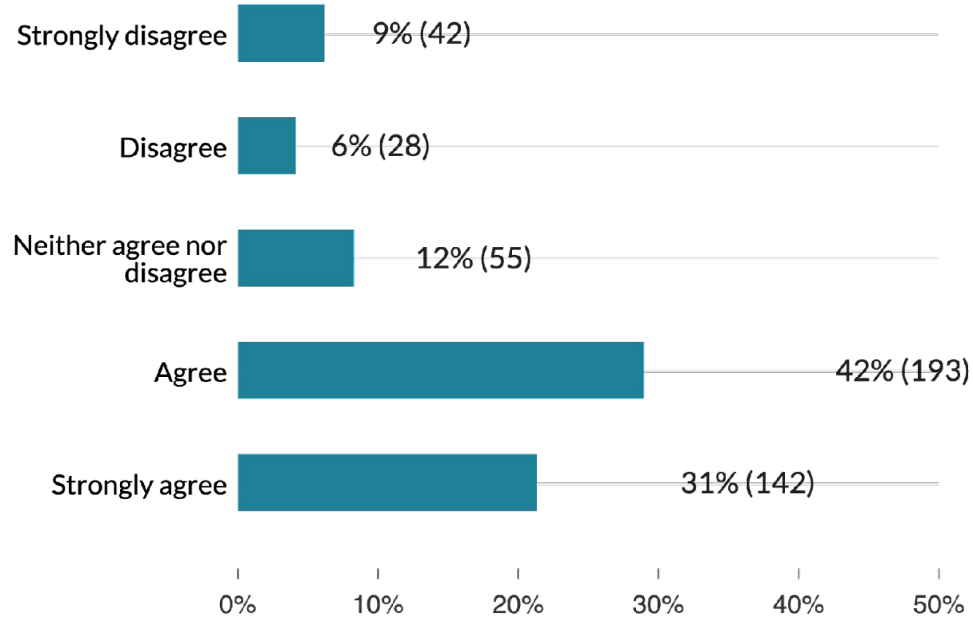


PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



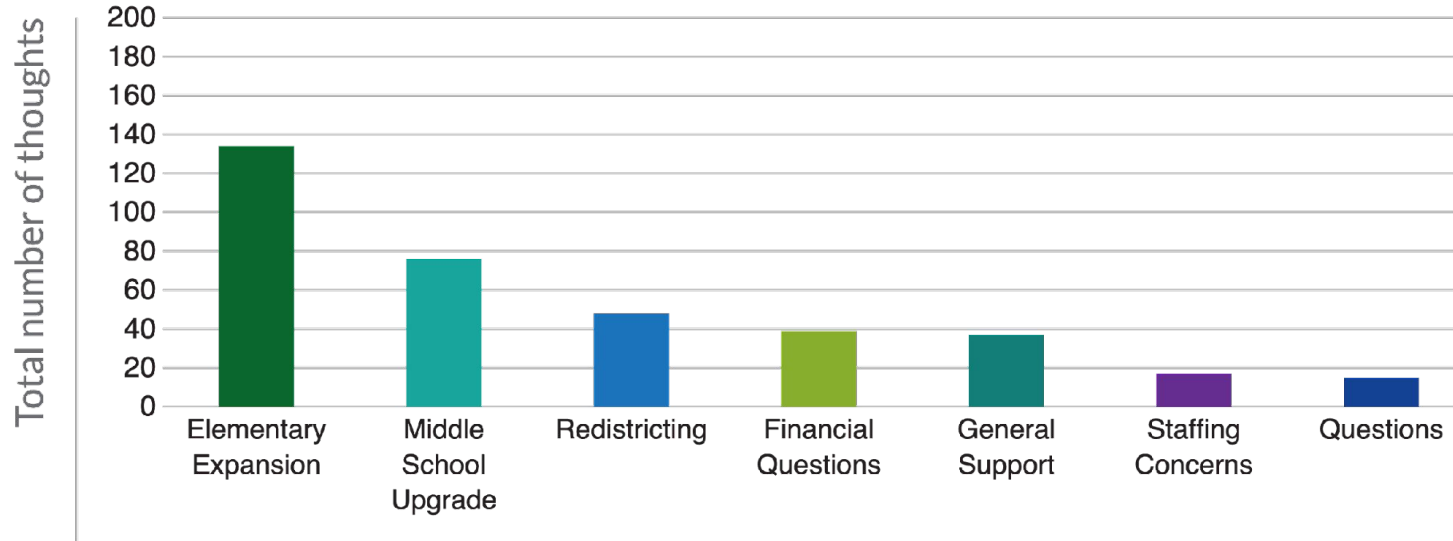
Overall, I think the District's Phase 2 expansion plan recommendation is positive for students, staff and the community.





GLOBAL THEMES

Top Themes by total thoughts






THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Why didn't the phase 2 come before phase 1? While I understand the auditorium remodel has been a plan for years, the needs of the district being overcapacity should've taken precedence.

4.0  (72 )
Ranked #1 of 364

Is there an open relationship with township supervisors about what is being developed in our district? Does the township consider school impact? I keep hearing "no more development" and "leveling out of student growth" but it never stops.

3.8  (59 )
Ranked #3 of 364

An additional elementary building would greatly help us address the changing needs we are seeing in schools today. More equitable numbers = more supports to offer ALL students what they need to succeed.

3.8  (28 )
Ranked #6 of 364

The addition of an elementary school is long overdue. Today's students have more needs than ever before due to a lack of engagement and preparedness of parents. Classes NEED to be smaller.

3.8  (16 )
Ranked #8 of 364

These are important and long overdue construction projects. The district has grown and the students are already overcrowding our elementary schools. Southern needs renovation and equitable facilities.

3.7  (74 )
Ranked #10 of 364



THOUGHTS

Elementary Expansion



- An additional elementary building would greatly help us address the changing needs we are seeing in schools today.** More equitable numbers = more supports to offer ALL students what they need to succeed. 3.8 ★★★★★ (28 👤)
- I think it is a good idea to build on the Lincoln Park property. Concerned about the smaller size building.** How quickly will that building be maxed (350 students)? How does the smaller size affect specials area teachers and other support staff? 3.8 ★★★★★ (23 👤)
- I think it's important to have up-to-date facilities with appropriate class sizes.** Give students a greater chance to connect with their educators and gain more from their learning experience. 3.7 ★★★★★ (75 👤)
- These are important and long overdue construction projects.** The district has grown and the students are already overcrowding our elementary schools. Southern needs renovation and equitable facilities. 3.7 ★★★★★ (74 👤)
- Glad to see the Lincoln Park site utilized** Saves \$ and uses an already-developed site (more ecologically appealing) 3.7 ★★★★★ (73 👤)



THOUGHTS

Middle School Upgrade



I think it's important to have up-to-date facilities with appropriate class sizes. Give students a greater chance to connect with their educators and gain more from their learning experience.

3.7  (75 )

These are important and long overdue construction projects. The district has grown and the students are already overcrowding our elementary schools. Southern needs renovation and equitable facilities.

3.7  (74 )

My second thought is that Wilson Southern Middle School needs updating. The building is approaching the end of its lifespan and it definitely needs an update.

3.7  (73 )

Fully agree with Southern expansion The students need an updated school equal to facilities at West. They also need more space so students are not overcrowded.

3.6  (74 )

Bringing some equality between West and Southern is extremely long over due. This economic divide between southern and west is 30+ years overdue to be addressed. Not sure it's enough but better than nothing.

3.6  (73 )







THOUGHTS



Redistricting





Grades 5-8 should never be put together. Too big of a maturity gap and that model scares me. Keeping my child safe and age appropriate. 3.7  (73 )

Build a new elementary school so that they don't have overcrowding in classrooms we can fairly divide the kids when they reach middle school. Young children need a smaller teacher student ratio and kids with additional needs will be better served in a smaller classroom. 3.7  (70 )

The longer we wait the more expensive this will be. Interest rates have only rose in the past two years. Gettr done! Look at CT/South vs GV/West and it's clear this is long overdue 3.6  (74 )

Our building are overcrowded. Our students deserve to have space outside of closets and hallways to work with various professionals. My son was in a closet for Pt for years. 3.6  (35 )

Stop building houses in the district. Would reduce the school population & elongate the need to expand. 3.6  (20 )



THOUGHTS

Financial Questions



The urgent need is now; these additional students are already here Townships keep approving developments and apartments...you can't do that and not expect more students = more money needed for our schools

3.7  (73 )

BUSSING --How about using some of the money to hire/find some more bus drivers... I just listened to a message from the high school principal stating that many kids will have to wait around for a 2nd bus run. We need to be able to get students to and from school without wasting their time!

3.5  (20 )

Grant writers. Do you have them? If you do add more. Find funds that can replace/support current expenditures so that \$ can help offset new costs. We can increase burden on tax payers.

3.4  (60 )

Try to get grants/ federal funding etc People loose equity at home with higher property taxes

3.3  (71 )

Agree that a new elementary school and expanding on Southern is necessary, however this should have been started before the phase 1 auditorium, which I feel is not a priority. This is a very expensive project, not looking forward to the tax increases.



3.3  (69 )







THOUGHTS



General Support



I'm glad the admin has made a concrete proposal on how to deal with current/future student population growth We've been discussing this for five years and it's time to take steps to address the problem 3.6  (61 )

The plan makes sense to me. I like the idea of keeping K-5 in one bldg. more population is over near LP. 3.6  (20 )

I think the district is on the right track to address learners district wide, while considering cost to the community. Emphase should be placed on meeting learning needs of all students. I feel phase 2 should have preceded many components of phase 1. 3.5  (74 )

I am happy that the district is taking into account the number of students per school so that each student can have a positive learning experience. The phase 2 plan can help the district continue to strive to be better for the students and families. 3.5  (73 )

Vitally important Critical need 3.5  (73 )



THOUGHTS

Staffing Concerns



- Protect kids from behavioral disruptions by providing more resources, staff, and space to accommodate ALL students.** Too much time is being spent to deal with behavior issues and the other 20 students are not getting their education needs met. This is unfair. 3.9 ★★★★★ (34 👤)
- Increased special needs populations require additional paraprofessionals to support classroom teachers.** Additional classrooms are great, but budgeting for and retaining paras is vital for student success. 3.8 ★★★★★ (38 👤)
- How will we staff a full school when we have 34 openings (some with multiple positions in each of those openings) currently?** What is the plan to staff a new school when we cant staff our current schools? 3.7 ★★★★★ (48 👤)
- Smaller, neighborhood schools have many benefits over bussed, larger schools.** Children will be able to build relationships with teachers and neighbors, benefitting both the school culture and community at large. 3.7 ★★★★★ (42 👤)
- I understand and agree with the plan and that education is crucial, but that's a lot of money. LP makes sense. Southern needs updated too.** Our schools system needs so many things: teachers, tech, supplies, but first we need room for the kids. 3.2 ★★★★★ (41 👤)



THOUGHTS Questions



Why didn't the phase 2 come before phase 1? While I understand the auditorium remodel has been a plan for years, the needs of the district being overcapacity should've taken precedence.

4.0  (72 )

Is there an open relationship with township supervisors about what is being developed in our district? Does the township consider school impact? I keep hearing "no more development" and "leveling out of student growth" but it never stops.

3.8  (59 )

Why are the sports facility at WilsonSD improved and or brand new state of the art in some places, while the OLD buildings remain in place?! A public School District should focus on professional, and skill based training instead of being a school centralizing on SPORTS. PERIOD.

3.8  (51 )

Will the middle and high school be able to contain the population in ten years or will additional facilities need to be tweaked with growing numbers? Thinking through lens of all students.

3.4  (46 )

Does classroom size account for the ever-expanding special needs populations? One special-ed student could need the same resources as three regular ed students and therefore that classroom should have fewer heads so that each student gets what they

3.4  (41 )



Summary of Feedback and Concerns Regarding the Proposed Project

- The proposed project includes building a new elementary school in Lincoln Park and expanding and renovating Southern Middle School to provide equitable resources and experiences for all students.
- The community recognizes the urgent need for these projects due to overcrowding and inequity issues in the district.
- Some community members question the prioritization of Phase 1 (auditorium remodel) over Phase 2, which directly addresses overcrowding and inequity.
- Concerns have been raised about the potential tax burden on the community and the need to explore alternative funding sources, such as grants and federal funding.



Summary of Feedback and Concerns Regarding the Proposed Project

- The community is divided on whether the proposed projects are sufficient or if more extensive plans should be considered, such as building a larger elementary school or a new middle school.
- Some community members suggest exploring alternative solutions, such as reconfiguring grade levels in existing buildings or expanding on existing campuses.
- The community is concerned about the impact of construction on students and staff, including potential disruptions to learning and the need for adequate space during construction.
- Questions have been raised about the district's ability to retain and acquire staff, given current shortages in teachers, drivers, and support staff.

Learn more about District Facilities Projects

Visit:

<https://sites.google.com/share.wilsonsd.org/wsdconstructionprojects/home>

