

## River Valley School District

Community Survey Results 2023-6-07

A total of 497 responses have been received from the community-wide survey.

Q.1 - While 97 (20%) respondents stated that they participated in the public meeting process, 397 said they did not. That is great because we are reaching many more people in the community about the process. It also tells us that 80% of the responses are from people who are less knowledgeable about the needs, opportunities, and the process.

Q.2 - 26% of responses come from people that said yes, they or a family member work for the school district.

Q.3 – 58% have a child or grandchild that attend the school district.

Q.4 - 74% of respondents support closing the early learning center building. This is trending slightly down from a month ago when it was at 76%.

Q.5 – 69% agree with complete the \$5.2M worth of code, maintenance, and ADA work needed at the elementary, Middle, and High schools. This is the same as it was a month ago.

Q.6 – 76% agree that the elementary and middle school should be modified to provide more secure entrances for a cost of \$2.3M. This is the same as it was a month ago.

Q.7 – 54% of respondents agree with adding classrooms to the elementary school so it can support grades 4k – 2<sup>nd</sup> with an estimated cost of \$2.4M. This is slightly down from a month ago, 56%.

Q.8 – Only 42% support moving 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the High school and making the middle school serve grades 3-6. This is down slightly from a month ago when it was 43%. It has been our experience that there can be a concern with having 7<sup>th</sup> graders in a high school setting. If the lower grades were primarily in a separate wing of the building it could provide more comfort for parents and students.

Q.9 – Only 43.5% support constructing an auditorium at the high school with an estimated cost of \$14.9M. This is down from a month ago when it was at 45%. This is 215 yes and 279 no votes. The high cost probably has a lot to do with this. If the cost were significantly reduced, it could gain majority support.

Q.10 – Only 35.4% support adding a gym to the campus for an estimated cost of \$5.2M. This is down from a month ago, 37%. This would be very difficult to pass as a standalone item in a voter referendum.

Q.11 – Only 45% support adding daycare for up to 60 infants and toddlers at an estimated cost of \$1.3M. This percentage has not really changed from a month ago, 46%.

Q.12 – 59% of respondents support a referendum of \$15M or more. Only 45% support a referendum of \$20M. 24% (116 people) do not support any tax increase. A month ago, 60% supported a \$15M referendum. This has leveled off. This means that you could ask for \$16M or \$17M but going much more could risk losing voter support.

Q13 – 30 individuals provided contact information to assist with an informational campaign if you proceed with a referendum.

129 people provided additional input on the process. There are a variety of comments, but it is a great sign that most are supportive.

The support for the identified needs has leveled off in the past month with about 70 more people responding to the survey.

### **Recommendations**

Pursue a capital referendum in the range of \$15M - \$18M.

It should include Safe and Secure entrances at the elementary and middle schools. \$2.4M

Complete code, maintenance, and ADA work at the elementary, middle, and high school buildings. \$5.2M

Add classrooms and support space to the elementary school building. \$2.4M (without a gym)

Improve elementary school pick-up and drop-off lanes. \$1M

Vacate the early learning center building in Plain.

Add a gymnasium at the elementary school to support the added grades, provide separate cafeteria, and make up for the lost gym in Plain. \$4.5M

### **These items would total \$15.5M**

You could possibly reduce the scope of a performing arts center or do additional fundraising to pay for it partially with donations, grants, etc.