



**Fond du Lac School District  
Community Survey Comment Analysis  
October 30, 2018**

The Comment Analysis Summary is intended to identify and represent the prevailing themes collected through the comments gathered in the community survey. A major theme is identified as a result of having multiple participants referencing similar issues or concerns. Supporting comments are included verbatim within each theme.

**Contents**

Respondents generally support repairs/updates/improvements to building sites and systems..... 2

Respondents stressed the importance of improving school safety and security..... 3

Respondents commented on the need for air conditioning. .... 4

Respondents expressed a desire for more information regarding future projects..... 5

Respondents expressed concern with any impact on taxes..... 6

## **Respondents generally support repairs/updates/improvements to building sites and systems.**

I believe that we should fix everything that is in need of fixing.

Make the changes needed. It is for our future. No child should go to a school that is outdated.

I am in favor of supporting "top notch" schools. I want our students, staff, and community to have the most resourceful schools that we can have that are fiscally responsible. I trust that the Board of Education and FDL School District leaders will ask us whenever they need community support. I am in support of a referendum.

Many building structures are not able to support the education system of today. Class sizes in upper elementary grades are sometimes 25-30 students per room. The rooms are not designed for groups this large to be able to work collaboratively.

I believe that updating our schools is needed, the buildings are not getting any younger, and need to move with the times. This will create a wonderful learning environment for our students.

We have got to make the needed changes now. Trying to get support for large scale referendums at the time when systems are already failing is not a good option

Addressing the ADA compliance and security should be top priority. The building systems should also be address.

It would be great if all schools could have air conditioning and other needed maintenance updated. As a parent of a child who suffers headaches when the classrooms are too warm with no air conditioning this improvement is needed!

Our schools need to be kept up to keep future bigger expenses down. Also, our kids safety and comfort is our future.

The existing problems will not go away. They must be addressed now when the financial situation is favorable to the District and its constituents.

The District should absolutely get all the money needed to maintain, update & improve our schools.

Maintain current building is better than building new ones.

Some of the buildings are so old, they are no longer conducive to safe and pleasant working environment.

Investing in our children's education is a priority. They must have a good learning environment with up to date tools to receive a better educational experience.

## **Respondents stressed the importance of improving school safety and security.**

I think that the safety and comfort of our students and staff should be at the top of everyone's lists.

Provide a safe environment for students and staff. The High School needs some construction at the front entrance to not allow access directly to the whole building when you enter.

Safety and security should be our number one priority right now.

They MUST be safe. There are doors at FHS that are corroding away. They need to be fixed. door 14 (old athletic event entrance) you can see daylight coming through the frame.

I believe that the first responsibility should be to keep our students and staff safe.

Nothing lasts forever and safety is of high priority for staff, students, and parents alike. Let's be proactive and get things done right.

We need to make sure our facilities are appropriate and safe for our students and staff.

Pier Elementary has many building issues that need to be helped. We have no working security cameras in the building.

As a district employee, my greatest concern is safety and security in my building. Our school's floor plan does not lend itself to even "adequate" monitoring of entrances. I truly believe it is not a matter of "if" we have a security crisis, but "when." Please make safety and security THE priority above all else.

I would suggest pursuing a referendum to support the development of safety and security in our middle schools.

Door security is a false sense of security with almost anyone let in and if anyone wanted in bad enough they'd find a way.

Keeping all children safe while they are at school is my biggest concern, so whatever you need to do to upgrade security in all schools, I think should be done.

Safety and security is a concern for all locations. Even schools that have something in place tend to be wide open anyway. Even if the school has locked doors, there are always doors open and/or staff just let you in anyway. The high school for example you can find multiple doors left open after hours due to the various events happening. Every student/parent should be issued a credential that allows access to the building. That way it is controlled and monitored.

Need more security at All the schools. Mainly the high school!!!!

As a father of 2 children who will be attending the schools in the next few years my top priority is safety and security. I think above all else we need to ensure this is done. Schools need to be able to be more secured with entrances and the last thing we want to see is FDL in the national news. Prevention is key.

## Respondents commented on the need for air conditioning.

Air conditioning in all buildings. It's a shame that students have to sit in hot classrooms and be expected to learn at high levels.

Air conditioning in all buildings to support a comfortable learning environment that will promote academic success and appropriate social and emotional development.

Also of concern are the schools that still do not have air conditioning. The rest of the public buildings have it? Why not the schools?

My child attends Roberts and told me that on the really hot days that the floors get slippery and they do reading time with the lights off to keep it cool. air conditioning should be considered.

There is no air condition in several schools, and the overall need for major remodel work is painfully evident.

I feel that if some of the schools in the district are air conditioned, all of the schools should have it. My kids attend an elementary school without air conditioning, and in the warmer months their classrooms get very hot and uncomfortable. It makes it tough for them to focus and learn when they are overheated, and they often come home not feeling well because of it.

Air conditioning is essential in schools that do not have it. Students cannot concentrate well when it is 92 degrees and humid in a second floor classroom. We would not expect student learning to increase in an environment where teenagers are hot and sweaty just sitting there.

I strongly feel that this should be the main priority. I teach in a school that has air conditioning. I cannot imagine not. This is heartbreaking that there are actually schools where classroom temps reach will into the 90s! Unacceptable.

PLEASE consider the air conditioning improvements. We lose MANY learning days due to heat. Students cannot learn when they are so hot. Our rooms are not just warm on these days, they are in the upper ninety degrees and higher. It is not conducive to learning.

Air conditioning is a MUST! Anyone who has spent time in any school where there is no AC will tell you that the conditions are almost impossible for kids to learn. All of the other things are also important (especially safety), but the kids can't learn and the staff can't teach effectively when everyone is sweaty and crabby (not to mention stinky!).

Comment: Air conditioning would also be needed if a year-round school schedule were ever to be considered.

Please make air conditioning a priority! Student leaning will be improved when teachers and students are comfortable. Should increase instructional minutes and academic scores.

## Respondents expressed a desire for more information regarding future projects.

Before pursuing a referendum I would be interested in hear what the money will be used for specifically. For example, in terms of safety and security how would the money be used to make the schools more safe? Would it be an extra officer? Cameras around the building? I lean toward referendum, but would want more info!

Communicate these facility issues widely.

Host listening sessions for people living in the district and for others that apply. Offer follow-up listening sessions to address any questions. \* Be as specific as possible as to what the district would be improving at each site. The more informed citizens are, the more likely they will understand our needs.

No evidence of a long term strategy/plan. Need to see more information on student enrollment trends and achievement scores. More money and facilities doesn't equate to better education. More needs to be presented on curriculum and staff attitudes.

Need more information, unclear what the current service and maintenance budgets are.

I would like more info on the hands on labs and what they entail

Need to provide more information. Details and prioritize projects by school, year, etc. Over how many years - it can't all be done at once. How long would the \$145 million be amortized over? Where does the \$68 million fall in this equation.

Is the budget for Riverside School from the CD Smith Facility Studying Budget include Riverside, Admin Center, Rec. Dept, Aquatic Center, South St. Garage, Facilities Bdg. or are those recommendation separate from Riverside. I think there is a little more information that needs to be shared with the public. Transparency is so important.

Without additional information such as enrollment projections and possible charter school and/or on-line educational opportunities that encourage families to utilize school choice as an additional revenue enhancement, we feel that the referendum questions are premature. There is still time to address and answer our questions prior to placing a referendum on the general ,election ballot.

Until more information is presented on enrollment trends and achievement scores I could not support any referendum. To bond for more money just because the high school debt is going away is the wrong reason to borrow more money. The need for new money needs to be WELL justified, not just because the old debt is being retired. I've not seen or heard anything about what school facilities will be needed based on enrollment trends. Is it time to start consolidating schools if the enrollments are dropping.

Hold public meetings to communicate what each school is in need of and get suggestions to prioritize what should be addressed

## Respondents expressed concern with any impact on taxes.

This is an opportunity for the school district to try to save the taxpayers some money. Reinvestment into the school structures is not necessary.

In this economy we can't handle a tax increase.

Seems to me that being debt free will provide funds for repairs, updates, etc. Without needing more from the taxpayers at this time.

The taxpayer has bills too along with household budgets. A tax increase will burden the true middle class district taxpayer. A family needs to have a good budget and does not have the ability to ask others for more money like the district can ask the taxpayer.

We have just paid off the last referendum, why rush into another one? Give the taxpayers a break. When you make your last car payment do you rush out and buy a new car just so you can keep the same payment? It doesn't make any sense to do that but with referendum you seem to think it a right!

Take advantage of all State and Federal Assistance programs before pursuing a referendum. Especially, the security systems for each school. Don't spend local taxpayer money if the Federal or State government will be providing funding for these programs.

Additional money from taxpayers is not needed, ESPECIALLY as enrollment is trending DOWN, which means the need for fewer staff.

use the money you have wisely. NO MORE tax money.

We pay enough in property taxes. You're educated adults, be creative and find ways to cover these expenses. I work for a living to pay off my mortgage and keep my home properly maintained. I can't create a "referendum" to raise money for these expenses. Why is it acceptable to ask taxpayers for more money?

In Wisconsin the local and state taxes are high enough, and you have a generous budget to work with. Learn to live within your means.

Each year local and state tax payers fund the running of schools live within your means!

The total cost outlined is up to \$145 million. The financial background session indicated \$68 million available with no tax increase. It would appear that a tax increase is required to achieve all of these items. Some of the items indicated should be covered through the normal annual operating budget.

I am not sure I can support more tax hikes without the city and county looking at spending and find reductions in property taxes for us. I do believe keeping the schools up is paramount. However our taxes are inordinately high to begin with