

TO: Trustees of the Wallington Board of Education
From: Public Relations Committee, (Mr. Brynczka, Mrs. Calabrese, Mr. Ristovski)
CC: James J. Albro, Superintendent of Schools
Re: School Facility Survey Report
Date: March 22, 2018

Introduction:

The following report is intended to provide a summary of the results of the recently completed School Facility Survey. It is hoped that this report will generate further discussion and potential action on this very important topic.

Overview:

The Wallington Public Schools instituted a survey of educational stakeholders within the Borough of Wallington. The intended purpose of this survey was to gather information on the dispositions of stakeholders on the possibility of new construction within the public school district. The survey was designed to include general questions that measured some demographic information about the respondents as well as their opinions on a number of questions about the school district as well as the possibility of new construction.

Survey Instrument:

The survey was posted online through the Wallington Board of Education website (www.wboe.org) and the Wallington Public School Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/wallingtonps). The survey was also linked to the Borough of Wallington website (www.wallingtonnj.org). Respondents were able to log into the survey to answer the questions from January 15, 2018 through February 5, 2018. This report references those responses.

Report on Responses:

- Of the responses collected, 46.63% identified as "Parent with school-aged child", with the remaining percentages identifying as "Student, Staff, or Borough resident - not affiliated with schools"
- For "Parents with school-aged child" respondents, the survey further delineated the schools to which the children attend as follows: 5.37% out of district, 11.99% Jefferson Annex, 17.71% FW Gavlak, 21.29% Wallington Jr/Sr High School. (Keep in mind that some parents have multiple children in different placements.)

- Respondents were asked if they own or rent their homes. For the residents that responded, they identified as: 53.37% “I own my home”, and 26.98% “I rent my home”. The remaining percentage of 19.64% identified as “I am not a resident of Wallington” (primarily attributable to staff living outside of the Borough)
- A question was asked about the general impression of the conditions of the district facilities. 3.17% “No opinion”, 14.68% “Positive”, 55.36% “Mixed”, 26.79% “Negative”.
- Respondents were asked to offer their opinion as to whether new construction of a school facility was needed in Wallington, to which they responded: 80.72% “Yes”, 14.71% “No”, and 4.57% “No Opinion”
- For those who responded that they believed that there needed to be construction of a new school facility, reasons selected included: “New construction brings new opportunities for education” 13.74%, “Our facilities are old” 14.20%, “New construction would ease crowding in our schools” 15.13%, “Our facilities are outdated at least in some buildings” 19.44%, “All of the above” 37.49%.
- Responses varied as to the kind of facility respondents would like to see constructed, as follows: “Middle Grades” 14.29%, “Jr/Sr High School” 20.63%, “Traditional High School” 25.60%, and “Elementary School” 39.48%
- Regarding possible locations for a new school facility: 46.81% chose to utilize the current Jefferson School property, while 53.19% indicated they would utilize locations other than the current Jefferson School property.
- Respondents were asked to select a response that they identify as the greatest obstacle to any new school construction. The responded: 2.98% “Other”, 9.13% “Coming up with the right design and grade configuration”, 13.49% “Finding the right location in town”, 25.79% “Gathering support for a referendum vote to support the new school”, 48.61% “The tax burden on the homeowners”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wallington Board of Education - Public Relations Committee
 (Mr. Brynczka, Mrs. Calabrese, Mr. Ristovski)