

Report for FerndaleBondTaskForce1

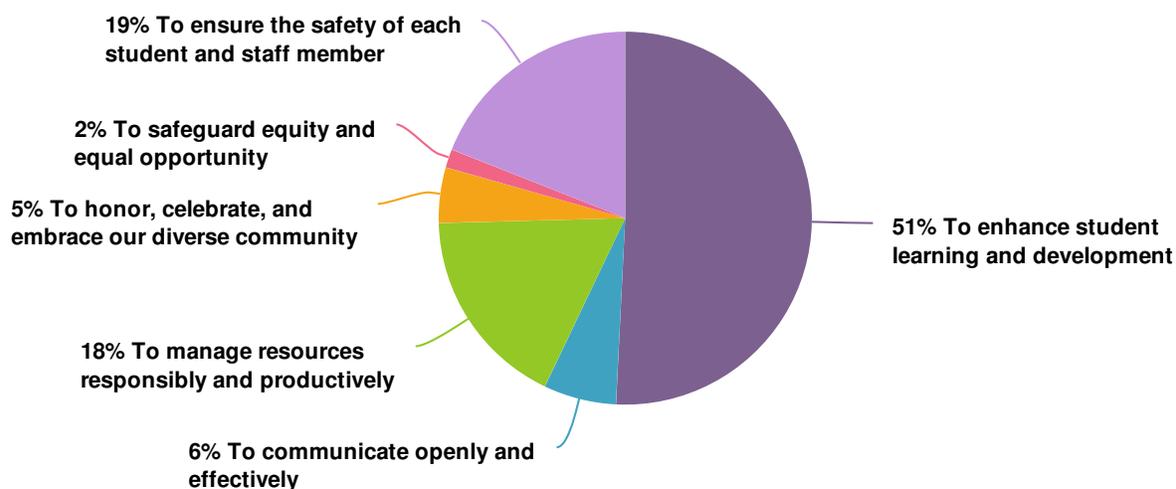
Complete



65

Totals: 65

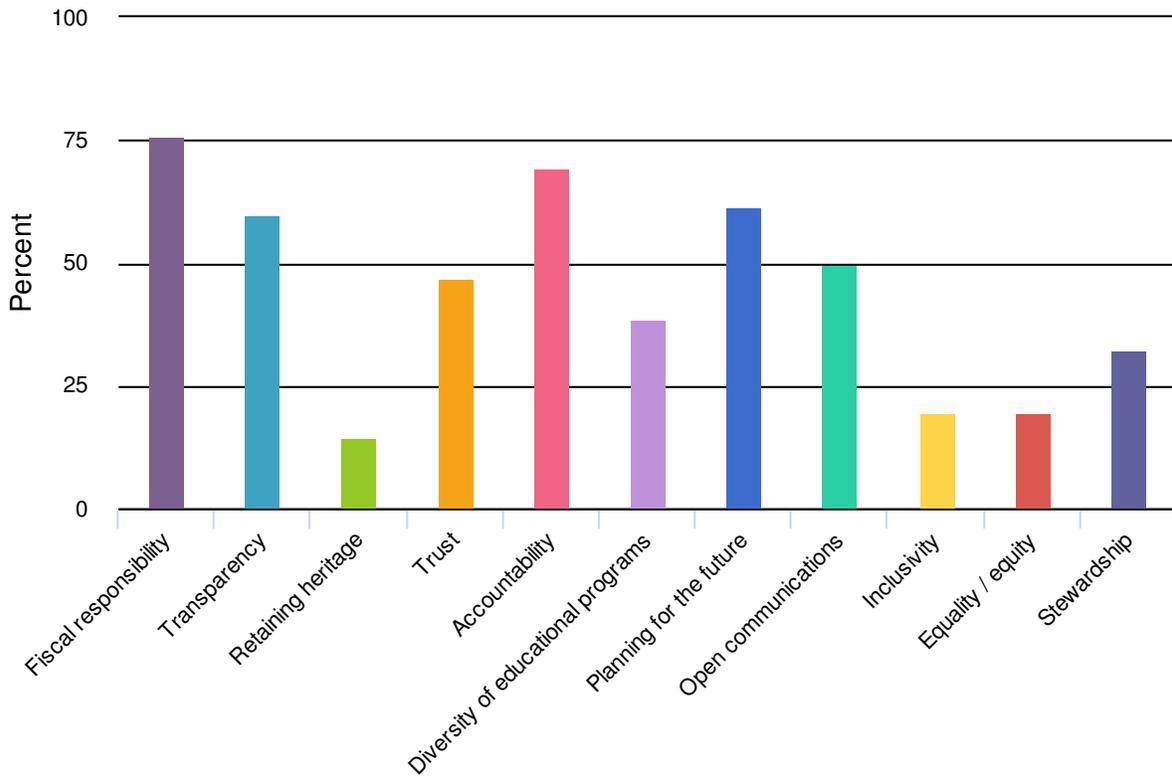
1. What is most important to you when it comes to education? (select one)



Value	Percent	Responses
To enhance student learning and development	50.8%	32
To communicate openly and effectively	6.3%	4
To manage resources responsibly and productively	17.5%	11
To honor, celebrate, and embrace our diverse community	4.8%	3
To safeguard equity and equal opportunity	1.6%	1
To ensure the safety of each student and staff member	19.0%	12

Totals: 63

2. What principles do you think should guide Ferndale School District's facilities decisions? (select all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Fiscal responsibility	75.8%	47
Transparency	59.7%	37
Retaining heritage	14.5%	9
Trust	46.8%	29
Accountability	69.4%	43
Diversity of educational programs	38.7%	24
Planning for the future	61.3%	38
Open communications	50.0%	31
Inclusivity	19.4%	12
Equality / equity	19.4%	12
Stewardship	32.3%	20

3. Any additional comments you'd like to share with the Task Force? (Please note that comments will be provided directly to Task Force members. Comments will not be posted to the District website and you will not receive a direct response to your comments.)

ResponseID Response

6 Thank you for your diligence in seeking improvement to our schools for the sake of our youth and community. I look forward to following this process. I have been in favor of a new high school from the beginning, but I understand why the costs seemed overwhelming to many. This process brings hope that a solution will be found! My children are graduates of the Ferndale schools, I serve as a substitute teacher in the district, and I have come to the conclusion that Ferndale needs these improvements for our students and community. Kerry McElfresh

8 What is the "CSG's Comprehensive Assessment of Assets"? There are other hyperlinks throughout this document, why isn't this presented here? This page appears to state that you are in the "first step," learning about the current conditions and needs." How can you run a bond request when you are still in the learning stages? Either you have a handle on the problems or you don't. If you do know what the problems are, then you aren't at the first step, right? Then where is the list? After looking through this information, there seems to be a missing issue: What about maintenance issues? During the 2009 bond measure campaign, there was considerable discussion about the various district facilities and the conditions of those facilities. We met at Horizon Middle School as I recall and were treated to a discussion that revealed that Horizon, at that point in time, scored about 80% in terms of deterioration. More importantly, that rating was not based on the age, but the deferred maintenance. Where is that discussion now? As I recall, there was much discussion about how the unionized maintenance workers were paid at substantially higher wages and the Administration at the time stated that they didn't want such highly paid employees working at menial jobs - jobs that, when pressed, including routine maintenance that was directly attributable to damage at North Bellingham, Custer, and other facilities. The missing link in all of this is the resolution of issues identified in the prior bond measures. There are many in the community that remember those discussions and did not receive satisfactory responses . . . ever. Thinking to the children in the facilities that were being discussed at that time, here we are eight years later having the same discussion and middle-school students have since graduated from the district and those in elementary school at the time are preparing for high school or graduation. The bond measure in 2009 was presented as an emergency. Here we are eight years later having the same discussion.

11 I do not want to see chandeliers, fire places, pizza hut, lounges, couches for lounging, etc. Be respectful with our money. Students are there to learn not to have a club house. After seeing Cascadia we voted NO for the school bond. We have lost trust . Please do not do the same to the voter that was done before. I want to see plans for what is going to be done. No blank checks. Many people I have talked to about the bond last time feel the same way I do.

13 When were most recent updates/remodels? Why did we choose not to share those years? I feel that gives helpful information. Sharing inclusively what's being discussed, researched, and planned for MUST include voters that are not on social media, that no longer attend district functions(are out of the loop), or that hold a grudge for the closing of Mountain View or North Bellingham elementaries. You are doing good work but there are voters that are not interested in learning about it and will vote it down unless we reach them.

ResponseID Response

15 I think the money should be hundred percent allocated to building a new high school. We need to think long-term about how many students will be there in the next 10 years. The new facility (or remodeled facility) should be able to more than adequately accommodate the projected numbers of students. Personally, I would love to see Ferndale consider having two smaller high schools rather than one massive one. But if that is not an option, I would like to see the money directed to renovating or rebuilding Ferndale high school and making it much larger to accommodate all students and future students.

16 Ferndale needs a new high school but if the vision for another high school is not shared by this task force, it should strongly consider major renovations to the existing high school building. The current size will not adequately accommodate the future growth that Ferndale is going to experience in the coming years. Please take as long as the Rojsza's on the "Clock Tower" or be as haphazard with the process. Our next generation deserves a quality school.

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21 1. Both questions should have an option of "other", with a field for individual comments. 2. Most important when it comes to education is the educators themselves. Having the necessary materials and up to date materials and textbooks. Having an assistant so Skyward can be used as designed and fully. 3. principles to guide the decision is to listen to the taxpayers, and understand the circumstances that are unique to Ferndale tax base. Stop thinking that a new building is the only solution. Explain why buildings are sitting empty...

24 Explain to people why you sold property that was meant for a new school to be built on.

28 It is time Ferndale school district looks at building two high schools. Having one high school doesn't serve the needs of enough students.

29 I saw pictures of FHS, Vista, and Skyline on the website. Are these the only facilities being considered for bond money? The Transportation facility is in need of some improvements and repairs. Once the bond passes, will there be any money available for other facilities, like Transportation, or will the money be earmarked and designated to those 3 facilities only?

ResponseID Response

36	<p>For the love of Ferndale please put in a new full size high school. That has a garden and a sustainability program. That shares the future of STEM or STEAM ideals. Creating jobs that are in inline with our community but also the future. But also a parking lot big enough for sporting events and the outside community to join you. I love Ferndale and I really love that there is this sense of community. My favorite thing about moving to Ferndale from Bellingham is that there is Holiday music and holidays celebrated. We could do better for these kids, we know this city is going to grow but we also don't want to over-plan. I for one would be intimidated if I walked into a high school with 1499 other people. Heck a meeting of 30 has me overwhelmed. It needs to become bigger, warm and inviting. Not cold and trying to run from one side to the other. Also, flat roofs have water problems. Think logistically. These kids shouldn't be soaked on when it rains. The same goes for Skyline. Please fix our schools. It starts with knowing that 1500 kids is a lot in one facility built in the 70's. It needs to be rebuilt soon.</p>
39	<p>Please work on building a new highschool ASAP. Our current highschool is unsafe for students and teachers. The ongoing lack of heat problems as well as the ant, rat and leaking going on at the highschool has become more than a uncomfortable situation. It is now a distraction to the learning environment. FHS is supposed to represent "PRIDE" however people feel nothing but shame when they walk through our deteriorating hallways. Let's step it up, our students and staff deserve more than this.</p>
40	BRING WINDWARD BACK.
41	<p>Windward is also part of the Ferndale School District, they were not an alternative school. However, the School District did absolutely nothing to convince the community otherwise. All of those who were hurt by this heartless decision will remember it. Linda Quinn, I hope you feel ashamed of yourself, if you don't remember, you promised the entire school that it would be taken care of no matter what. You said that we would get a new school where the old school was standing, or a new school somewhere else. You broke that promise. With this bond, I hope you put this money to good use so the students at least at one high school won't have to suffer anymore.</p>
42	<p>In response to the 1st question. I think all of those things are important. Obviously when it comes to education, educating is key. Both all of those other things are very important. In terms of the bond specifically....I am in favor of a new bond measure and hope that what is proposed will pass. I am afraid this district will start to lose it's teachers if we can't as a community provide some funding for updated facilities. Thank you for your hard work.</p>

ResponseID Response

47 The school is falling apart. The maintenance of it has gone down the tubes. The track is unusable even. What happened to Ferndale pride city wide? A new school is needed but fiscal responsible should be paramount. Not just some trophy-place. Money is tight and the district needs to tighten their own before spending others.

49 Ferndale High School is so run down it is unsafe and falling apart. There is holes in the classrooms that students can fall through. The old school building where the library is located in that hallway and the classrooms have no fire sprinklers. There is rat and ant problems and I think we just need a new school all together. The heating system is so outdated. They still have the same heating from when they built the school. The school is either very cold or very hot there is no in between and it also takes a very long time to heat up.

50 My gut test of any revenue request is how reasonable is it. Looking through the links do not provide much in the way of financial information, therefore, that should be a priority of 'making the case'.for higher taxes. A simple graph showing all capex and all opex going back 10 years would provide enough data to see what trends have taken place. How much revenue is expected from various laws recently enacted would be another question I would need answered prior to increasing local revenues. Those are my two biggies, and of many other voters.

52 Thank you to each of you for taking on this responsibility on behalf of the Ferndale community - it is immense. I have no concerns with the approach that is being taken to gather feedback from the community and use that to formulate recommendations to the school board; the strategy makes sense. My primary concern is not directly related to the work you are doing; my concern is that the existing school board faces a significantly negative perception challenge related to past actions including how funds have been spent on various school projects in the past 10 years. I moved to Ferndale in 2007 and have seen a consistent, recurring theme around mistrust related to this past spending, and in a community of our size that will continue to prove extremely challenging to any bond measure - I am fearful that the likelihood of success for any proposed bond is low, based on the 2014 bond failure and the strong negative sentiment that is still evident. I encourage the task force to recommend the school board take a proactive stance on this issue and directly address the logic behind the past spending, as anything less than a direct response will allow this public sentiment to continue to impede the progress that we need to make - in the form of a successful bond - to improve our schools and the experience of the students in them. Thanks - you may contact me directly with any clarifying questions as needed. Joel Saxman, 360-224-0850, jsaxman12@hotmail.com

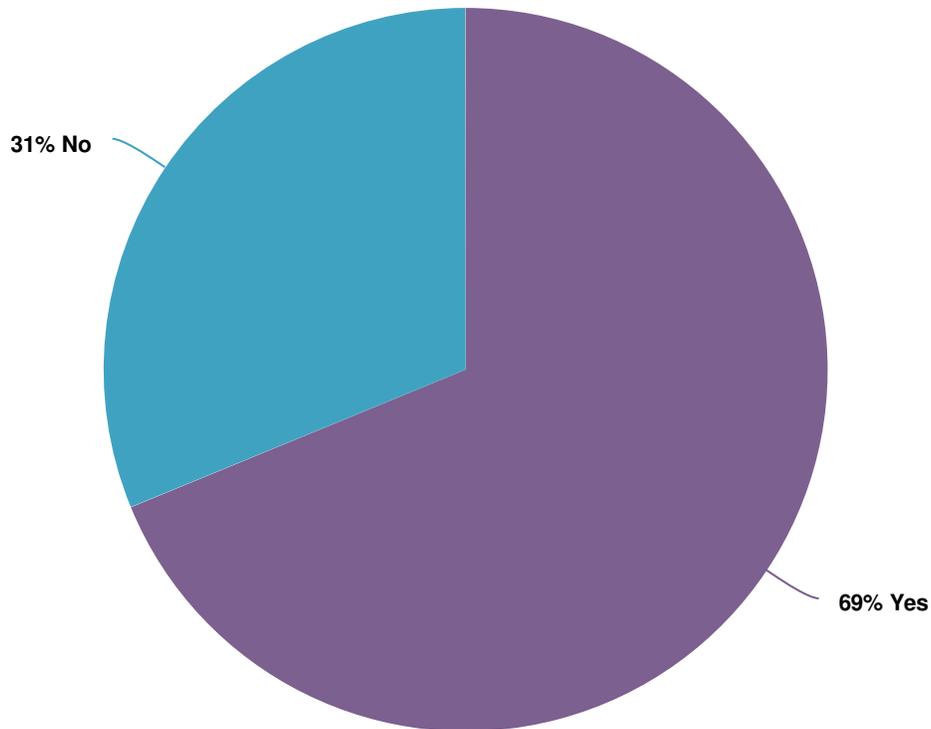
Report for FerndaleBondTaskForce2

Response Counts



Totals: 97

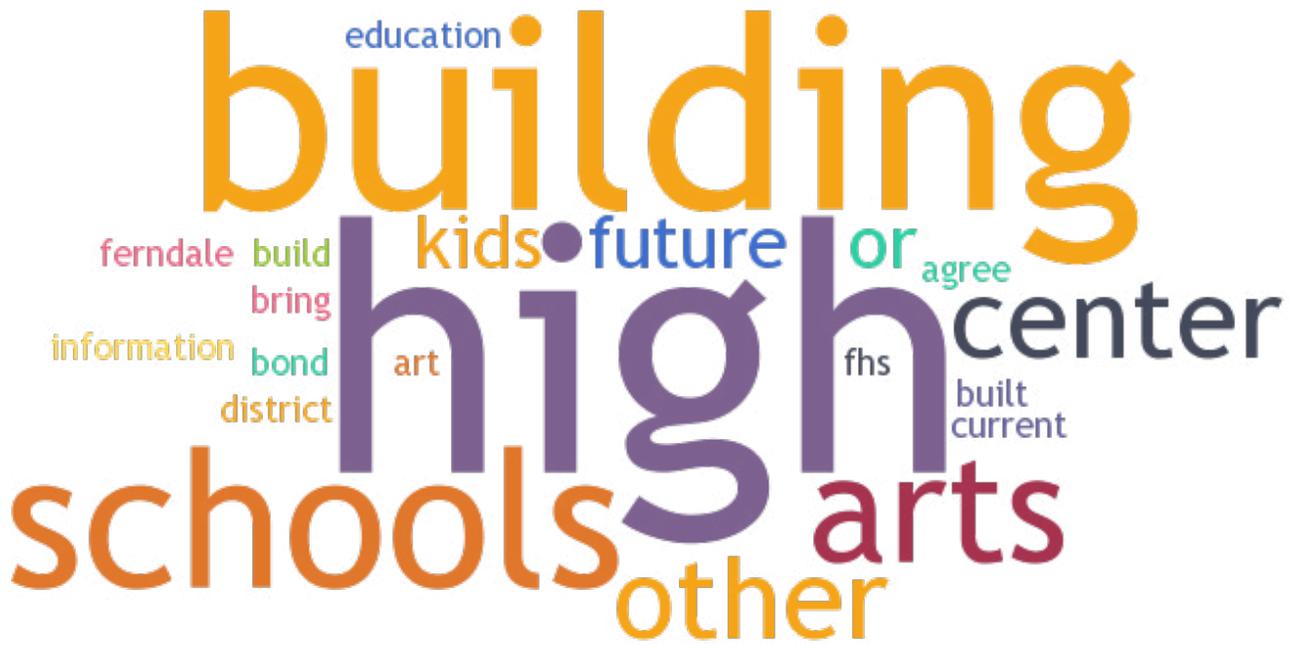
1. We believe our community and our children need and deserve a high school they can be proud of, that provides for educational excellence, and supports the future success of our students through programs such as Career and Technical Education (CTE) as well as Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. We believe providing a new high school at the current Ferndale High School location, while keeping and updating our current Performing Arts Center, will meet those needs. Do you agree?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	68.8%	64
No	31.2%	29

Totals: 93

2. Comment



Count	Response
1	Bring back Wood, Metal and Auto shop. Home education would be nice as well.
1	But not at the price range and tax rate you are proposing. You can do it for much less \$.
1	But only if it is cost effective and makes practical sense in keeping the one building.
1	Ferndale population is growing at an unprecedented rate due to many factors. Families with kids that will attend Ferndale schools are moving to and building in Ferndale. Our schools are already becoming overcrowded and will eventually burst if the district does not prepare for this. My hope is that as the homeowners become shareholders they will approve these bonds to allow for a better and safer state of the art schools.
1	Fix the current building.. Use vacant buildings to add curriculum. Use Mt. View and Windward.
1	Huh? Updating the performing art center will meet these needs?? How about bring back automotive class.
1	I actually think a new PAC and gym are essential too. I was super impressed with Chiawana high school in Pasco, WA. Are we going to take a look at other schools built recently that are our similar size?

Count Response

1	I agree that the current high school property is the best choice to build a new high school but please tell us why exactly the cafeteria and weight room have to be removed.. Those are in just as good as shape as the Performing Arts Center. At the same time what did the renovations do in 2007 that has caused the gym to be in such poor state?? What about those 5 classrooms that were built in 1999, could they be reused to help save some money??
1	I agree we need a new, modernized high school. I love the Performing Arts Center, and I would love to keep it. However, I have some concerns: 1) I've heard there are groundwater problems at the PAC. Is this going to require major repairs and maintenance in the near future anyway? 2) It's too small. At some of the events, people have to stand in the back because its so packed. If we keep the PAC, then it would be as a second performing arts center. 3) Voters need to see something they can get excited about. The new PAC should be an attraction for the entire county and a center of the community. Much like the Mt. Baker Theater, there would be concerts and other events every weekend featuring local and touring bands and other performers, in addition to student performances. The entrepreneur club and other students would organize the events and be the employees. Tickets and concession sales would generate revenue and bring in money from outside our community. Everybody wins.
1	I am concerned that the Performing Arts Center may not be able to meet community needs in the future. The auditorium has flooded in the past during heavy rains (water leaks in from the flooring). The auditorium needs a true orchestra pit. The auditorium needs to hold more seats. Additional room is needed back stage for prop storage. We have a fantastic drama and music program - the students and community deserve a facility that matches.
1	I believe Ferndale needs two high schools.
1	I believe our students and community need this, but I am not sure they deserve it. I am not sure that providing a new High school will allow FHS to maintain or advance CTE, Science Math and Art. The building is a means but not the only provider in the whole piece of education. Meaning...FHS still needs Teachable students, teachers and support staff and resources. Providing a NEW building is not a guarantee for success. We have had new buildings in our district in the past and those buildings were built with flaws and imperfections.
1	I do not think saving anything else makes any sense. Also, it seems like it would be very disruptive to try to build where kids are trying to go to class.
1	I don't think we need to spend twice as much on a performing arts center as we do on security for all our schools. We have a nice performing arts center I can't imagine needing to spend 2million dollars on renovating it while only allocating 1 million to all the schools security.

Count Response

1	I support the idea for a new high school, but I think it should be a priority for the district to provide a smaller choice high school for students that would benefit from a smaller community.
1	I would like to know what would be updated.
1	I would like to see two high schools. Bigger schools don't serve students as well in my opinion.
1	Planning for the future is something we need. We need a secure campus, and a stadium and track that can host all county events. Ferndale is on the map for several reasons and we have had Amazing athletes go through FHS in Football, wresting, basketball and track. We can't change the past but we can plan for the future. I believe our new High school should happen in phases. I do not believe North a Bellingham renovation should be on this bond.
1	Possibly agree. I'm trying to find more information on the cost details for your recommendation. At approximately \$110 million, I was hoping to find some specific breakdowns of what the project includes and the future vision for the facility. Perhaps I missed something. I'm sure a few other people have had similar questions. Thanks!
1	Pretty loaded question considering the history of FSD not doing what a bond was approved for. I will need more information to give this a yes, like a price.
1	Remodel the original Old Main building, demolish the rest and rebuild. There is too much history and tradition in the Old Main building to tear it down.
1	Students need more options at FHS. CTE, the Arts, and STEM are paramount and keep students interested, engaged, and create goals for post-secondary plans. Our school also needs a separate building to house our other options (Soar Program, Virtual Academy, etc) for those students that need a smaller learning environment in order to keep out students engaged and on track for graduation. This is something very important as we are losing kids based on the size and space of our school--think Options High School.
1	The auditorium is not large enough currently and we will still have a separate building which is more concerning in regards to safety and security. Why keep it at all?
1	These questions are grotesquely leading. So typical of this arrogant organization. Sorry. We are not that stupid.

Count Response

1 This is a very "qualified" no response. Words have meaning, so I'm focusing on the use of the word "proud" in the context provided in the statement. I believe the "pride" should result from the caliber of students our schools produce rather than the building itself. Without a doubt, the school should be inspiring our youth to achieve excellence in the sciences and arts as well as preparing them for higher education or trade school based on each student's unique goals. There should be a focused effort toward form following function in that if we focus in the instruction, tools, and resources required for excellence, the appropriate form of the building should flow naturally out of that discussion. I am skeptical that the current building, even extensively remodeled, fits this goal. The PAC is a great venue and should be retained, together with the iconic facade of Main Hall. Otherwise, all options should be on the table.

1 Vote no!

1 We need 2 high Schools or we will have a growth problem in the next 5 years. We need to be a 2A school

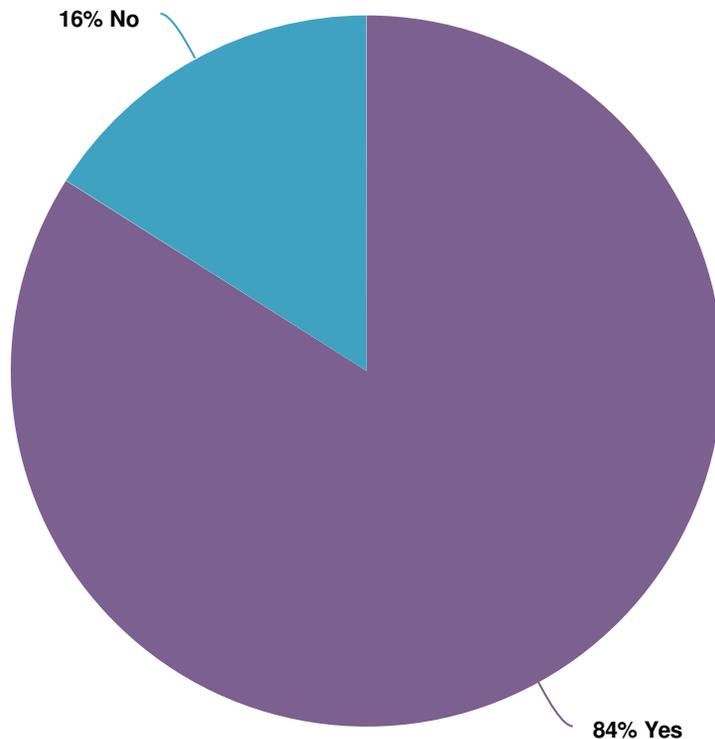
1 We need a Second high School.

1 What about remodeling north Bellingham elementary????

1 What ever you do keep it simple. These kids don't need a fancy building. What they do need is a safe place to walk into where their only concern is their school work. Make it so if we need to add on down the road we can do so easily. Why can't we build something like the church on Northwest? That church has been there for 10+ years and you would never know. Why can't we start using the same plans from one school to another or looking at other plans from around the state? Pasco uses the same design from one school to another. Brilliant! Save us taxpayers money wherever you can. Be resourceful! The more money you can save the taxpayers and share that information with the voters the more likely this bond is to pass. Pretend this is your personal check book and the we as voters are asking you to pay for it. One last comment, I want to thank all of you for volunteering to do this project. I know you gave up time with your families to do this for your community and and I appreciate it great

1 Yes, we need a safer more secure school facilities

3. We also believe there are urgent facilities needs at other schools in the district that must be taken care of now to: 1) increase the safety and security of our schools; 2) reduce maintenance and utility expenses from maintaining old, inefficient and worn-out equipment; 3) provide warm and dry buildings for all our students and staff. Do you agree?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes		84.0%	79
No		16.0%	15
			Totals: 94

4. Comment



Count	Response
1	100 percent agree with #3. For non-high school related projects: What is the life span of these upgrades? If all key systems are replaced at once, in 5 or 10 years will we be in a similar situation where the District is requesting a very large sum of money to make changes at all buildings instead of staggering the upgrades. #2 really depends on the costs. Spending \$5 mil next year (could be any dollar amount) to upgrade old systems may not be worth it if the building needs to be replaced in 5 years. Need more data here on the scope of work and what cost savings are likely to be realized
1	Although concerned that much of this is deferred maintenance that should have been done all along.
1	Deferred maintenance was a large topic of discussion in prior bond efforts. Streamlining operational needs and working to ensure that routine maintenance is conducted in a timely manner and efficiently should be a priority for this group. It does nothing to build a new school and then stand by as it slowly returns to the earth.
1	However, the high school is my #1 priority. That will free up funds to do some other projects down the road.
1	I am a proponent of an elementary school site at North Bellingham. Ferndale students would be better served by less bussing in smaller neighborhood schools with librarians and small classes. As a matter of fact, I would be a stronger advocate of that than a new high school! I digress. I think there is a risk in combining bond issues. You have three separate proposals here. 1. Upkeep 2. High School 3. North Bellingham Instead of winner or loser takes all, keep them separate. The community may have different feelings about each proposal. Or may only be willing to fund one or two.

Count Response

1	I believe that our district has several aging buildings that need attention. I believe a poll should be taken, to prioritize needs. I believe wants and needs are definitely different. Why should our newest district buildings get major upgrades and renovations. Only building older than 30 yrs should be included in this bond.
1	I highly disagree with some of the security options being discussed. Has there been discussion to remove some of the security recommendations?? What other school district has spent \$14,000 for a glass enclosure at Reception counter of the administration building with locking operable transaction window?? I don't mind saying it but what a waste of tax dollars.. Its not like the district office is a bank or a police station (but then again, I can't think of any banks in Whatcom County that has a glass enclosure). What about Skyline?? Shouldn't skyline deserve a glass enclosure because of how a person walks into the office? On a note about North Bellingham. If the school is re-activated are the current Early Kindergarten, Ferndale Family Connections, and Head Start programs going to stay at North Bellingham or will these be relocated?? I am also puzzled at why the school district possibly considering spending more money to fix North Bellingham when Mt. View appears to be
1	I know for sure that we have buildings in our district that are currently being used that need: New Roof, New HVAC system, Windows and proper security. That being said, we have buildings that are not being used that need to be torn down and rebuilt. We have remodeled buildings over the years just to try to bring them up to a current level of acceptance, without planning for the future.
1	I think it is way too confusing for people and if there is any part of it they disagree with, it could be a no vote for the whole thing. The primary goal is the high school, that is where the focus needs to be. Get this bond passed and it will free up a lot of the maintenance budget to start on other projects. The HS is the common denominator for everyone.
1	Intentionally allowing buildings to fall into disrepair in order to manipulate taxpayers into voting yes is not appreciated.
1	It's not that I don't think our schools need to be updated. I don't see North Bellingham included and that's a deal breaker for me.
1	Please look into the anti-school shooter technology around the country, there are systems in place that may be pricey but safety of these kids is priceless.
1	Read comment to question #1.

Count Response

1 Safety-blinds on windows don't work, building spaces aren't secure, doors don't lock. Maintenance-heat is not maintained consistently throughout the buildings-some rooms very hot, some very cold. Leaks in buildings.

1 Security and proper heating/cooling is a priority.

1 There are existing budgets that should cover most of these concerns.

1 Video's of rats and rat droppings in the high school.....probably same all schools.

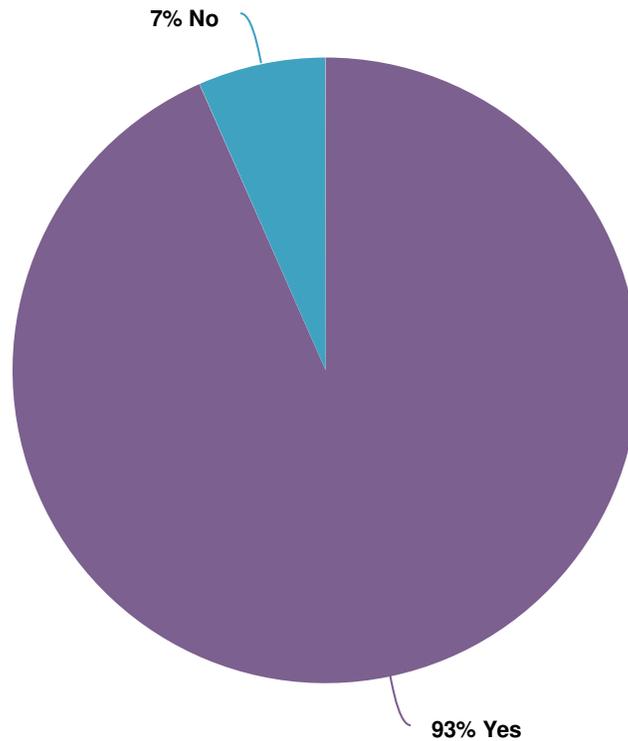
1 Vote no!

1 What does it mean to increase the safety of our schools? I do not support the addition of armed guards at schools or making additional guns present. This has been shown to be not effective.

1 Yes about replacing old equipment but if we are talking safety of children, metal detectors and martial arts taught as an option for physical education.

1 Yes, I agree increases safety and security at all operational schools.

5. We believe accountability to the community is very important. We will recommend the District establish a Community Oversight Committee. This committee will monitor and work with the district to ensure bond funds are spent according to what is detailed in the bond package, and that all projects are implemented as planned. Do you agree?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	93.4%	85
No	6.6%	6

Totals: 91

6. Comment



Count	Response
1	Absolutely! There is a huge trust issue going on. This might help. And it might not be enough.
1	Accountability begins with communication. It is very important to communicate with, and care for staff who are being impacted with these choices. Clear caring communication takes little time and goes a very long way. It is my understanding that adding it would be brand new for some of your valued staff. All staff, especially ALL who are being affected, will help your bond proposal to go in a more positive direction. With that said, keeping that same communication with our Ferndale community is paramount.
1	Accountability is always important.
1	After this years tax assessments on our property, we cannot afford any more increases in our taxes. They went up far more than any cost of living raise or cut in taxes. We are trying to retire in our family home, please don't price us out of it!
1	As a voter I need to see that the district will provide a very detailed plan on the renovations they are looking to accomplish on this next bond. I already pay a substantial amount of money for property taxes designated for local and state funding and when looking around at the condition of all these schools it makes me wonder where is my money going. I realize plans change once a project begins, but my trust in believing that you will do what you are asking voters to pass makes me think twice since it has happened before.
1	As long as it is volunteer.

Count Response

1	As long as there is a penalty imposed for exceeding budgets and tax levies are not used to fund obsolete programs.
1	Bond versus Levy? Tax our land or tax our goods
1	Concerning North Bellingham School: please rename it. This is Ferndale, not Bellingham.
1	I believe in an oversight committee. However, I don't see the issues I want in a bond measure.
1	I believe it is very important to have knowledgeable community members on this committee.
1	I trust the district and task force. If they think an oversight committee is needed that's fine.
1	I was hoping the bond task force would be focused on finding solutions to the District's inability to pass bond proposals. Instead, it's been focused on what the District already knows: facilities conditions and what needs to be repaired or replaced. Establishing a Community Oversight Committee is the only recommendation that addresses the real problem.
1	Isn't this something that project management and/or those overseeing the contracts would be required to do as part of the project?
1	Its pretty sad that this is even needed!
1	That is a good idea. As a taxpayer, I still don't like how the technology funds have been allocated and used. It's A LOT of money for a very important cause and needs to be used efficiently and effectively.
1	The COC needs to be active before a multi-million dollar bond is ever proposed.
1	The community has not always been aware of how funds are actually spent. I believe plans changed in the past because new issues in buildings were disclosed and took priority. What if one of our really old buildings is discovered to have major issues and need immediate attention? When a select few make all the decisions, the majority is bound to have concerns.
1	These projects need to be implemented as planned and accountability is if utmost importance. If other needs become necessary, then future bonds will need to take care of those needs.

Count Response

1	This is critical to getting community buy-in.
1	This responsibility should be a priority for the District's Board if Directors and top administration. Together, those two entities already have responsibility and authority over the day-to-day operations in the district and should be held accountable at every step by the community. By all means, remain engaged in the governance process but don't require a formal organization to accomplish what is our existing civic duty! If we already do not believe that the current individuals have the ability to spend our hard earned resources appropriately, then the change needs to be in those who represent us and who perform this work, not creating another layer of bureaucracy.
1	Ultimately, we might need to change from an appointed superintendent to an elected superintendent. Otherwise, it's too easy for the school board and the superintendent to work for each other instead of the voters, resulting in a lack of accountability.
1	Vote no vote no vote no vote no on bond
1	Vote no!
1	What about north Bellingham elementary, it needs fixed and re opened!!
1	Where is the section about North Bellingham?
1	Will this committee be volunteers? Will t be hand picked by the school board, just like the task force committee? (A dishonest move)
1	Would they be background checked? What if a committee member committed fraud or bankruptcy? How are you making sure the committee doesn't become corrupt or misguided?
1	Yes, very important critical element!