

Results Summary of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District Community Survey

This document is intended to identify and represent the prevailing themes collected from the community survey. It would be helpful to view this document while scrolling through the survey results to gain a clearer picture of what choices respondents selected overall. Please note, a major theme is identified as a result of having multiple participants referencing similar issues or concerns.

Participation Rate- Total responses of 904 giving us a participation rate of 28% of surveys mailed is considered very high.

Communication- Generally, most respondents feel the District is doing a good job with communications, but some share suggestions for improvement. The most noted recommendation was to update and improve our District website. Note- The District is currently working on a new and improved website for the district. It is being constructed 'in the background' and should fully replace the current website before Christmas.

After the recent state commitment to fund education at \$200 more per student (categorical aid), the District budget for operating expenses is expected to be okay for this school year and the 2017-18 school year. Therefore, it is not necessary to pursue an operating referendum for at least two years.

Funding Support- Generally, respondents support the District pursuing a capital referendum to update and invest in the school buildings; however, it should focus on "needs not wants" and "academics before athletics."

Facility Funding- Respondents expressed support for updating building systems and improving security. Projects that demonstrated the most support include updating the technical education and agricultural classrooms, updating/replacing high school building systems and improving building security. Projects that demonstrated the least amount of support include athletic and music renovations and building a wing at the high school to serve the 7th and 8th grade students. Note- The District is working on a plan that will address those needs identified in the survey as reflecting the highest priority of respondents.

Funding to Support Facility Projects- Generally, respondents shared a willingness to support a plan that would address the District's greatest needs as reflected in the survey in the \$6 - \$10 million range. Tolerance for any capital project work above \$10 million tested low. Note- Only those items that cannot be addressed successfully within the existing and future general operating budget will be considered in a plan that would be presented to our taxpayers for potential referendum support.

It is with great appreciation that the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District sincerely thanks all of our stakeholders for your input and suggestions regarding the recent survey and continued support of our schools!