

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Matt Hillmann Ed.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for July 9, 2018, Regular School Board Meeting

VI. Consent Agenda

G. Personnel Items

a) Appointments

17. Jessica Levy, 1.0 FTE Special Education Resource Room Teacher at Bridgewater, beginning 08/27/2018; BA, Step 3 (2018-19)

18. Deborah Navarro, 1.0 FTE Special Education Resource Room Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 08/27/2018; MA, Step 14 (2018-19)

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

90. Brigid McCabe, Special Ed EA-PCA temporary for 30 hours/wk. with Headstart, change to Special Ed EA-PCA ongoing for 30 hours/wk. with Headstart, effective 08/27/2018.

c) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

6. Scott Wopata, Head Soccer Coach at the High School, resignation effective 06/21/2018.

e) Leave of Absence

1. Jennifer Allison, Family/Medical Leave of Absence for Childcare, effective 08/27/2018- for 8 work weeks.

**Conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check and Prework screening (if applicable)*

In June of 2018, Northfield Public School District engaged their community in a conversation about advancing elementary school facilities projects. Participants were invited to share thoughts, rate the thoughts of others and discover the results of the exchange.



1
Exchange

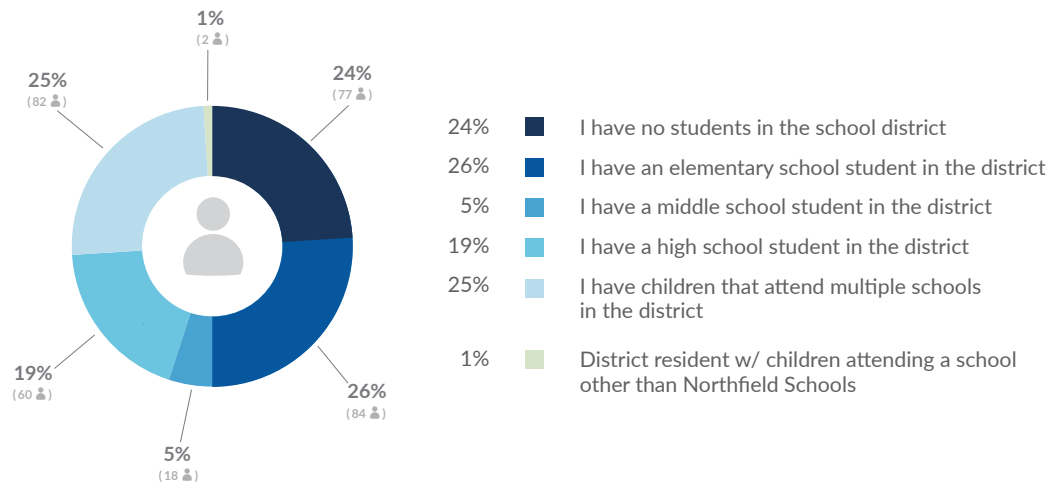
396
Participants

422
Thoughts added

13,453
Ratings added

Q: What are your thoughts and questions about the potential elementary school projects?

PARTICIPATION BY DEMOGRAPHIC



RESULTS

This report gives an overview of the hot topics and top conversations which emerged in the exchange. Hot topics are groups of thoughts considered interesting or highly engaging to groups of participants but may not be reflected in the top conversations. Top conversations consist of high-rated thoughts which are grouped together by topic.

HOT TOPICS

Two hot topics were identified. Hot topics are groups of thoughts that were rated high by one group of participants and rated low by another group, indicating areas of division.

HOT TOPIC 1

GROUP A

GROUP B

Participants in **GROUP A** rated these thoughts high and participants in **GROUP B** rated these thoughts low.

Let's do it!

The elementary school projects will help address the achievement gap. Providing greater access to early childhood education opportunities is the only way to help make sure every child has a strong start.

I support this 100%. It's important to support this because we want to allow a space for our students to learn and grow in a space that is set up for student success.

Participants in **GROUP B** rated these thoughts high and participants in **GROUP A** rated these thoughts low.

How will this project directly benefit students and how will that be measured? Due diligence is important! It cannot just be done because new buildings look nice. How does this directly improve a student's educational outcome?

You need to tell people why this is going to improve our students' performance. I read how Northfield performs on a state level with other districts and they seem to do great without further building.

How do the proposed changes benefit kids specifically? Which kids, which grades, and which programs are enhanced? Again, what are the specific benefits to children and what/how they learn that flow from this proposal?

HOT TOPIC 2

GROUP C

GROUP D

Participants in **GROUP C** rated these thoughts high and participants in **GROUP D** rated these thoughts low.

Greenvale Park Elementary needs a new facility. The current facility is not conducive to learning and does not have the right mix of spaces to help every kid be their best. A new building is overdue.

Please build a new GVP as soon as possible - the entire early and elementary plan looks great. Greenvale is way past workable as a regular K-5 school.

I believe the Greenvale Park Elementary School is not set up effectively to support proper education. I do believe we need a new school there. The kids attending Greenvale Park Elementary School should get the same quality education (and facility) as the other two schools.

Participants in **GROUP D** rated these thoughts high and participants in **GROUP C** rated these thoughts low.

We are not interested in paying for this bond or any other. We are tired of paying for everyone with their hands out. Our taxes have gone up 60% because of 'voter approved levees' we never voted for all for the school districts. Ugh!

What are some ways this project can be funded without raising taxes? Taxes are becoming unaffordable!

Use the money you have now wisely. The school district needs to live within its means. You can't come to the taxpayers every year asking for a new bond referendum. No means no.

TOP CONVERSATIONS

The top five conversations are presented in descending order of number of thoughts and illustrated with high-rated participant thoughts from the exchange.

1 - TAX IMPACT

Retired, elderly, fixed income, lower income, upper income, working class, kids.

3.5 ★

33 

Why should kids come in last? They are the future. If people are honest with themselves, the cost is not as much as some claim. Ten bucks per month on a \$250k property. About \$7 on \$175k.

What is the individual tax implications for this proposal? Taxes already are high and raising even more just a year after the last referendum is hard.

3.2 ★

38 

2 - GREENVALE PARK

Everyone knows it, but it bears repeating: Greenvale Park needs a new building.

4.2 ★

17 

The teachers deserve a space that makes it easy to teach. Students deserve a space that makes it easy to learn.

Greenvale school is outdated and small. It should be replaced. It's important for the families on the north side of town to have a quality elementary building.

4.0 ★

25 

3 - FUNDING AND BUDGET

I'm grateful previous generations paid for my and my kids' education. It is my responsibility to do the same. The few additional dollars is ok. Nothing is free in life and we have civic and community responsibilities to make the world a better place. It starts locally.

3.6 ★ 34 

How will money be raised to repay the bonds? Is there existing money for debt repayment within the budget, or would taxes need to increase? It's important to know up front how today's financial decisions will affect the future.

3.5 ★ 34 

4 - SAFETY AND SECURITY

In light of school safety issues in our country, I believe having a safe, secure entry to our schools is very important. Student safety is of utmost importance.

3.9 ★ 35 

The elementary schools need to have the most current facilities, space and security. What we know about building schools has changed over time. We want our schools to support the best learning environments possible.

3.9 ★ 34 

5 - NEW HIGH SCHOOL

We also need a new high school! The current high school facility is in need of major repair.

3.3 ★ 33 

How long before you decide to build a new high school? Taxes will soon be out of control. How is anybody going to pay such high taxes?

3.3 ★ 40 

Click on the link to see full results of the exchange:
my.thoughtexchange.com/#403370904/discover