

Melrose – Mindoro School District

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Del DeBerg, *Superintendent of Schools*
608-488-2201 or 608-857-3417

Community Survey Shows Strong Support for School Referendum and Consolidation

Members of the Melrose-Mindoro School Board heard results Monday night from the recent community survey that gathered data on a potential school referendum. The survey asked citizens to provide feedback on if they would support the District moving towards a consolidated campus for all PreK-12 students or if updates and additions should occur at all three of the District's existing schools. The results showed that there was extremely strong support for the District to move towards consolidation.

"We know this is a community that supports education and supports our schools," shares Superintendent Del DeBerg. "As we look to the future we want to make sure that we are developing a plan that aligns with the priorities of our citizens."

The District received clear direction that 57% of survey respondents want to see a consolidated PreK-12th grade campus. The support broken down into sub groups is—82% support from staff members, 69% support from parents, and 41% support from the general community. "We know that parents and staff have a greater connection to the issues and the needs of the school, because they are in them," shares Sue Peterson of School Perceptions, the company that conducted the survey. "Therefore, it is critical we understand not only the priorities of those two groups, but also those citizens who are minimally connected to the schools on a daily basis."

The survey asked citizens to gauge their support for updates and additions at the Melrose and Mindoro buildings that serve students in PreK – 8th grade as well as Melrose-Mindoro High School. This plan was estimated to cost \$21.5 million and received minimal support from respondents. Only 32% of all survey respondents were in support of this option. The second option, to create a consolidated campus, at an estimated cost of \$27.5 million received majority support. Sixty percent of all respondents support this plan. The support broken down into sub groups is—84% support from staff, 72% support from parents, and 45% of the general community. "The reason for caution is due to the fact that the general community comprises of approximately 75% of the district's voters. The survey is telling us there is great support for the consolidated campus but we need to be aware of the overall cost of the project," commented DeBerg. "We are going to ask Market & Johnson as well as Bray Architects to see if there are any opportunities to find other cost savings."

“You had an excellent response rate with 33% (592 responses) of residents completing the survey,” shared Peterson. “We can say with confidence that your community believes it is in the District’s best interest to move toward consolidation and they are willing to financially support the District to make that happen.”

“We work hard to be prudent and responsible with our dollars afforded to us by our community,” shares DeBerg. “We know that we are asking citizens to reach into their pockets to support this project and by doing so there may be sacrifices that citizens and families have to make. But, this option will position the District to best meet the needs of our students and community for many years to come. We will also experience cost-savings and operating efficiencies while keeping kids at the forefront of all of our decisions if we can be in one location.”

The project calls for elementary and middle school additions to the high school and an addition to the existing kitchen and cafeteria. The high school could also receive updates to the science, English, band and choir classrooms as well as upgrades to the building’s plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems.

“We are so thankful for our community’s response to the survey as well as their support of our schools. This is what Mustang Pride is all about.”

For additional information, please contact Superintendent DeBerg at 608-488-2201 or 608-857-3417.

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