

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Security

Renovate or building new; competing values

What is most important about this topic to you?

- There needs to be at least 2 people in the front office at all times to greet visitors
- I would like to see a full-time security guard at each school
- No cops in school
- Fire drills / code reds at different times / unannounced
- Ensuring our kids are safe from harm
 - Keeping kids safe from gun violence
- Should renovate where necessary and reconstruct to meet current standards of newer buildings
- Visitor check-in to buildings – more secure – perhaps consider showing ID or using technology to print badges based on info on ID
- Jeffrey School classroom door by K-2 pick-up should always stay locked & doesn't
- No direct exterior doors into classrooms aka Jeffrey Room 7
- Keep common sense security measure – i.e. people there vs. exclusive reliance upon a “system” i.e. security cameras, special locks
- I don't want a prison. Locks on doors are great. You can't stop a terrorist and we shouldn't try to build a fortress with that in mind
- I want my child to be secure and to feel secure without feeling like they are in a prison or a fortress
- Building new buildings with high security but with lots of windows (so they don't look or feel like a prison)
- Spend dollars wisely – worried about investing in old buildings that will perpetually need improvements
- Highly secure, but not prison-like. Cameras linked to police station.
- Are we able to follow current recommendations for security
- Cost vs. new or renovated solution, planned life
- Continue ease of access to parents during school time
- The kids must have a safe environment to learn but this must include warm & welcoming environments
- Creating a secure / safe environment that does not create a sense of fear in our smallest kids – I do not like how so much of the elementary schools are accessible around most of the building
- No massive windows into classrooms from highly trafficked drop-off roads (ex: Jeffrey)
- Jeffrey school wall of windows
- Make windows more secure
- New / highly renovated buildings
- Classrooms that do not have direct door access to outside
- Utilize modern technology (build new)
- How do student get fresh air in (no a/c) without opening doors and windows?
- A/C so doors don't need to be propped open on hot days

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Security

Renovate or building new; competing values (cont'd.)

- Safe, but not prisons. Kids need natural light and want to see when the snow falls
- New traffic routes – safer. Fresh air, new h-vac. Energy efficient doors, windows. More resource officers.
- Double door entry
- Direct, controllable entry into school building
- Better visibility as to who is at the door
- Fenced playground
- No fenced playground – more nature time
- Ryerson playground location feels exposed
- Whatever the size of the school, security should be the top focus on ensuring schools are brought up to date
- Ensuring safety when/if buildings are multi-purpose (ex: voting days)
- I think we need better processes in place – I've been able to walk into buildings without checking in. So we need additional security
- Programs that teach and foster kindness and understanding starting at an early age
- Better communication among parents on issues they are seeing or hearing. Admin needs to know
- Balancing safety vs. positive learning experience for kids
- Encourage / incentivize. Trust & responsibility (don't militarize)

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- Keeping kids safe (2)
 - From gun violence (2)
 - Trauma to children/families & community (1)
- Provide real as well as perceived safety – for true peace of mind for parents
- Not being the next Sandy Hook
- Let's not teach fear
- SRO in all schools as we can budget for it – adds another trusted adult in the schools
- Playgrounds that cannot be accessed from parking lot (Ryerson playground)
- Adequate mental health services
- Not falling behind neighboring districts & their levels
- Building new is/was most cost effective
- New buildings will be more cost effective rather than retro-fit
- New buildings will help families feel like their children are getting a quality education (it will match curriculum – 21st century learning)
- Use modern building techniques to avoid tragedies
- Must have good security to create safe places and attract people to live in town
- As much control of entry / exit points as possible; equitable spending at all schools
- The town feels safe – having secure schools is important to everyone. No one wants something to happen that could have been prevented

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Security

Renovate or building new; competing values (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- Creating / maintaining a balance between public use of our schools & ensuring our students are safe
- Giving parents peace of mind sending their kids to school
- Sadly, people with bad intentions will find a way regardless of security.
- Ensuring a balance of security and access. Remember that no matter security – motivated “bad” actors will find a way
- Leaving the town with “moth balled” buildings
- Enroll community in safety measures & procedures (so frame is not just school safety, but town safety)
- Safety first. But that is more than just facilities. However, facilities that are safe are a MUST.
- Motion sensors on outdoor lighting

Additional Notes Taken

- SRO – Manware
- Immediate measures
 - Playground
- Sign-In (Access to building)
- Not a jail
- Exterior doors
- If someone wants to do harm, they will
- Emotional Safety / Bullying
 - Behavioral
- Educate Parents (see something, say something)

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Geography/Transportation/Equal Access and Quality **Ensuring all parts of town have their needs addressed**

What is most important about this topic to you?

- The North vs. South nonsense
- Proximity to local school
- Short bus ride
 - Keep rides as short as possible for all kids even if it means adding busses
 - That kids aren't on buses for too long
 - A school with safe and easy to travel bus routes
 - Length of bus ride / impact on learning
 - Length of time on bus (2)
 - Short bus rides / less than 30 minutes (4)
 - Prolonged bus routes have additional safety concerns (limited adult supervision, etc.) as well as prolonging the pre-educational period of the day. I would prioritize making this work for our youngest learners
 - Equal time on bus from North / South
 - Thoughtful bus routes
 - Similar bus travel times / safe pick up stops (close to homes)
- Safety / traffic conditions near school
- Consider sustainability with transportation
- Central location
- If more buses – then can be more centralized / short bus rides
- Small community elementary schools / shorter bus rides
- Design bus routes so that kids aren't waiting 20 minutes for bus to arrive after school
- Similar enrichment programs in elementary schools
- Sharing of ideas – PTO
- Current locations at all 5 schools are great. Putting all elementary near Hand would be a burden to North Madison families
- Centralized school zone around DHHS, Polson & Jeffrey
- When picked up first in the morning, should be dropped off first after school
- More streamlined & organized system for pick-up or drop off – chaotic & unsafe at times with bus/cars arriving at same location, small driveway
- Provide a closer alignment between Ryerson & Jeffrey. My child has attended both & they are pretty different
- School feels connected to “centers” of town (i.e. location doesn't feel “random”)
- An “elementary campus” could be very efficient – 2 schools sharing facilities in one place – aka Wilton
- Less kids / school = tighter community & shorter commute times. If the schools get too large, more resources need to be offered
- Fostering a sense of community so no one feels they are missing out
- Reduce Jeffrey vs. “lowly” Ryerson perception

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Geography/Transportation/Equal Access and Quality **Ensuring all parts of town have their needs addressed (cont'd.)**

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- Reasonable traffic patterns
- Traffic control around start & end times
- Minimizing bus traffic
- North Madison not left out
- Efficiency
- Geographically-appropriate schools
- Avoiding creation of animosity within town. Plan should be equitable. North + South = Madison
- Equal quality building and traffic time
- Fair and equal distance for all kids throughout entire town
- Cost (2)/ cost of bus routes
- Central location
- Concern over long bus rides & location of centralized school
- A school close to 95
- Avoid creation of have / have-nots
- Crazy idea: consider regionalization for North Madison (e.g. w/Durham?)
- Something north of Route 80
- Propose a comprehensive, not divisive plan that all residents can get behind (unlike the referendum)
- Not stopping every 40 feet on Route 79
- Equity of learning for ALL residents
- Keeping a downtown presence is important. It's the heart of the town, the hub of activity, and the location of at least one school for 100+ years. Consider building a new school to replace Academy.
- Equity in terms of what location serves the highest distribution of students, rather than just geographically centered

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

21st Century Learning Environments

Matching spaces to instructional approaches

What is most important about this topic to you?

- The desktop computers labs are becoming more obsolete. However, limiting students to Chromebooks limits what you can do with them. I believe it is a better investment to spend more money to purchase better laptops. The new Chromebooks in the high school will most likely phase out because they are lower quality and slower.
- Smaller, newer buildings / small class size
 - Smaller groups based on where the child is at the time
 - Class size less than 20 kids (2) / paras for each class
- Natural outdoor classrooms
- Abundant natural light
- Classrooms for each special like art, music and a science room and library that is large enough for the subject
- Flexible spaces / creative environment / meet a variety of learning styles / technology
- Continue to practice 21st Century & EL(?)
- 21st Century instructional tools / devices
- Trust the educators!
- Effective, student-centered learning
- Modern facilities use modern code to make special needs kids feel welcomed
 - Modern education spaces inspire student creativity / education training in technology
 - Buildings should reflect / compliment instruction and should be comparable to neighboring communities
 - I would like to see upgraded cafeterias, and HUGE libraries, gathering spaces, and computers, computers, computers!
- Crucial – for students, for town value, for America (not joking)
- New ways of thinking
- My kids deserve to be educated in a modern, safe and pleasant environment reflecting today's learning
- The classroom must match the program
- Teachers / are able students to take advantage of 21st Century technology that aligns w/our current curriculum
- I'm more focused on curriculum and outstanding teachers. I would solicit teacher feedback. Spaces should be flexible.
- Can we continue to draw talented teaching pool if the buildings / work environment is deteriorating?
- Moving away from old ways of thinking. New, innovative, play-based creativity.
- Allow all children access to all playground equipment that is designed for age 5-12 – please stop keeping kids from playing on ct
- Appropriate playground equipment for age level of students
- Teachers and classrooms should be flexible - bricks & mortar isn't. We don't know what technology will bring in 10-20 years

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

21st Century Learning Environments

Matching spaces to instructional approaches (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to you?

- That we are designing learning spaces not just for current trends. Looking 30+ years into future needs & styles of teaching – longevity of decision
- Keeping on pace, even going further / ahead of 21st learning trends: hands on, technology, out of chairs
- Facilities must match needs of teachers and students
- Engagement and learning w/businesses and services beyond the classroom walls
- This sounds like the latest fad. We must plan for the life of the building & outfit appropriately
- That students have adequate exposure to and guidance regarding technology to use it safely, effectively and healthfully
- Technology / Smart Boards / adaptive learning spaces / standing desks – opportunities for students w/different learning styles to succeed
 - Smart Boards for every classroom and Chromebooks more accessible for teacher/student use
 - Matching technology w/learning. Smart Boards, laptops, etc.
- Kids learn to use technology appropriately & effectively
- Incorporating latest technology to assist curriculum, but balance with common sense application to productive citizenship
- Having the best teaching environment for our teachers & best learning environment for students
- The schools help sell Madison, but elementary schools can be built to support books, not tech.
- Learning will increasingly happen very effectively on-line and remotely. Align curriculum, schedule and tools to leverage that. Minimize space.
- Teacher input on those spaces / department specific spaces
- Hands-on learning

What is most important about this topic to the town?

- Technically current, up-to-date systems/machines
- Branford has 1:1 Chromebooks; Madison does not
- Balancing latest technology with cost effectiveness
- Having resources that help students excel – matching or exceeding similar towns
- 21st Century learning is a draw to town & must be supported
 - Being a leader in 21st Century curriculum
 - 21st Century learning = new furniture or open spaces. It requires community commitment to provide valuable experiences woven in community.
 - That people understand that 21st Century teaching is effective, even if it's not how it was done in my day
- Instruction must keep pace with latest educational innovations that make sense

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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21st Century Learning Environments

Matching spaces to instructional approaches (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to the town?

- Quality should remain the same
- Teachers are most important asset
- Recruiting best and brightest teachers (2)
- Teachers are the most important part of the learning environment
- The buildings should reflect the values of our town on education
- Improved creative learning environment
- That Madison can boast modern facilities to attract families
- Ensuring our classrooms are flexible enough to keep up with emerging & established state & national standards
- Enhancements must be grounded in research-based designs of optimal learning environments
- Schools can accommodate shrinking or expanding enrollment
- Safety / security / technology – leverage our natural surroundings
- Modern buildings use modern code and allow us to educate special needs kids in town (cheaper than out-placement)
- Multi-use buildings for aging community
- Build new – invest in spaces to attract newcomers / taxpayers
- Need to not only catch up to other facilities, but get ahead. Teachers will thrive, students will thrive, and local economy will thrive if Madison can start to get up-to-date with technology & learning environments.
- What subjects, etc. need to be in person and with appropriate space vs. what can be accomplished just as effectively virtually
- Continue to expand on nurturing the spark inside each child as opposed to the old-fashioned approach of focusing on weaknesses to improve overall testing results
- Equity in schools ; competitive state of the art vs. other towns
- Education training in technology / modern facilities
- Town attitude = teachers & curriculum is most important with less of a focus on physical structure of schools

Additional Notes Taken

- Matching program delivery with space
- What does it look like on the ground?
 - Which programs (Science, Language, Sped)
- Technology & Infrastructure needs
 - Network
 - Chromebooks
 - Smart Boards
- Do our current structures detract from our ability to recruit & retain teachers?
- Trade-offs between \$\$ for buildings vs. \$\$ for teachers

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Costs / Value / Tax Impacts

Overall cost, value to community, impact on mil rate

What is most important about this topic to you?

- Balanced expenditures. School funding shouldn't be crowded out by other priorities.
- Get over the mil rate. No one (families) will move here if they are turned off by facilities and cheap attitude of the town.
- R.O.I. cost vs. value to students and town
- Invest in our future (2)
- Putting tons of money into these aging buildings is fiscally irresponsible
- Investing in old buildings – don't want money pits
- Good schools draw new community members. Build new
- Ensure schools are a true draw in 10 years
- Review **all** federal / utility grants – financing
- Mil rate! I don't want property taxes to increase substantially
- Appropriately managed projects that come in on-schedule and on-budget
- That the schools help hold the value of our properties
- Modest tax increase if value is apparent
- Keep mil rate competitive with value of education rating
- That seniors and other folks without kids in the school system value the education of the next generation and are willing to contribute to it through taxes
- Still lamenting that we had a chance to create a solution that would provide a new building while also lowering cost over time ... is a new school still off the table?
- Keep up the positive rep of our schools get so people will want to be here – need a good school building to do this
- Expensive maintenance of existing building will not fix the long-term problem or be a fiscally prudent use of money
- With declining enrollment statewide, Madison is competing for young families. Investment in buildings now will help attract a tax base later.
- Costs and taxes go up. Just make sure we get value in return! (spend some to get a lot!)
- Strong & cost efficient schools and town will keep the town economy growing.
- Schools and kids are worth investing in!
- Costs need to be reasonable, but reflective of the investment need for future generations
- Willing to accept the cost to have the best educational environment
- That cost/mil rate doesn't chase family aged population out of town and no longer have children to teach in these new facilities
- If the plan is well thought out & justified, the impact on taxes is secondary
- That we look at the "long game" and not just proximate cost
- Explore an annual fund for clearly-defined improvements
- Superior curriculum & attractive schools to boost value of property and attract new families
- \$100M seems like too much money to spend. Are there ways to reduce the spending (i.e. I'm fine with trailers – updated ones – don't need bricks & mortar)

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Costs / Value / Tax Impacts

Overall cost, value to community, impact on mil rate (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to the town?

- Cost of improvements & impact on taxes
- Keeping value in housing market
- The existing buildings hold as much value as a new building. We have a sr. center and a new library going up and don't need a new school for community purposes.
- Madison must be competitive with similar towns.
- After 25 years in Fairfield County, I really believe that school investments pay off in terms of ultimate value. "Band aids" don't.
- I don't care about the mil rate when it comes to our kids.
- That tax money for education is spent efficiently
- I think the perception of town stinginess is overstated ... more people are probably ok w/spending more money in schools!
- Lower mil rates
- Value to community
- Madison needs to retain people – school facilities are key
- We must stay competitive with neighboring communities in our mil rate
- No cost is too high if it supports our future generations
- Don't throw money into aged buildings
- Fiscal responsibility
- A higher mil rate isn't necessarily bad, if it equates to increase in home value by investing in quality education
- All residents see value and want to live here. Especially retirees to maintain a broad tax base
- Take the lead in paying educators more \$\$ than average to demonstrate the value & attract top talent
- Build new; don't skimp on investing in the Town of Madison
- Shame last year's referendum failed. How can you make cost lower than proposed in failed referendum?
- Use bonding and other strong planning techniques to spend well, but PLEASE spend on new facilities and not propping up museums!
- Knowing the costs from start to finish with full transparency!
- Mil rate is important – taxes are driving people out of town.
- Value of facility – making sure that the buildings are high quality and will last
- Mil rate cannot be disproportionately higher than town's rankings in state
- Some want the cheapest option regardless of tradeoffs
- Be respectful of mil rate, but mindful that good schools draw new community members & keep home values stable
- People seem most concerned with maintaining property values –will eventually fail if schools are deteriorating!
- That the solution is a holistic solution that addresses all the infrastructure issues at the town level

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Costs / Value / Tax Impacts

Overall cost, value to community, impact on mil rate (cont'd.)

Additional Notes Taken

- “Value” not most expensive
- Whatever it takes to get the best schools
- Show that it’s fiscally responsible
- Priority
- Continue to invest in community & kids to bring families in
- Need long-term decision
- Good communication
- Property value is tied to education – ripple effect to other areas (small business, etc.)
- Families may choose other towns with better facilities

Observations

- Some comments are focused solely on the mil rate
- Several expressed the need for a professional communication plan to match the case for the selected option

Takeaways from table discussion

- Prudent investment is getting long-term value and benefit from our investment. Spending \$100M on 60 year old schools is not prudent or responsible.
- Students are town’s most important assets. We should spend whatever it takes to provide them excellent facilities.
- Investing in our schools makes Madison a more attractive town for families. It will enhance property values, broaden the tax basis and invite new businesses.

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Public Use / Multi Use for Other Community Stakeholders Seniors, Town Programs

What is most important about this topic to you?

- Pool!
- I think generational input into learning is a great idea
- Ensure student safety
- Skeptical on multi-use – education/student activities must be #1 priority
- Existing buildings used for possible community center
- I think this a great idea – town theater, town pool, etc.
- I'd rather Academy be turned into a public use space
- Appropriate time of day to ensure student safety – could be interesting during non-school hours
- Balanced use by all population – overlap when appropriate
- Can we use school art spaces for older artists in the community
- Rooms for public use after hours w/good acoustics for small groups (ex. Boy scouts)
- That teaching / school use is priority during the school day
- Share music / theater space
- Community center place for children's activities – could be shared space for adult activities (Academy)
- Effective space for voting in elections
- A pool for senior & state champion DHHS swimmers – BOTH!!
- Student safety & security
- Overlap in schedules? Safety!
- Could be irrelevant if we turn Academy into a community center – public/multi use of school buildings can compromise security (#1 priority in 2018)
- Done in a way that maximizes educational outcomes (e.g. student access to internships)
- Enrichment programs for elementary & middle level
- Dedicated school space for kids during the school day
- Performing arts center
- Use this opportunity to enable community services that might not otherwise happen
- Student safety – assess and utilize other town spaces for non-students
- Utilize existing community assets adjacent to Green Hill Road Campus (i.e. Bauer Park, Land Trust trails) to continue to enhance outdoor education & foster community collaboration

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- If it adds \$1 then adding uses for other stakeholders should not be considered important
- Make use of building assets for community purposes outside of school hours
- Considering what facilities need to accommodate outside groups – scouts, seniors, etc.
- Ensure \$\$ spent can be most efficiently used across the entire population
- Consider inter-generational preschool that shares facility w/senior center – benefits to both populations
- Use buildings for other town programs

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Public Use / Multi Use for Other Community Stakeholders Seniors, Town Programs (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- Not redundant with other resources
- Accommodating for seniors – i.e. 1st floor access
- Multi-use facilities can help “buy-in” from community
- Incorporating a public space – auditorium, gym, community meeting space, etc. into a new school should be carefully considered to address multiple needs and increase support from more sectors of the town residents
- Might substitute for a community center and save money
- Would be great to use this opportunity to bond in a new auditorium for Polson that will serve whole community as performing arts center
- Playing fields
- Auditorium
- No need for redundancy
- Multi use of fields, outdoor, performance, recreation and programming spaces
- Not sure shared use is important over improving facilities
- That we have spaces to use and gather in
- Having an after school community space for ALL grades – i.e., lower grades use the stage at Polson for programs?
- Safety of students
- Good idea for student-related events that are not specific to each particular school
- More space needed for non-school community programs
- To remain a desirable place for growing families – we need vibrant community space & library. At what point will plans come together?
- Town pool, auditorium that can hold events, ice rink for sports & town recreation, community stakeholder integration

Additional Notes Taken

- Pool
- Theater, performing arts space
- Use of arts & crafts spaces for seniors
- Adult education, programming for those over 18 years old
- Not only would many residents benefit, but it would also encourage them to support this investment in our facilities
- Make sure that security issues of a shared facility are addressed
- Need for integration with other town planning re: creating more space

Observations

- Encouraged with attendance
- Impressed with the passion & positivity

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Town Asset

Ensuring Madison remains a town families want to live in

What is most important about this topic to you?

- When our facilities are so visibly inferior to those of surrounding towns, not only do our kids suffer, but people will stop choosing to move here.
- Quality of education
- Have schools that support our progressive programs
- Good schools affect home values
- Facilities meet needs of current & future students
- Commitment to 21st Century schools (both facilities & teaching)
- Want a quality education but don't want to drive up mil rate that we discourage new families moving into areas
- Madison having opportunities for ALL age groups (because families contain all ages) i.e. schools, sr. center, community ctr., teen gathering places
- Maintain "top tier" district status
- Education: people move her for schools and resale of homes will go to new families seeking the same thing
- School's rankings within state and country is a very valuable asset
- Quality of learning / instruction
- Have school facilities match the teaching & programs in terms of quality
- A more inclusive environment for new children
- Making our school system attractive for families considering shoreline living
- Consider direct comparison with our neighboring districts
- New school facilities will ensure families will continue to move & live here & that we value education
- Home value relates to quality of facilities and education
- Quality education and link to: rising real estate value, rising sense of community and declining social challenges with youth
- Facilities should match quality of programs (schools and town programs for all). People move here for all of the assets. We need to continue that.
- Must continue to foster excellence in our schools
- Neighboring towns are becoming more desirable than Madison
- Quality of education / class offerings / extracurricular offerings / 21st Century facilities
- I almost walked away from buying here after seeing Ryerson. I had a hard time believing reputation matched facility perception
- Having a facility that can support the curriculums. Doesn't have to be the best, just good enough. Teachers make it the best.
- Contemporary academic standards within an environment that meets updated physical improvement milestones annually to show clear advancement. May require implementing a capital investment annual fund.

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Town Asset

Ensuring Madison remains a town families want to live in (cont'd.)

What is most important about this topic to the entire town?

- People move to Madison because of curriculum and student performance, not fancy elementary buildings
- Need to have schools the town is proud of and reflect the excellence of the community
- Can't have tax rates that scare people away
- Building can live on & continue to be useful as a town structure (i.e. not cause another Academy debacle)
- Competitive to area towns to draw new residents
- Updated facilities
- The quality of education is a big draw for families. The school building should match the quality of the curriculum
- The town needs to plan better to handle school closings & quick decisions on what to do with the older buildings
- Cost of housing / cost of living not prohibitively high
- (Sadly) cost vs. benefit
- How we compare to other towns in CT
- Have appearance match expectation
- Smart use of current assets, people move to low tax states, we shouldn't price people out of Town
- Prudent use of town funds
- Modern facilities that match the instructional program show that we value education and show a commitment to funding exceptional education
- Excellent education with a quaint New England feel is most important, but nobody in town wants taxes to raise for a poorly constructed plan
- Not spending \$100 million to "band aid" old buildings
- Make use of Academy
- The culture of the classroom & school is far more important than bricks & mortar. It is the town's biggest asset
- Ultimately we're a "bedroom community" and being the BEST BC (including education) is what will keep us stable
- Making wise decisions with the buildings we vacate
- Top rated schools for education
- Assets are to be prudently measured
- Our rankings are slipping and while I'm not convinced this is the best way to measure educational value, it is an issue. With our facilities in disrepair, I worry about Madison's long-term desirability.
- The Madison move – to appeal – competes with some very financially supported school districts in other towns. You need good schools to attract the families & keep our property values up & wanted.
- The town has an interest in continuing to attract young families. However, voting is structured to be less accessible to these constituents. Better communication needed regarding anything that comes to referendum.

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

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Size of “Schools” vs. Size of Building

Options for ensuring appropriateness for age of students served

What is most important about this topic to you?

- Size is not a problem if students are served effectively. An elementary school that houses 600 kids, if built properly, is the most efficient use of money
- Small class sizes, lunch, recess, separate by age group to decrease bullying, etc. Then size of school not really a factor.
- Neighborhood school environment
- Centralized campus
- Classroom size (3)
 - Good classroom size
 - Classes should be limited to 18-20 students
 - Small class sizes for smaller kids
 - How many kids in classroom per teacher
 - Maintain small classroom & teacher ratio (para is critical) (2)
 - Maintaining smaller class sizes w/paraprofessional
 - Small classroom size, enough hands-on attention for individual students
 - Size of classes is the only real issue
 - Small class sizes
 - Teacher / student ratio more important than school size. Also, grade distribution vital.
 - # kids in classroom: teacher ratio is most important
 - Appropriate class sizes – sense of community and best learning environment is most important – safety too!
- Smaller elementary schools are important. The town already rejects a one school concept and I hope we don't push that on the town again.
- Smaller sized schools are important to me (no more than 400 students at a school)
- Size of school is less important than the creation of a positive community & environment for our kids
- Having a sense of community in a grade (i.e. teachers saying Hi to ALL students and knowing them
- Keeping the community feeling within schools – making sure ALL students feel comfortable and a part of the school/class/community
- No centralized campus for all – maintain two campuses
- I would prefer more schools with less students in each to encourage a tighter community
- Take advantage of shared resources in order to make room for specialization where needed
- Classrooms appropriate for grade levels (K, 1, 2, 3, etc.) don't need high tech – they need good teachers & small class sizes
- Not liking idea of large number of kids at elementary level
- School can be big as long as student groupings are arranged appropriately / designed thoughtfully / set-up for the most up-to-date learning (4)

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Size of “Schools” vs. Size of Building

Options for ensuring appropriateness for age of students served

What is most important about this topic to you?

- Having one elementary school to have all resources in the same building. Can be on the Ryerson campus
- Keep ratios where all students feel properly involved
- Quality is much more significant
- I think it is critical that schools, especially elementary, stay small. I think young children need a small community to feel comfortable and thrive in the classroom. I would be opposed to one elementary school for the entire community.
- Loved old grade configuration – do not want kids growing up too fast b/c exposure to older students. Like breaking bigger schools into “houses”.
- Consider size of school to include multiple buildings whereby students travel between buildings. Various buildings offer unique benefits that are shared across grades rather than grades always contained in a single building for all subjects.
- Accessibility to teachers & administration is more significant than having a small # of kids in the school.

What is most important to about this topic to the entire town?

- Smaller class size / smaller school / safer school
 - Small class size and small school community for younger grades
 - Class size
 - Size of each classroom (# of students) – keep it under 20
 - Keep it small and intimate
- Maintain town feel – keep it feeling communal
- Consolidation is smart choice fiscally
- Small neighborhood schools
 - Neighborhood schools with low student / teacher ratios
- Multi-purpose buildings
- Cost of new facilities (2)
- Cheapest school building setup option
- Not paying a lot of money for buildings in face of declining enrollment
- Schools should be appropriate, but not over the top
- Using real estate most efficiently
- Maintain charm and small community feel. We chose not to be in an urban area.
 - Keep community sense among all grades
- Importance of making the most efficient use of limited resources may mean larger schools are needed
- Consolidating school buildings can achieve substantial savings
- Right number of buildings to hold down costs & maintenance
- Appropriate age mix of students, and appropriate size of school that can run efficiently (cost wise)
- I think it is still about cost (especially when discussing votes to pass)

**PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES
NOVEMBER 28, 2018**

**Size of “Schools” vs. Size of Building
Options for ensuring appropriateness for age of students served**

What is most important to about this topic to the entire town?

- Maintaining teacher/student ratio. Large school isn't necessarily bad if designed correctly.
- Town priority seems to be keeping small “neighborhood” schools out of sense of nostalgia
- Maintain ratio & community small town feel with new cost-efficient schools

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Topics Not Covered

- No A/C in the classrooms
- Is this asbestos tile?
- I wish the facilities budget would have been addressed prior to closing a school
- Will outdoor athletic facilities be factored into maintenance
- Actually listen to the townspeople. Closing IAS was against majority of town till we had a plan in place, yet the BOA* did it (*not a misspelling)
- Green buildings (5)
- Energy efficiency (4) – solar – go thermal
- New facilities that are designed for the future – not present
- Close Polson –maybe consider 2 elementary (1 north of 95; 1 south of 95), 1 middle school, 1 high school
- Improved access to PreK
- What about fresh air and the opportunity to play outdoors as much as possible, safely?
- How to make new students feel welcome – make friends. My daughter has been struggling (4th grade)
- Take another run at a referendum. The prior one failed for many reasons, but it shouldn't preclude another one to raise money for new schools if we identify compelling options for building a new school or two.
- New referendum for new building (3)
- Build a new elementary at Academy then rebuild Ryerson – close Jeffrey & old Ryerson
- More athletic fields (soccer) and swimming pool
- Addressing the high school – cafetorium & no swimming pool – any plan to fix these?
- Save \$\$ on Brown playground – Google the real OPAL in UK – loose parts, play creativity, imagination, open ended
- I am very concerned about air quality and HVAC systems and making sure the air my child breathes is the highest quality. I am also concerned about lack of A/C in the schools
- Hire a public relations firm to ensure that the real story is told about the solution that is decided upon. (2)
- Ability to attract young families to move to Madison and the resulting preservation of property values
- Considerations for technical education
- Buildings that meet the quality of education that Madison's teachers and administration provide
- Re-purpose all current schools for sr. or other generating use and build state-of-the-art new school (tech & sustainable) that supports all grades & is centrally-located
- Provide ample time at lunch – healthier pace & more sustainable food options/programs
- Dedicated rooms for specials – no more carts
- How facility decisions impact or take into account student health – primarily dietary / healthy food
- Regarding high school – the bleachers still pull out onto the basketball court
- We want AMAZING playgrounds!!
- Curriculum changes with declining enrollment

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Topics Not Covered (cont'd.)

- Better arts / theater spaces
- After school program needs healthier snacks
- Reducing days lost to bad weather
- Enhancing the outdoor education curriculum. Increasing opportunity for early childhood education (preschool & PK)
- We are considering individual & community points on each chart paper. When will the plans of the town come together (BOE, Library, Academy, land use)

Additional Notes Taken

- Technology
- Energy – light – green buildings (3+)
- New referendum – new school (2)
- Fresh air / AC / HVAC (3+)
- More athletic fields – swimming pool – playgrounds – outdoor education
- Early childhood (2)
- Arts & theater space
- Healthy food (3)
- Security important but not negatively impact / effect the learning area & community
- Hire PR firm
- Overall town plan coming together
 - Library
 - Academy
 - Land Use
- High school – pool – café – auditorium
- One new school