

Board ThoughtExchange Summary

Elizabethtown Area School District
June 1, 2021

What thoughts or questions would you like our school board to discuss in regards to the possible closing of Mill Road & Rheems Elementary Schools?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



448

Participants



451

Thoughts



15,383

Ratings

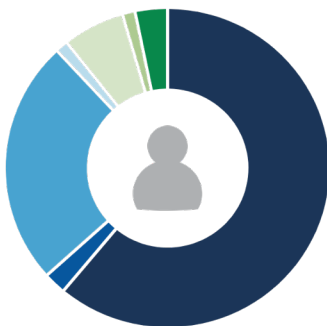


PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Recognizing that you may belong to more than one of the following groups, please select the one which you feel best describes your involvement with the EASD (only one can be selected):



%		Answer
62%	(261)	■ Parent/Guardian of Current Student
2%	(8)	■ Parent/Guardian of Future Student
25%	(104)	■ EASD Employee
0%	(1)	■ EASD Student
1%	(3)	■ EASD School Board Member
6%	(26)	■ Community Member
1%	(4)	■ Retiree
0%	(0)	■ Business Leader
3%	(12)	■ Other









PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



What EASD community do you most associate with (only one can be selected)?



%		Answer
8%	(34)	 Conoy Township
28%	(116)	 Elizabethtown Borough
29%	(121)	 Mount Joy Township
25%	(104)	 West Donegal Township
10%	(43)	 Other

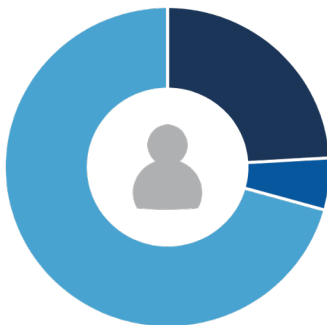



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Will you have a student in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade during the 2022-2023 school year?

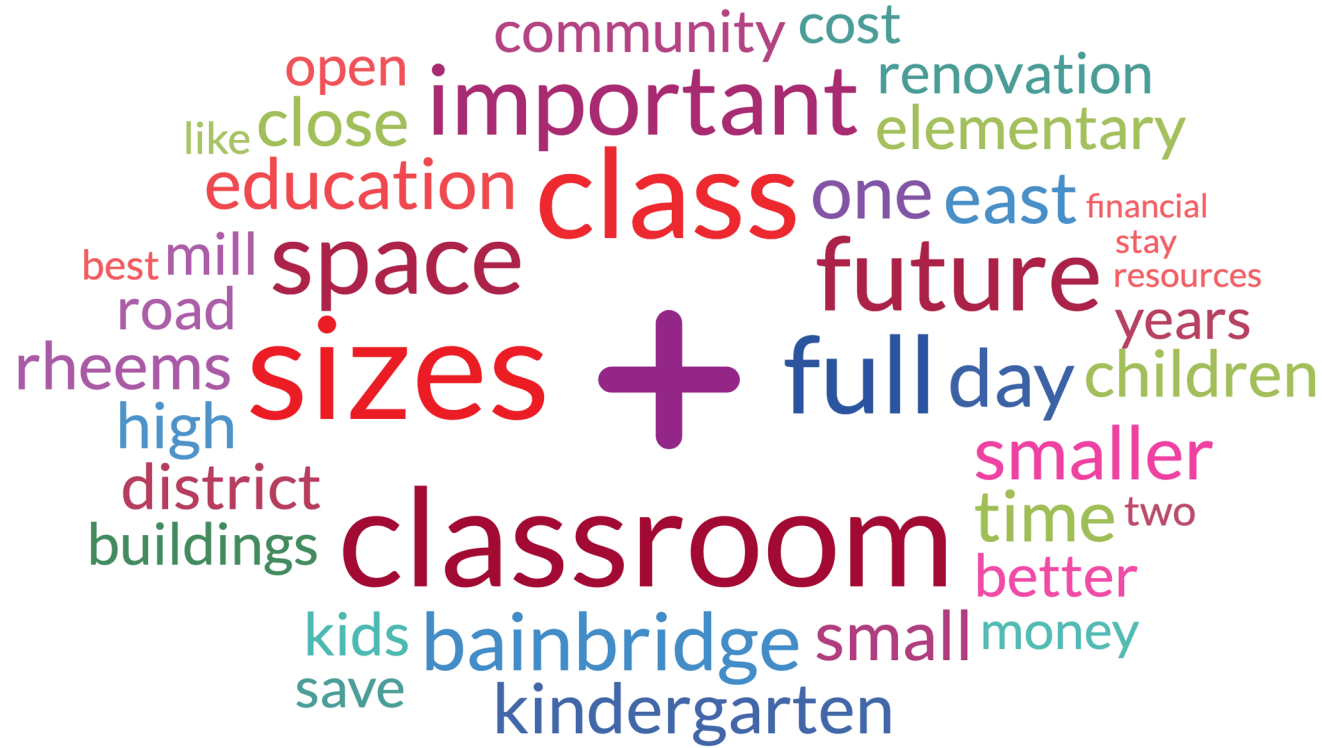


%		Answer
24%	(101)	■ Yes (one)
5%	(20)	■ Yes (multiple)
71%	(292)	■ No



WORDCLOUD

Top Rated





THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



My concern is class size. The classroom setting for my kids was perfect. The teacher to student ratio was exactly what my children needed. It is EXTREMELY important to keep the classroom size small so children are able to have more of a relationship with their teacher. They need 1:1 time

4.3 ★★★★★ (47)
Ranked #1 of 431

We need to make sure that all students have class sizes under 25, not just those that attend Mill Road and Rheems

4.3 ★★★★★ (40)
Ranked #2 of 431

Will the money saved by consolidating the elementary schools be reinvested in making sure that the educational experience is undiminished?

4.3 ★★★★★ (34)
Ranked #3 of 431

Classroom size Smaller classes are not only helpful for teachers but more importantly the kids

4.2 ★★★★★ (49)
Ranked #4 of 431

Don't cut teachers or programs, whatever the choice Small class sizes are incredibly important, especially in elementary school.

4.2 ★★★★★ (47)
Ranked #5 of 431

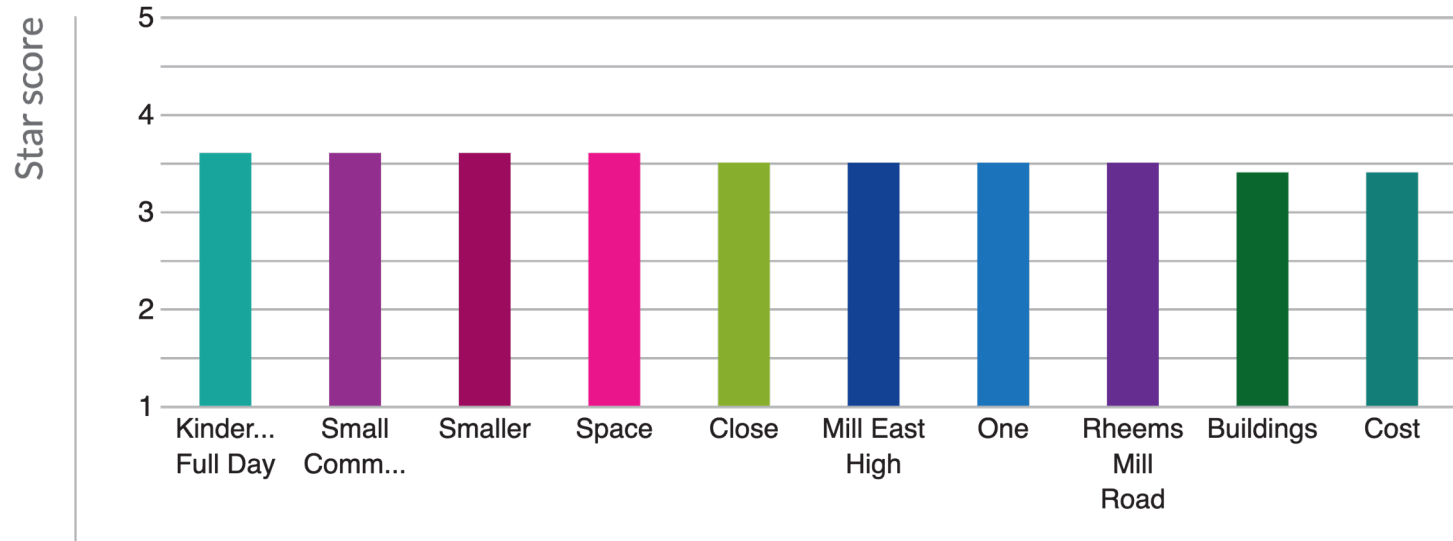
As a paraprofessional in our district, I know firsthand how important it is to have extra classroom space dedicated to assist students. When all classrooms are in use, small groups are forced to work on the floors in hallways, which is not conducive to learning.

4.2 ★★★★★ (14)
Ranked #6 of 431



AI GENERATED THEMES

Top Themes





THOUGHTS

Kindergarten Full Day



Full day Kindergarten should be provided. Would help working parents, students that need additional support, etc

4.0 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Is space for full day K being thought about with these decisions? If we aren't thinking about full day K as a community with these big moves, we are at a great disadvantage compared to other districts.

3.8 ★★★★★ (47 👤)

If we close two buildings, can we offer full-day kindergarten? There is a large gap in readiness for school that hinders some students early in their academic careers. Full day K could level the field for them.

3.8 ★★★★★ (19 👤)

Please make the move to full day kindergarten. Once the dust has settled on whatever project happens with Mill Road and Rheems, please look again at full day kindergarten. It is very necessary!

3.7 ★★★★★ (46 👤)

Which school will students from Mill Road or Rheems be assigned to and how will that be decided? Elizabethtown does not offer full day kindergarten and does not offer transportation both ways for K students. A longer drive = trouble for K parents.

3.7 ★★★★★ (42 👤)



THOUGHTS

Small Community



Don't cut teachers or programs, whatever the choice Small class sizes are incredibly important, especially in elementary school.

4.2 ★★★★★ (47 👤)

Elementary school is the building blocks of education. Small class sizes is fundamentally important to early learning. It will allow kids to get the instruction needed for strong educational foundation.

4.0 ★★★★★ (46 👤)

I think it is important to keep the small community schools open when able. Rheems is still a very functional school. Keeping the small schools open means keeping class sizes small to keep the kids education top priority. It means better 1 on 1 when it is most needed.

3.8 ★★★★★ (49 👤)

After a covid year, we should have learned the value of having these small community schools. More space to spread out, less issues with illness, more community support for sending students in person.

3.7 ★★★★★ (48 👤)

If the district would like to switch from small community schools to campus style, how does Bainbridge meet that? It is a small community school that as I understand will remain open either way. What will redistricting look like if MR & Rheems are closed? Will all of those kids go to East High?

3.7 ★★★★★ (48 👤)



THOUGHTS

Smaller



Classroom size Smaller classes are not only helpful for teachers but more importantly the kids

4.2 ★★★★★ (49 👤)

Student to teacher ratio should remain small. I think the kids deserve smaller class sizes to enhance their educational opportunities and experience.

4.1 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

Every student has a story and are unique in their own ways. Smaller schools can make some children feel less intimidated and more comfortable and feel closer to their teachers and staff.

3.8 ★★★★★ (32 👤)

Bigger Is not always better Growing up out of state I went to a huge school district. I almost felt lost in the shuffle. I've lived it. Packed classes Here kids get a better education - we need smaller classes to provide that. Closing is not wise. Small classes are better for kids and teachers

3.7 ★★★★★ (49 👤)

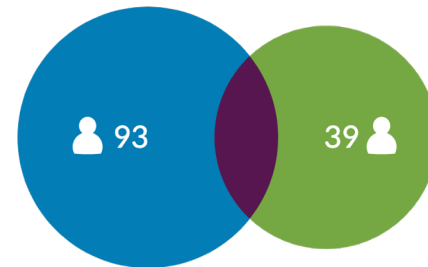
In a small community school setting, nearly all students are known by name by most of the staff. It takes a village to raise our kids, and a smaller school setting provides a stronger relationship between students and staff.

3.7 ★★★★★ (29 👤)



DIFFERENCES

[93 | 39]



Side A

Bad idea to close these schools Closing both Mill Road and Rheems would be a great disservice to our community. They are two great schools with wonderful staff and services for kids

★ 4.9 ★ 1.2

Feels like it's a done deal but this forum gives parents the illusion of inclusion. Keep Rheems open!

★ 4.8 ★ 1.1

Side A/B Common (high)

Don't cut teachers or programs, whatever the choice Small class sizes are incredibly important, especially in elementary school.

★ 4.6 ★ 3.8

We need to make sure that all students have class sizes under 25, not just those that attend Mill Road and Rheems

★ 4.3 ★ 4.5

Side B

I would like to see the schools consolidated Doing so would save vital resources and allow for much-needed upgrades to other school buildings that all students will use in the future.

★ 1.3 ★ 4.9

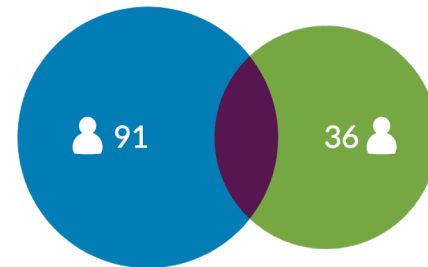
We need to combine to one or two schools save money, those schools are small

★ 1.5 ★ 4.7



DIFFERENCES

[91 | 36]



Side A

Elementary school is the building blocks of education. Small class sizes is fundamentally important to early learning. It will allow kids to get the instruction needed for strong educational foundation.

★ 4.9 ★ 1.0

Overcrowding: Concerned that if both Rheems & Mill Rd close, Bainbridge & East High will be packed. Moving 3rd grade to BC doesn't exactly make room for k, 1, & 2 to fit into 2 remaining schools, does it?

★ 4.8 ★ 1.4

Side A/B Common (high)

Don't cut teachers or programs, whatever the choice Small class sizes are incredibly important, especially in elementary school.

★ 4.7 ★ 3.9

Please make the move to full day kindergarten. Once the dust has settled on whatever project happens with Mill Road and Rheems, please look again at full day kindergarten. It is very necessary!

★ 4.2 ★ 3.6

Side B

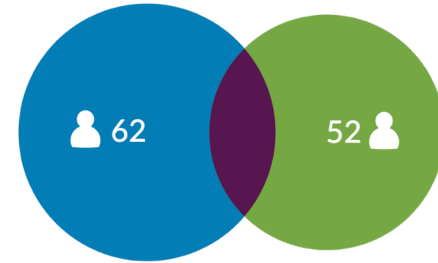
Is it about smaller schools or smaller classes? The building shouldn't make a difference

★ 1.8 ★ 4.7



DIFFERENCES

[62 | 52]



Side A

Class sizes By closing both schools, class sizes can maintain a more fair and equal balance across buildings.

★ 4.5 ★ 1.2

There has been information shared on facility cost of both schools but how much taxes would have to be raised to rebuild both schools The only way to cut cost is to eliminate costs. Current costs will not get cheaper.

★ 4.6 ★ 1.8

Side A/B Common (high)

Classroom size Smaller classes are not only helpful for teachers but more importantly the kids

★ 3.6 ★ 5.0

My concern is class size. The classroom setting for my kids was perfect. The teacher to student ratio was exactly what my children needed. It is EXTREMELY important to keep the classroom size small so children are able to have more of a relationship with their teacher. They need 1:1 time

★ 3.8 ★ 4.9

Side B

Kindergarten Transportation K transportation should be offered both ways, especially if schools will not be in the neighborhood.

★ 1.7 ★ 4.4

Stop raising TAXES!!! Make a cut somewhere possibly not paying our superintendent and all of her assistants so much !!!

★ 1.7 ★ 4.0



WRAP UP

Next Steps



Thanks for participating

We'll be carefully considering what we learned and sharing our actions back with you.