



D11 Palmer Transformation



**PERKINS —  
EASTMAN**





Thank you D11  
and Palmer  
community!

Over  
**19,800**  
Touch points thus far



## Community Engagement Recap



**PERKINS —  
EASTMAN**

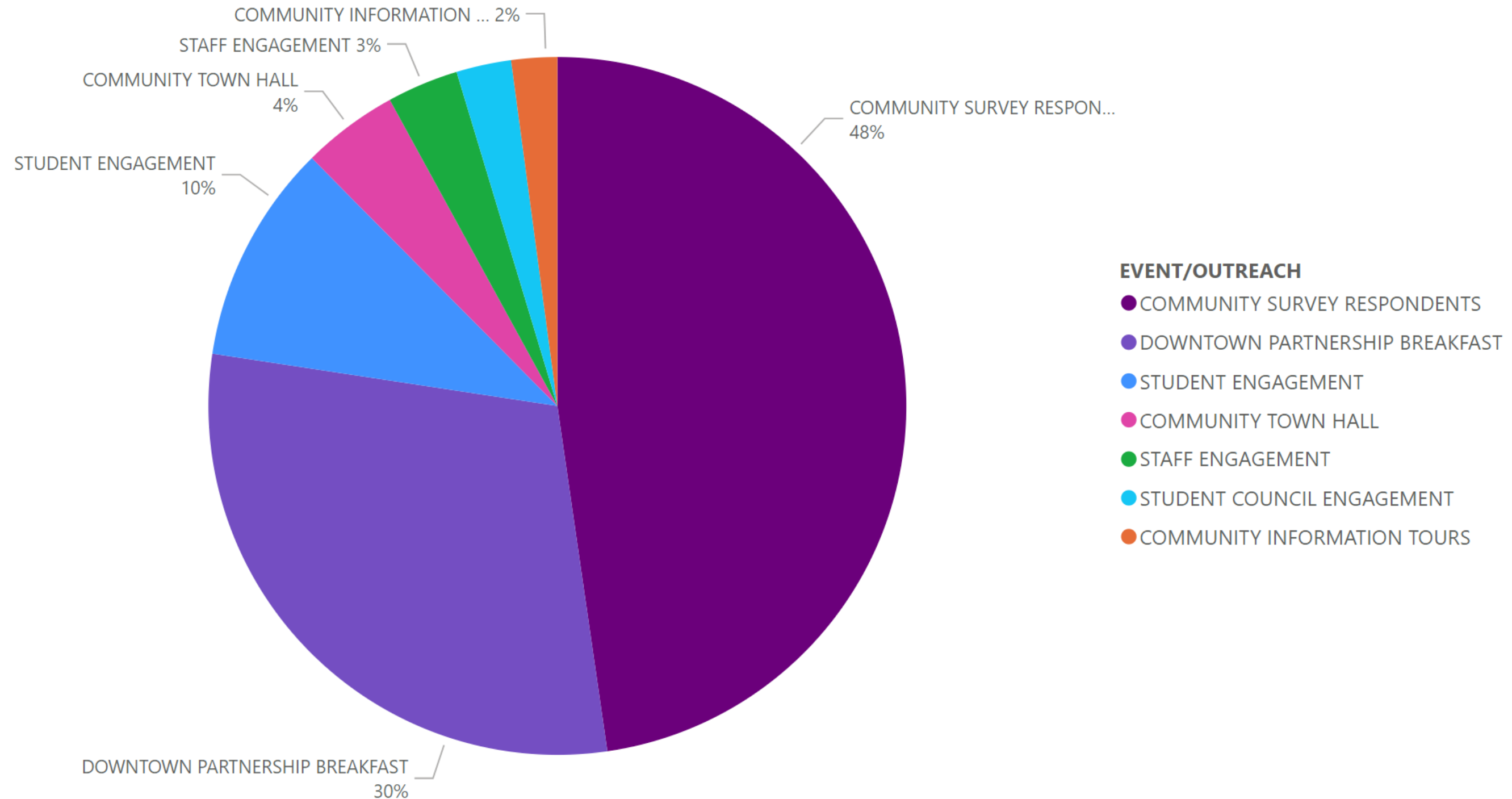


# Community Touchpoints

## Included touchpoints

Community Survey  
Student Engagement  
Community Town Hall  
Staff Engagement  
Downtown Partnership  
Breakfast  
City/Staff Officials  
Downtown Partnership  
Newsletter\*  
Neighborhood Newsletter\*

*\*both the Downtown partnership and neighborhood newsletters were omitted from the graphic above but had a combined outreach of 18,600 touchpoints*



## Town Hall, Presentations, + Community Tours

Over  
**875**  
Attendees



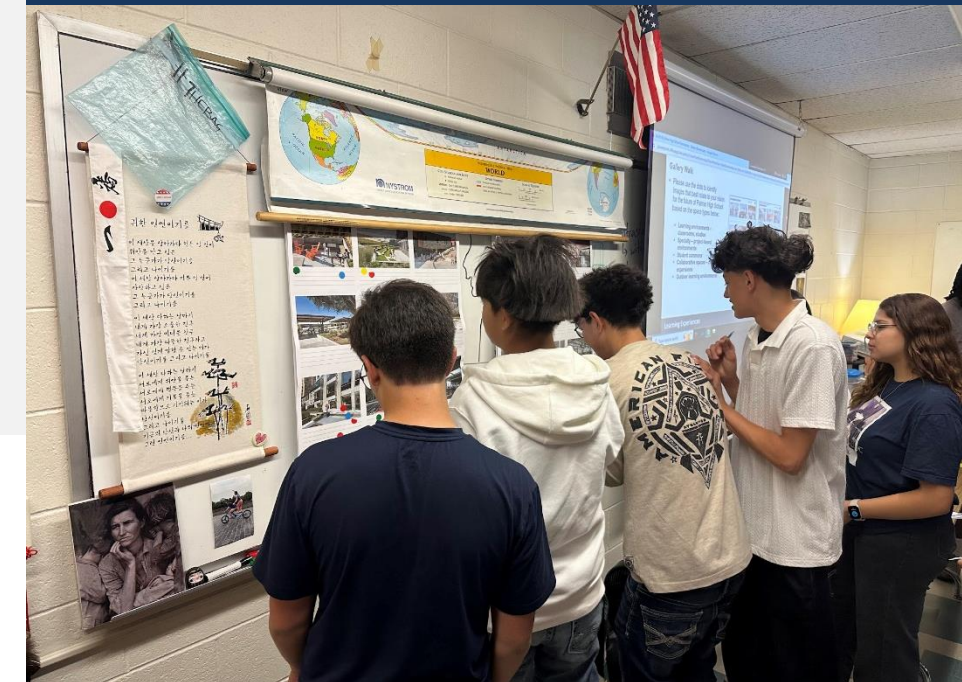
## Survey & Email Distribution

Over  
**18,600**  
Respondents & Contacts



## Student and Staff Engagement

Over  
**375**  
Individual touchpoints





# Survey



Survey Responses and Breakdown



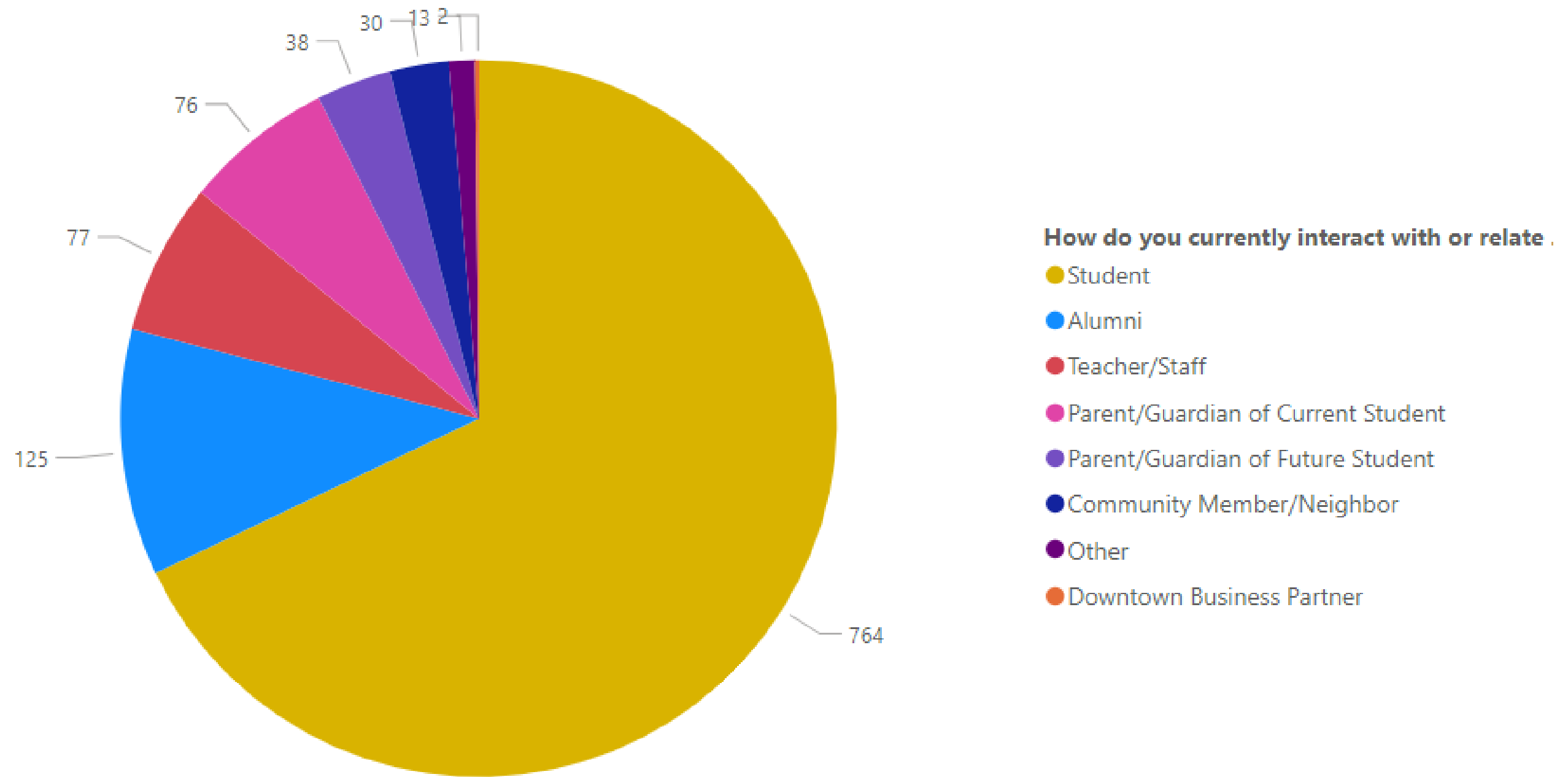


# 1142 Respondents

*Open 8/26/24 – 9/20/24*

Included representatives:

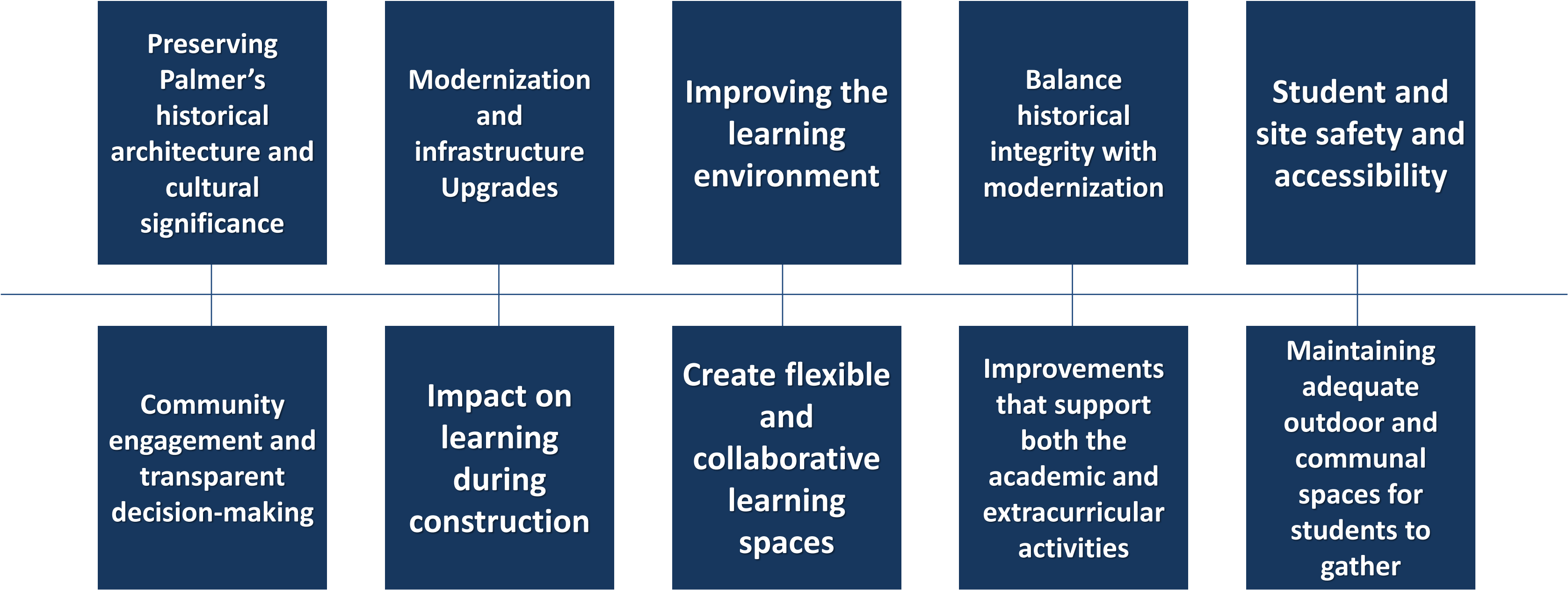
- Student
- Alumni
- Teacher/Staff
- Parent/Guardian of Current Student
- Parent/Guardian of Future Student
- Community Member/Neighbor
- Other
- Downtown Business Partner





# Executive Summary: Palmer High School Renovation Survey

The Palmer High School Renovation Survey engaged over 1100 respondents of community stakeholders, including students, staff, alumni, and community members. The survey revealed key themes across all groups regarding the future of the Palmer campus. Below are 10 key themes found among participants.





## ***What makes Palmer, Palmer?***

*Major themes included the community and people, history and tradition, location and downtown influence, diversity and inclusivity, school spirit and pride, open campus, the historical architecture, academic opportunities.*

*Students emphasized the blend of community, history, location and school spirit.*





**Describe your daily experience at Palmer High School. What aspects of the building support your learning and activities well, and what makes learning more difficult?**

*Major themes included air conditioning and temperature complaints, comments on the building layout, classroom size and environment, facility needs, and outdated technology.*

*Students appreciated the layout of the subjects, the open campus, supportive staff, and the outdoor courtyard.*

“The best parts of the building are that almost all classes of a specific type are all in one place, instead of scattered around the school.”

“The teachers help support my learning especially through the IB diploma program. The school spirit and diversity also helps support my learning.”

“The conditions of the school can make learning more difficult when the classrooms are hot because there isn’t AC or old/wet ceiling tiles fall down in classrooms or the rain slightly floods areas of the school.”

“However the stairs are cramped, it can be awful trying to get from a basement class to a 3rd floor class and back. All the bathrooms being closed can be more than annoying.”

“The worst part is that the tech building and the main building aren't connected from the inside, so we have to walk outside in the winter.”

“The layout is nice. It's usually not super difficult to get to all your classes”



## *How would you describe a Palmer student?*



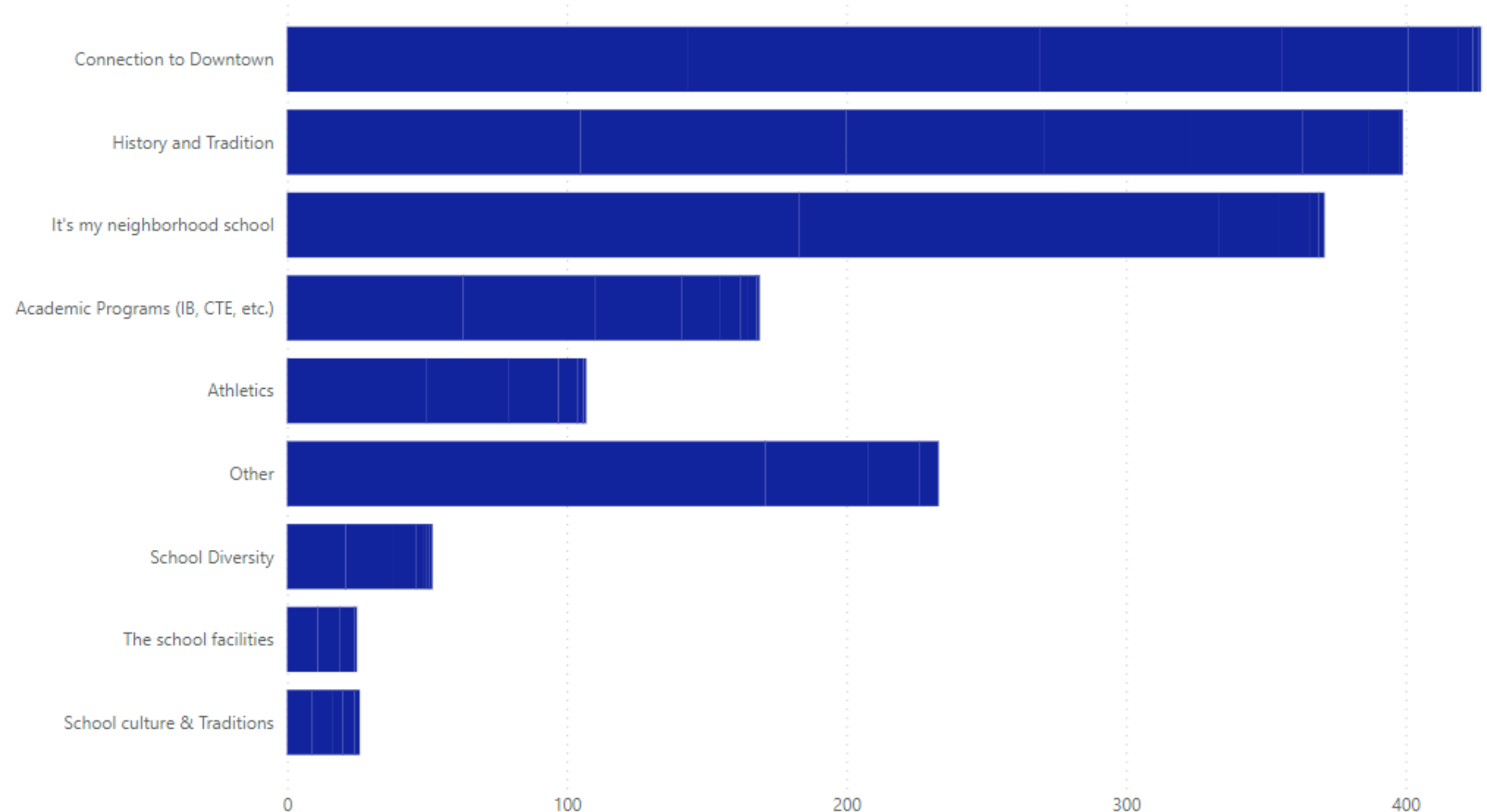
*Major descriptors for students at Palmer included diversity and uniqueness, drive and independence, community inclusivity, school spirit and pride, creativity and talent, and adaptable.*



# ***What are the factors that led you to selecting Palmer?***

## ***Full Rankings***

- *Connection to Downtown*
- *History and Tradition*
- *It's my neighborhood school*
- *Other*
- *Academic Programs (IB, CTE, etc.)*
- *School Diversity*
- *Athletics*
- *School culture & Traditions*
- *The school facilities*





# ***How important are these to you in this process?***

1

**Improving classroom  
conditions (daylight,  
size, etc)**

2

**Other**

3

**Improving outdoor  
amenities and  
outdoor spaces**

4

**Improving the  
student entry  
experience**

5

**Preserving history  
and traditions**

*Over 55% of respondents ranked “Improving Classroom Conditions” as their highest priority in this process.*

## ***Full Rankings***

- *Improving classroom conditions (daylight, size, etc)*
- *Preserving history and traditions*
- *Creating more flexible and collaborative spaces for students*
- *Connecting the campus*
- *Improving outdoor amenities and outdoor spaces*
- *Improving athletic facilities (indoor and outdoor)*
- *Improving the student entry experience*
- *Improving pedestrian safety at adjacent streets*
- *Other*



conditioning better building air more hope students renovation gym history AC main classrooms rooms bathrooms hot really concerned need make don classes think good field things Add getting bigger new one Easier room Hopes palmer school nothing class bathrooms



# Survey – Student Responses



**I believe the following big ideas should be explored as part of the renovation to ensure Palmer High School provides the best possible learning environment and high school experience for current and future students.**

*Major themes included Air conditioning, improving sports facilities, improving learning and the classroom environments, creating more student spaces, bathroom and facility upgrades, modernizing the campus, and safety and accessibility.*

“I think that the intersections should be safer and there should be a in all the classrooms and windows in most of the classrooms.”

“Connecting the Tech building and the Main building in order for more students to be on time.”

“Renovating the entrance to the buildings (main, tech, and gyms). Also maybe making the courtyard better. Most important though is improving the bathrooms”

“Have time for the student to go work outside the classroom sometimes, that would help a lot with the learning”

“I believe that better indoor environments such as air conditioning and better classroom set up will help future students, as well as more time and effort put into things such as spots and school assemblies, they bring together Palmer as a whole and currently are lacking in many aspects.”

More importantly though, the original building was so pretty. The architecture was stunning and made the place somewhere that I would have wanted to spend every day in.”



## ***What makes Palmer, Palmer?***



*Major themes included history and heritage, diversity and inclusion, the importance of the downtown location, tradition and legacy, and academic excellence and the IB program.*



## How do the current facilities enhance your teaching methods?

"I have a lot of space in my room. I have room for tables that fit 3 kids (which I love). I have plenty of whiteboard space, which I use frequently."

"A spacious library and future center for event space, a counseling conference room for meetings."

"Just the first floor library space represents an ideal learning space. The modular tables with separate chairs allow for flexible seating. The large windows allow natural light."

"Window in the classroom helps students feel connect with the outside world. Decent sized classroom. Nearby office to work in and collaborate with staff. However, many departments no longer have access to team offices in the building."

"There are unique opportunities for students to engage with our greater COS community with downtown at our front door. The history of Palmer can be inspiring."

"I love that my room is just big enough to fit larger tables for collaborative work (many rooms are not too small). I also like having a department office close to my room-- it functions as a collaborative space for teachers when we need it, a place for a quiet private conversation when necessary, a spot to record projects."

"They don't. Our programs are outgrowing the spaces."

*Additional themes included facilities and room design, natural light and windows, technology and equipment, a historical downtown location, comfort and climate control, and teacher collaboration and department spaces.*



## How do the current facilities hinder your teaching methods?

"Our building is confusing to navigate and can be overwhelming. Lack of parking and a clear front entrance makes it challenging for families to locate us."

"My classroom doesn't have AC. It is regularly 85 degrees or warmer in the afternoon. There used to be a tree outside the window that helped block the sun and keep some of the heat down."

*Major themes included air conditioning and temperature control, facilities and maintenance challenges, accessibility and safety issues, technology and infrastructure, ventilation and natural light, and outdated spaces.*

"Safety for students walking in downtown from the main building to the gym. Safety in downtown with open campus. Lack of AC in hot months makes classrooms unbearable. Water damage, mold, and asbestos concerns."

"The heat is challenging in the late summer (no ac in my room), the ventilation is problematic at all times of year, the lack of natural light in many classrooms is an issue."

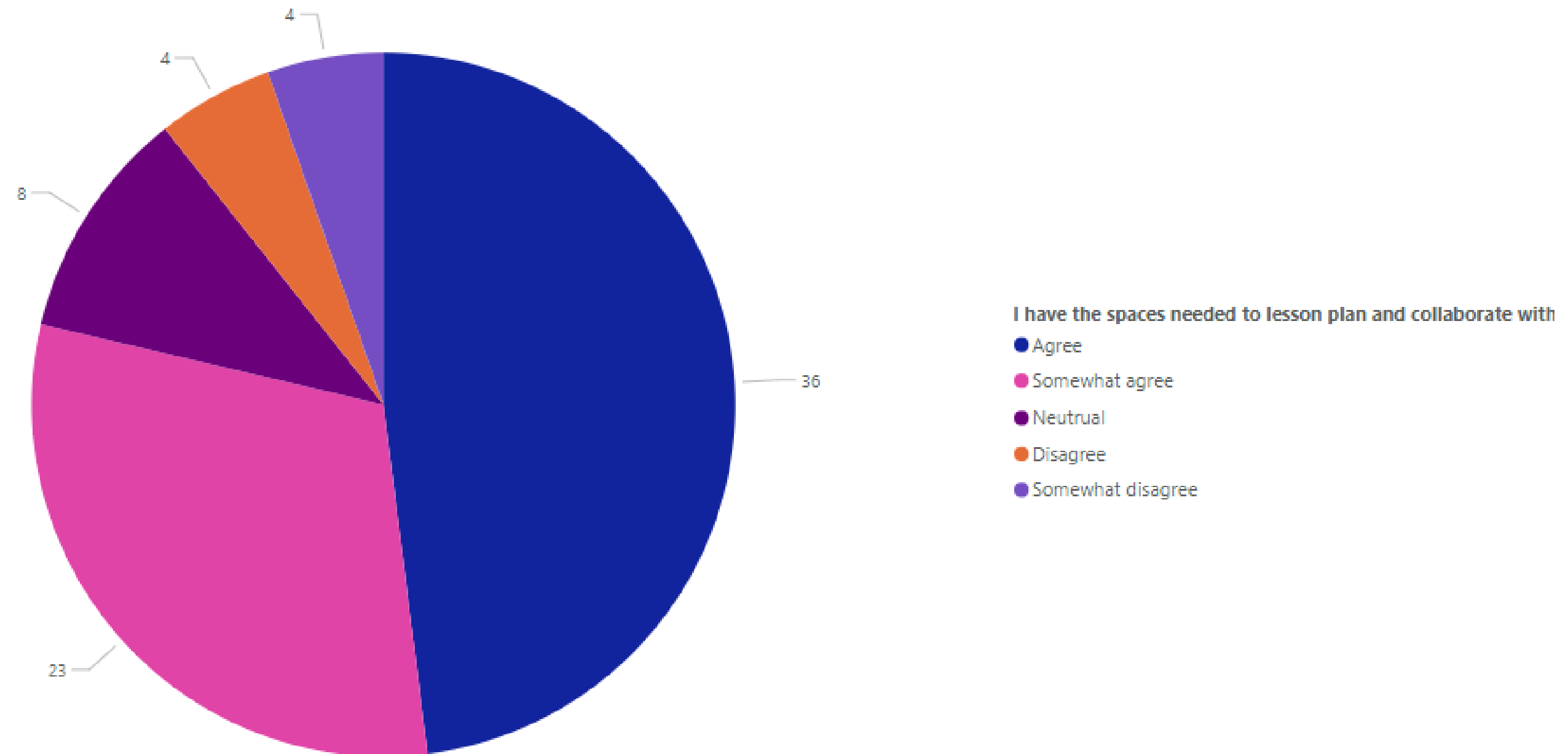
"Department office is oddly shaped. Science classrooms are separated between two buildings. Some science classrooms are undersized for laboratories. Most science classrooms are located in the basement and have no access to natural light."

"High need special education students having barriers to being close to bathrooms, high need special education students in warm rooms that worsens medical symptoms, and fluorescent light that increases risk of students having headaches."

"There is not easy access between the counseling office and the future center. Having additional counseling offices with windows."



***I have the spaces needed to lesson plan and collaborate with other teachers.***



*78% of teacher/staff respondents agree or strongly agree that they have the spaces needed to lesson plan and collaborate with other teachers.*



***I think the following improvements are needed in this process (check all that apply).***

***Full Rankings***

- *Improved infrastructure*
- *Improved furniture and fixtures*
- *Improved daylight in classrooms*
- *Improved building layout*
- *Improved outdoor amenities and spaces*
- *Improved pedestrian safety on adjacent streets*
- *Improved educational technology*
- *Creating agile learning environments*
- *Larger classrooms*
- *More spaces for teacher collaboration and training*

1

**Improved  
infrastructure**

2

**Improved furniture  
and fixtures**

3

**Improved daylight in  
classrooms**

4

**Improved building  
layout**

5

**Improved outdoor  
amenities and  
spaces/pedestrian  
safety/daylight**



**What specific improvements or additions would you like to see in the school's physical design to better support your instructional goals?**

*Major themes included air conditioning and temperature control, facilities modernization, flexible and collaborative spaces, safety and accessibility improvements, and athletic and extracurricular improvements.*

"Students need large and more flexible communal spaces. They can't all eat in our cafeteria at once, and we need to walk several blocks to the large gym for assemblies."

"Create a school that works interdependently with library media centers and other classrooms, with different wings that are accommodated for subject matter."

"Air conditioning in ALL spaces; improved accessibility for students with differing needs; natural light; more bathrooms that are accessible."

"Modernization throughout the campus. A flexible and comfortable community space for our students would be really nice."

"I want to see a wing or hallway connecting the counseling area to the tech/art building for easier access during police activity downtown."

"The practice field could be improved. It would be great to have games on campus!"

"Consistent ADA-compliant facilities for students in wheelchairs or those needing toileting services."



“Hydroponics grow center – create our own produce. Solar and geothermal HVAC. Plants and vegetation. Sunlight. Passive heating.”

“How to integrate flexible seating with the need for accessible outlets. Have overhead lights be dimmable.”

“I would like to have a state-of-the-art significant support needs class with all of the appropriate resources to teach students the skills they will use as adults.”

“Air conditioning should be in all rooms, especially for classrooms like special education where students have high needs.”

“Clear signage throughout the building, screens in hallways to promote programs or events, consistent projectors, and smart boards.”

“Spaces such as counter space and cabinets, whiteboards for small groups on BOTH sides of the room.”

“Photography/Computer Graphics room to include a portrait studio, Ceramics studio to include potter wheel area, slab and extruder station, Drawing/Painting Studio.”

“A black box theater/ multipurpose performing arts space large enough for concerts/ recitals.”

**Are there any specific technologies or spaces that you believe would make teaching and learning more effective?**

*Major themes included smart tools, air conditioning and temperature control, collaborative seating and furniture, accessibility needs, creative and specialized learning, and technological improvements to athletic and performance areas.*



## What questions or concerns do you have about this process?

"I am afraid that in the process of updating everything, we will lose the beauty that is in the buildings of PHS. I am hopeful they don't redesign the outside to match a 'current' fad style."

"Green spaces and athletic facilities can be a big draw for student-athletes choosing high schools. How will this project enhance the potential student draw to keep up with the appeal of charter schools?"

"The potential destruction of Palmer's identity by extreme alterations to the historic building."

"We need true transparency about what is being done, the timeline, and expectations."

"Keep up the inclusion process for all stakeholders."

"What will displacement of classrooms look like during renovations? How will mold remediation or asbestos abatement be addressed?"

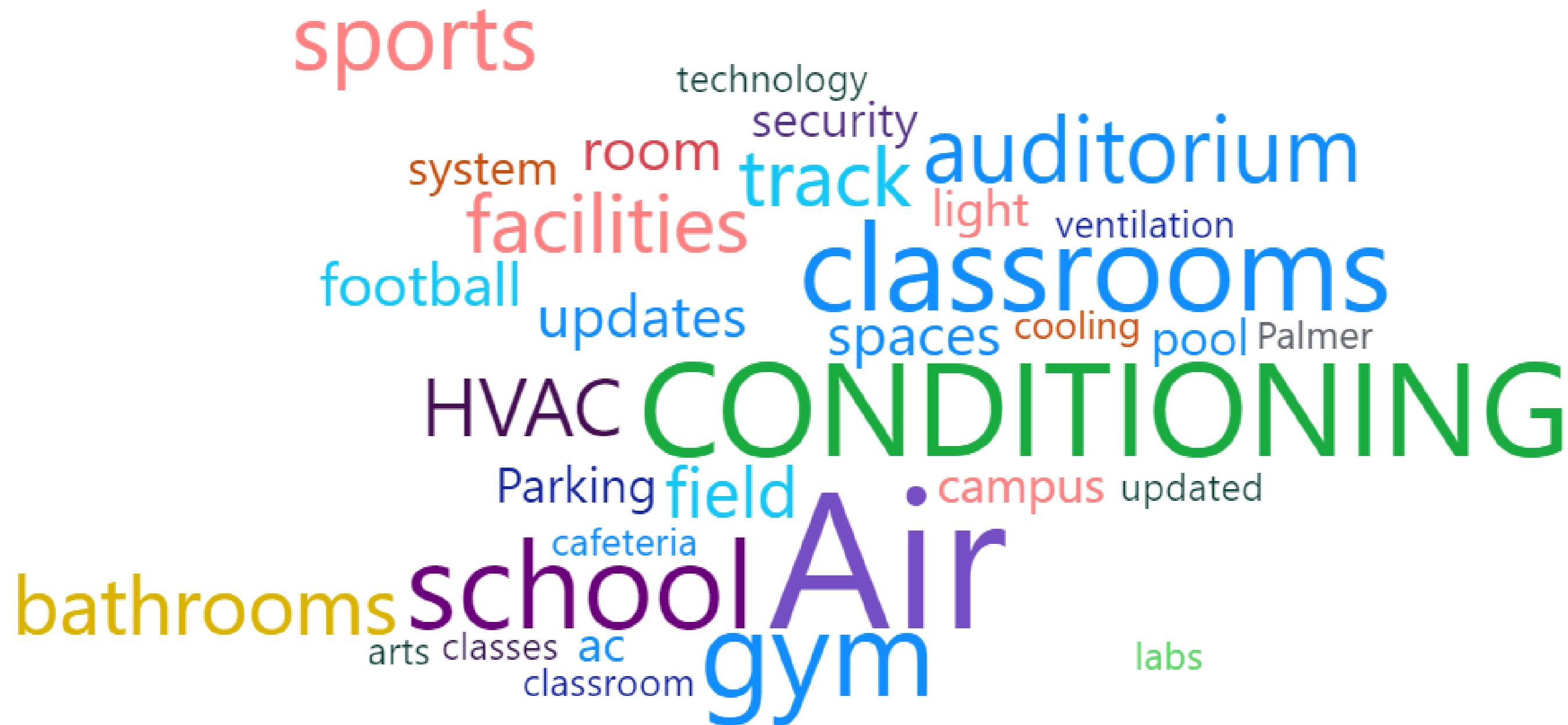
"A published timeline, concerned that the board won't listen to any concerns or needs of the school (and the students), concerned that some necessary things will get left out due to 'budget concerns.'"

"What will displacement of classrooms look like during renovations? How will mold remediation or asbestos abatement be addressed?"

"Noise, disruption to traffic flows through and around the building, need for additional space while some spaces are being worked on."

*Major themes included impact on student learning during renovation, communication and transparency, preservation of history and identity, budget and resources, and phased renovation logistics.*

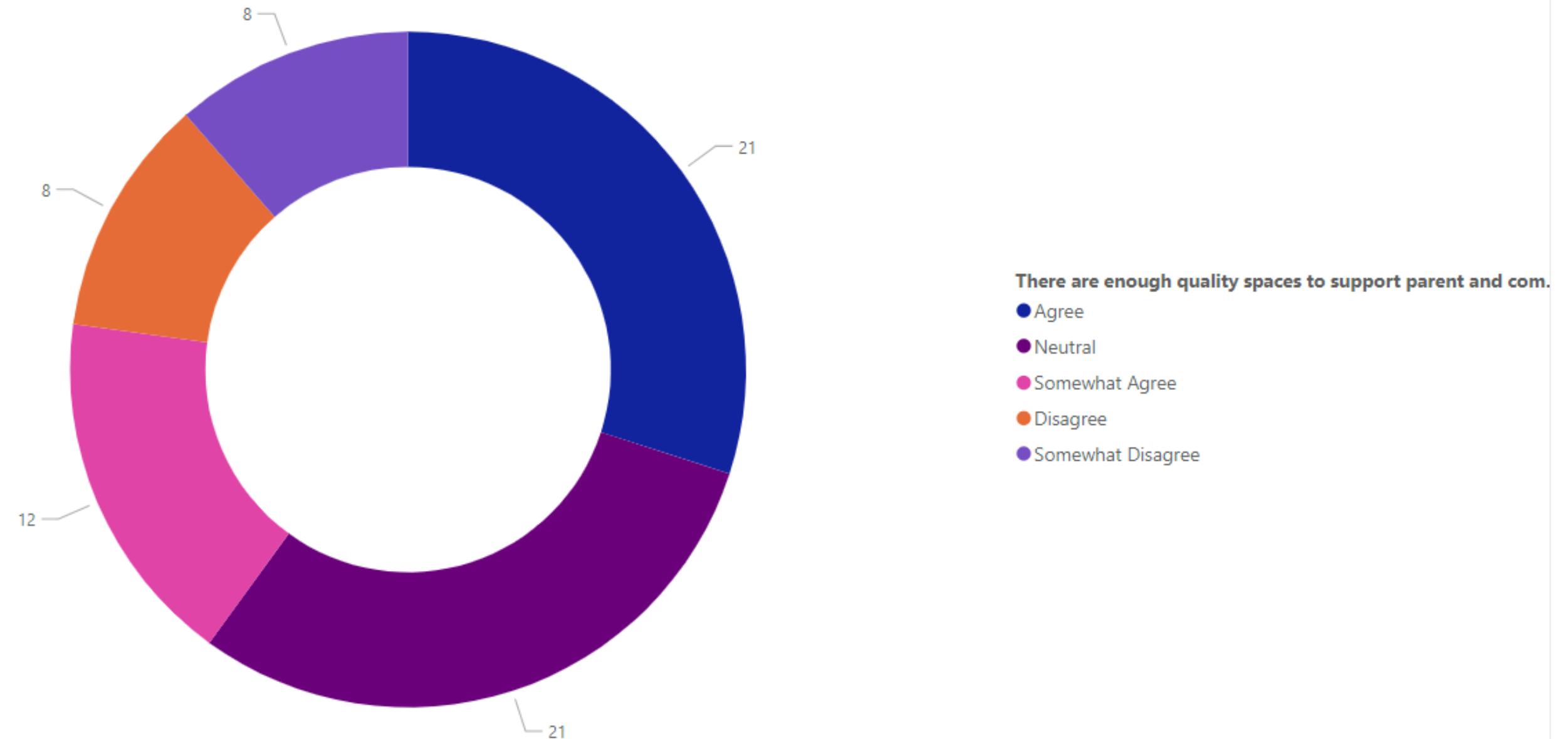
*What facilities or resources do you think are most in need of improvement at Palmer High School?*



*Major themes included improving heating and cooling systems, restrooms, proper ventilation, and updated facilities.*



## ***There are enough quality spaces to support parent and community involvement in the building...***



*Over 50% of respondents agree or feel neutral when asked if there are enough quality spaces that support parent and community involvement in the building.*

## ***What are your main hopes or concerns regarding the renovation?***

“Window in the classroom helps students feel connect with the outside world. Decent sized classroom. Nearby office to work in and collaborate with staff. However, many departments no longer have access to team offices in the building.”

“My hopes always is for the better of the of the building. Better of the environment, bettering And ease ship of the people working there and bettering of the students And the furthering of their future.”

“More flexible study spaces, maker spaces, library and tech resources, updated sports facilities, air conditioning.”

“I hope that you build a facility that maintains the historic nature of the school and ensures that you are creating space for students to enjoy extracurricular activities, to include athletics, music, theater, student government and arts. I am very concerned that you're going to pull away athletics.”

“I envision a space that all D-11 students AND staff can thrive. Let's envision a space that is ready for the 22nd Century and beyond and is designed to provide that space for our kids.”

“Creating a school that attracts students who may be turning away due to old, outdated facilities.”

“One unified academic building, easier access from class to class”

*Additional concerns included preservation of the existing campus, transparency of partnerships, and athletics and fine arts needs.*



**I believe the following big ideas should be explored as part of the renovation to ensure Palmer High School provides the best possible learning environment and high school experience for current and future students.**

*Additional themes included preserving the authenticity of the building and courtyard, embrace school pride, and update athletics and fine arts facilities.*

“Consolidating all student buildings into a cohesive single campus, partnerships with local business and industry to expand learning and career exploration, Creating an iconic facility that inspires the greater downtown and CS community.”

“Palmer students need to continue to have a variety of activities that meet everyone's interests. This helps them be more successful in school, engaged in the community and gives them something positive to look forward to at school.”

“Keeping the historical aspects while creating bigger spaces for gatherings”

“Embrace rather than resist being downtown, build in city facing elements to highlight student work (and workforce preparation)”

“As a Palmer Alum with 1 child who graduated, a current student, and a future student...I believe that the teachers make the learning environment great, and Palmer has some of the best teachers around...I believe that some of that money would be wisely spent to renovate Erps and create a real athletic community.”

“How will the building undergo a major renovation while continuing to provide instruction for current students?”

***When selecting a high school for my child, it is important that the building \_\_\_\_\_***

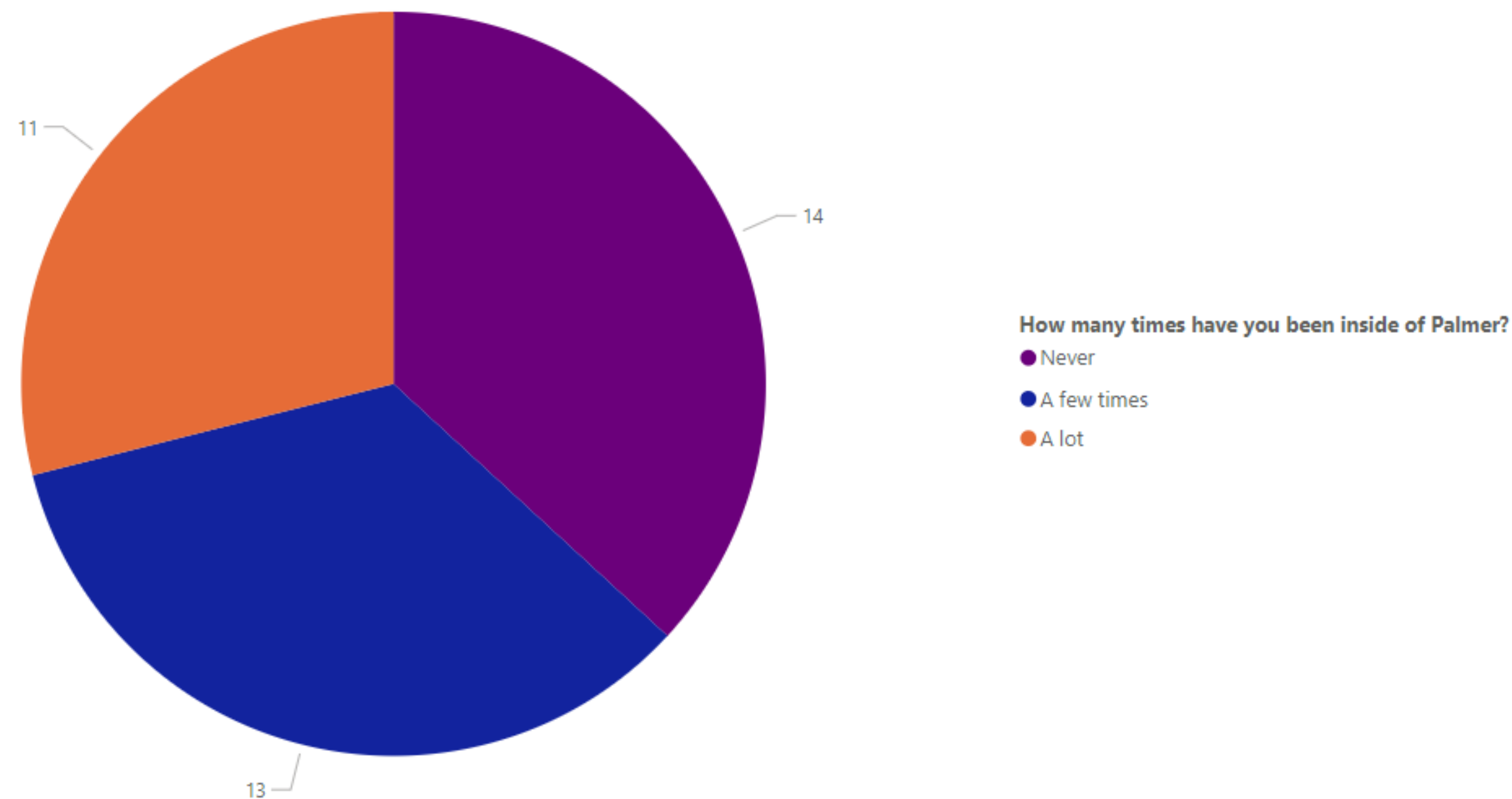
A word cloud of responses for high school selection criteria. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the center. The most prominent words are 'Safe' and 'learning', both in large blue font. Other words include 'comfortable' (orange), 'welcoming' (teal), 'students' (blue), 'inviting' (red), 'space' (purple), 'education' (purple), 'resources' (purple), 'place' (light blue), 'Feel' (light blue), 'academic' (green), 'provide' (pink), 'needs' (red), 'student' (purple), and 'learn' (light blue).

*Safety, equity, and educational adequacy were consistent themes among respondents.*

*Parents/guardians representing students from Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade responded to the survey.*

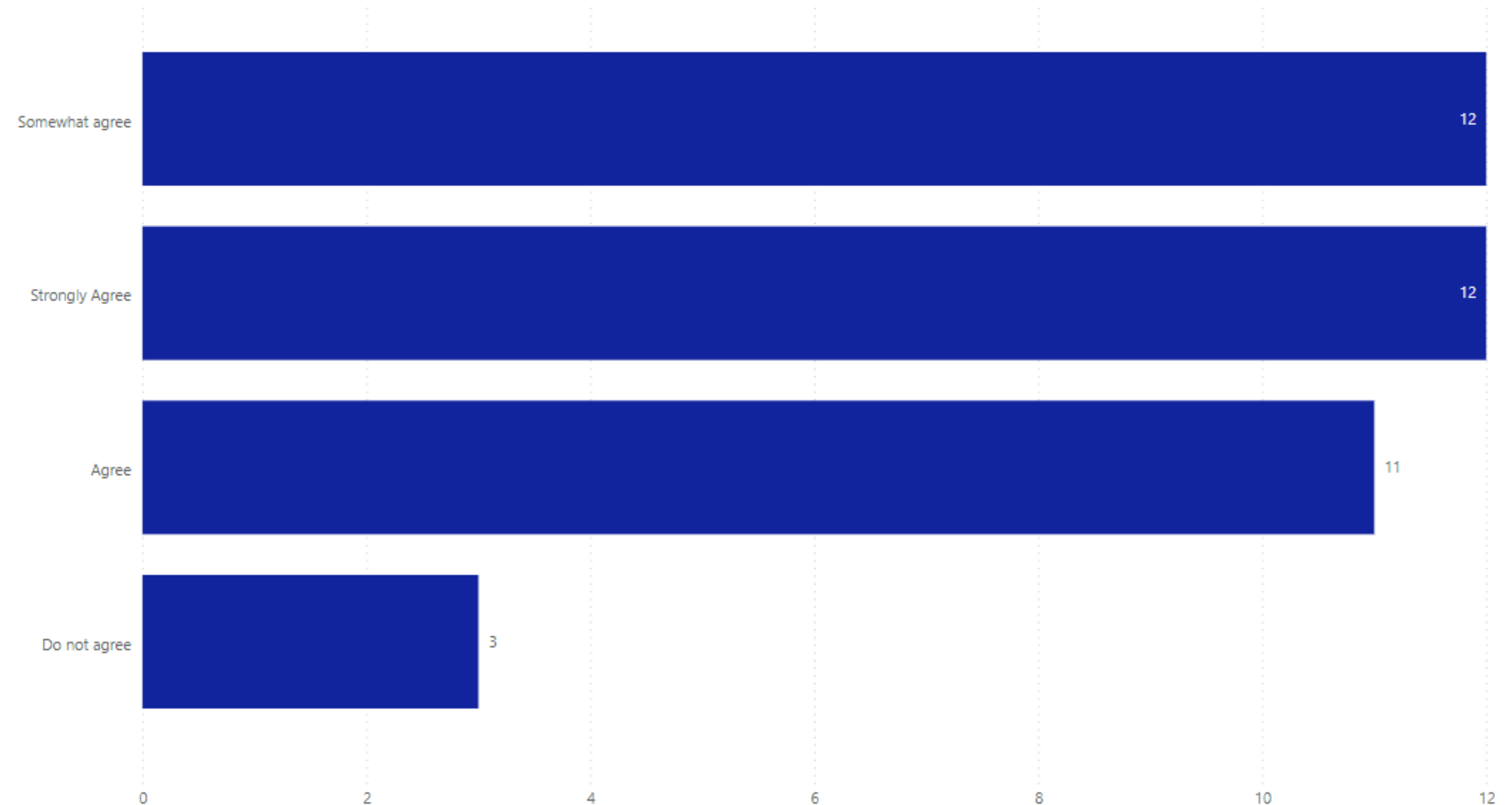


# How many times have you been inside of Palmer?



*There was a nearly equal spread for future parents when asked how many times they have visited Palmer.*

***Our family would be more likely to select Palmer as our high school if it was renovated to meet 21st century learning needs.***



*Most respondents agreed, somewhat agreed, or strongly agreed that if Palmer was renovated to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century learning needs, their family would be more likely to select Palmer as their high school.*



***What are your main hopes or concerns regarding the renovation?***

*Additional concerns included preservation of the existing campus, maintaining the gym, and student safety.*

“That the building is safe and the spaces feature outdoor views, art, an abundance of natural light, mobility and movement, eco-friendly architectural designs”

“The history of the school must be respected. The school is a fixture in the downtown area and most students that have attended have the fondest memory of the school...”

“This is a historic area. All of the new built homes in the downtown neighborhoods are suburban in style and architecture and take away from the culture and history of the area. The copper entrance is timeless. Please do not destroy the character.”

“Appropriate/up to date technology and sports facilities.”

“I'd love to see the historicity of the building(s) preserved. As to "21st century learning needs"--I'd love to see those met through a blending of advanced technology with learner-centered classrooms and education strategies. Bring the technology in that ALL students--from the college-bound to the trades-inclined students--will be using.”

“Be safe, accessible, and inviting for all.”

"Athletic facilities. Air conditioning. Classrooms for all teachers and all subjects. Career readiness classrooms for students who do not choose a college pathway."

"Hoping that the building is not under construction during the entirety of my daughter's high school career. Concerns about the distraction of the construction impacting the experience of high school."

"Renovation to the building is great, but teachers are the heart and soul of any school and that is what should be explored - quality teachers/quality education. My child's teachers are often disengaged and focus on teaching to tests, opposed to an inspired, innovative and creative approach."

"All classrooms need daylight unless they are purely used for media screening/archives/storage etc., all properties need to be included."

"A preservation of the historicity of the buildings while bringing in 21st century technology."

"Facilities that allow engagements/ learning from local industry experts"

**I believe the following big ideas should be explored as part of the renovation to ensure Palmer High School provides the best possible learning environment and high school experience for current and future students.**

*Additional themes included preserving Palmer as an important part of the downtown fabric , flexible spaces, maintaining infrastructure.*

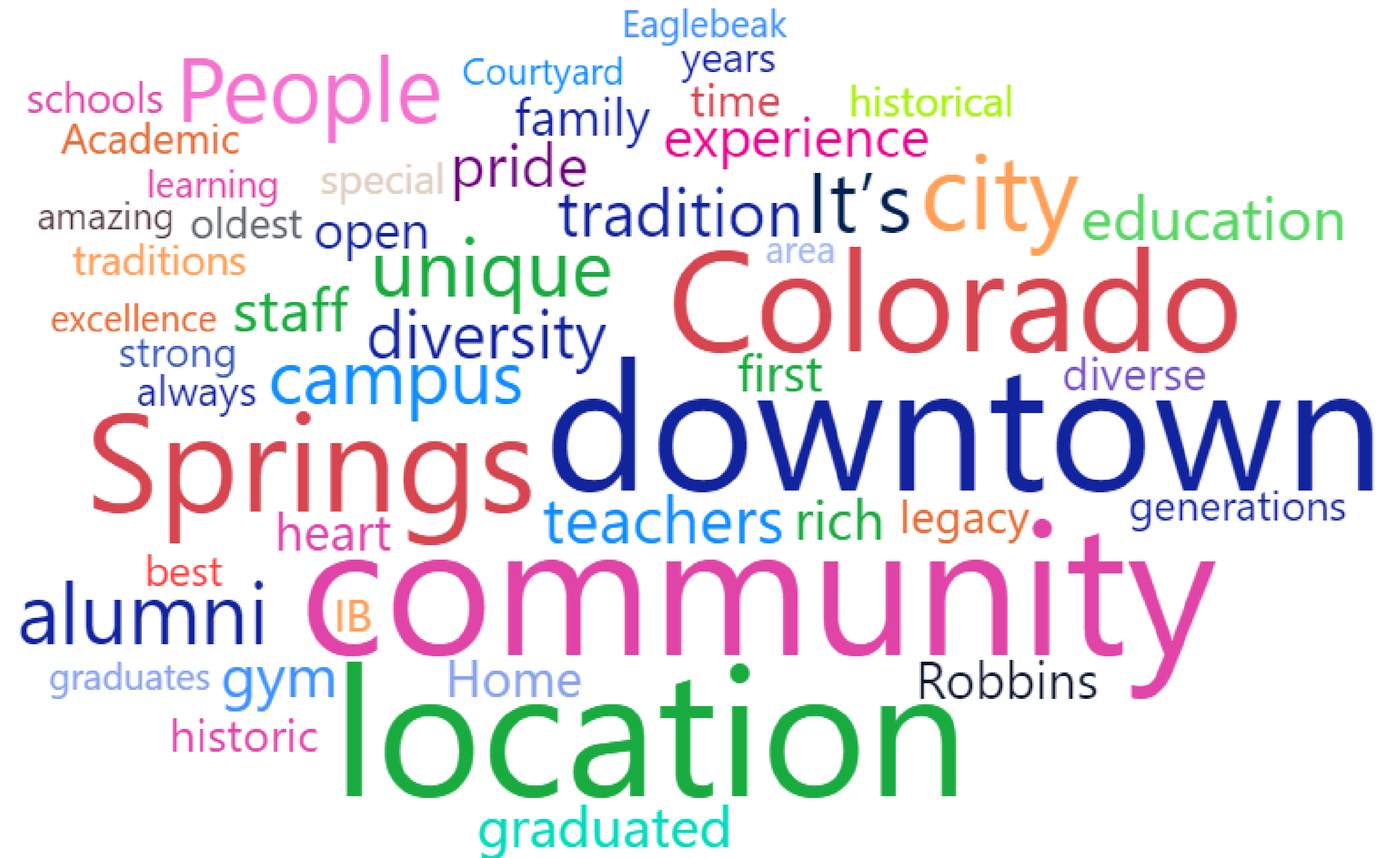


## ***What makes Palmer, Palmer?***

“Palmer is a combination of the people and experiences that have and will flow through these halls.”

“There is something humbling about working in a building that many of our family members attended school in.”

*Major themes included academic and extracurricular excellence, tradition, a supportive community, walkability, and cultural legacy.*



**Reflecting on your time at Palmer High School, what physical attributes of the school do you think left a positive impact on your experience?**

"I LOVE the entryway (as a member of student council, I got to polish the gold letters in front of the school!) and the huge open windows along the side of the building. Also, the views to Pikes Peak from the 3rd floor. I love the big, wide hallways and all the brickwork inside and outside. I also think the tunnels are a cool feature."

"Senior hall, alumni and trophy rooms or cases, open campus with different buildings and locations, north 9 entry points."

"Despite controversy I enjoyed the open campus, walking down to the big gym or through the tunnel to the small one. This difference in campus helped prepare me for college and gave me just a bit more independence as I grew in to an adult."

"Because the school spans several blocks, I got to interact with other members of the community in ways that I wouldn't have if I had attended a traditional high school with a closed campus. I didn't live in the downtown area... so I got to visit businesses, the park, etc. that I would never have otherwise experienced."

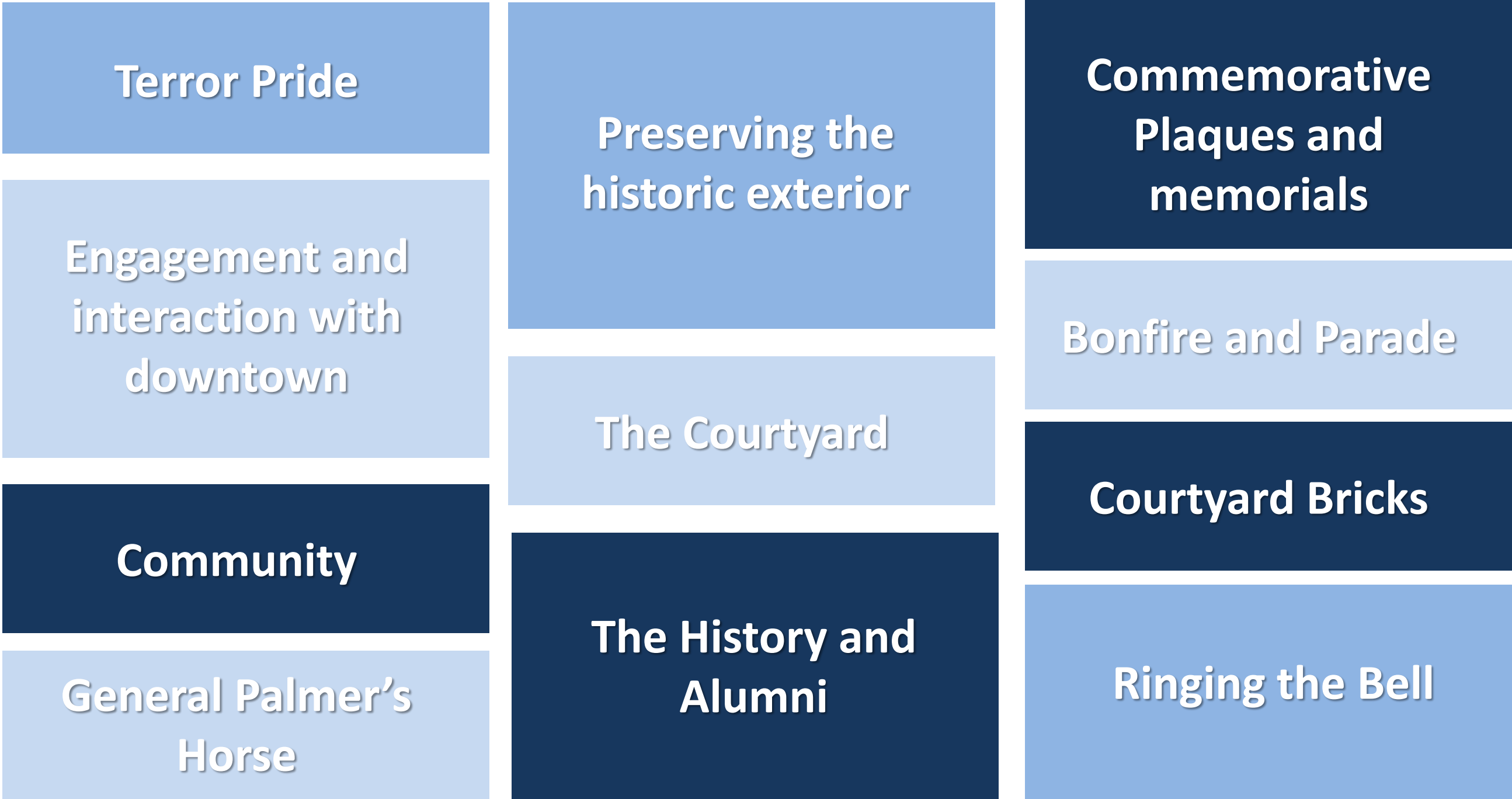
"I loved going to school in school that was downtown. We had a diverse student body and a unique setting being downtown."

"Historic buildings, auditorium, band room, gym & pool (I still miss the 1913 wing torn down in '69)"

*Additional themes included the 1939 architecture, unique ties to downtown, open campus, staff and teachers, the athletic facilities and auditorium.*



***What are the traditions that we should be aware of and support in this design process?***



*Additional themes included keeping the history and open campus of the building in tact, gatherings for friends and families, maintaining the academic rigor and athletic and auditorium facilities.*

# What changes do you believe could enhance the school's legacy and its impact on current and future students?

We need a way to bridge the old with the new...We want to represent everyone who has been and will be part of Palmer.

*Additional themes included capturing views, upgrading the campuses technology and systems, preserving the historic architecture, and connecting the old to the new.*

Better athletic facilities. More courts. Bigger weight room. Must have a pool.  
Better performing arts facilities. Bigger band room - need individual practice rooms. Same for Choir.  
Bigger location for the STEM factory.  
Bigger history room with modern audio/visual equipment.  
More storage for the Alumni Association

"Even with its long and proud history, Palmer must stay with the times, giving today's students comforts they expect to see in today's high school."

"Better athletic facilities, and a refocus on upper level academics toward more AP courses, offering both ample AP courses and an IB program. Also rebuilding and renovating the greenhouse."

"In the 1940 building, which is my primary object of concern, things should be returned, if not completely, at least largely to their 1940 design. Fluorescent lights should be replaced with period-appropriate Art Moderne fixtures. Drop ceilings, where installed, should be removed, allowing the full height of the windows to be seen."

"Celebrate our past students and give the current and future students encouragement to work hard and achieve their goals. "

"Even with its long and proud history, Palmer must stay with the times, giving today's students creature comforts they expect to see in today's high school."



## ***What are some creative ways to honor the history of Palmer in the design process?***

**Incorporating  
natural light and  
engaging classrooms**

**Flexible, forward  
thinking arts, sports,  
and performing arts  
facilities**

**Improved security  
and transportation  
accomodations**

**Repurpose the  
industrial arts  
building into a space  
and science lab.**

**Ongoing  
commitment to  
STEM and  
Vocational Tech  
Classes**

**A Well-designed museum with  
all of school's history including  
text/stories in addition to  
"items", available to the public,  
as well as integrating history  
through out the campus.**

*Alumni respondents emphasized the importance of the history of Palmer and highlighting traditions through art and space, additionally, there was a sentiment to keep the original part of palmer and the courtyard while making the museum space easily accessible to all in the community.*

## ***How can the school better serve the needs and interests of the community through this renovation?***

*Major themes included modernization while preserving the historical integrity of Palmer, opportunities to enhance Palmer's relationship with the community, and hosting public events, improving bike and pedestrian access, and developing arts and cultural programming space.*

*There is a strong sentiment for keeping student interests at the forefront of decision-making.*

"It will help make our downtown neighborhoods proud of the beautiful school and heritage that it has served."

"The primary consideration needs to be meeting student needs now and in the future. The community needs these educated young people to thrive."

"Create a safe, healthy place for students and teachers to learn and teach. It needs to be a school. It does not need to be a community center."

"Include academic programming that prepares students for careers in the many areas of the arts."

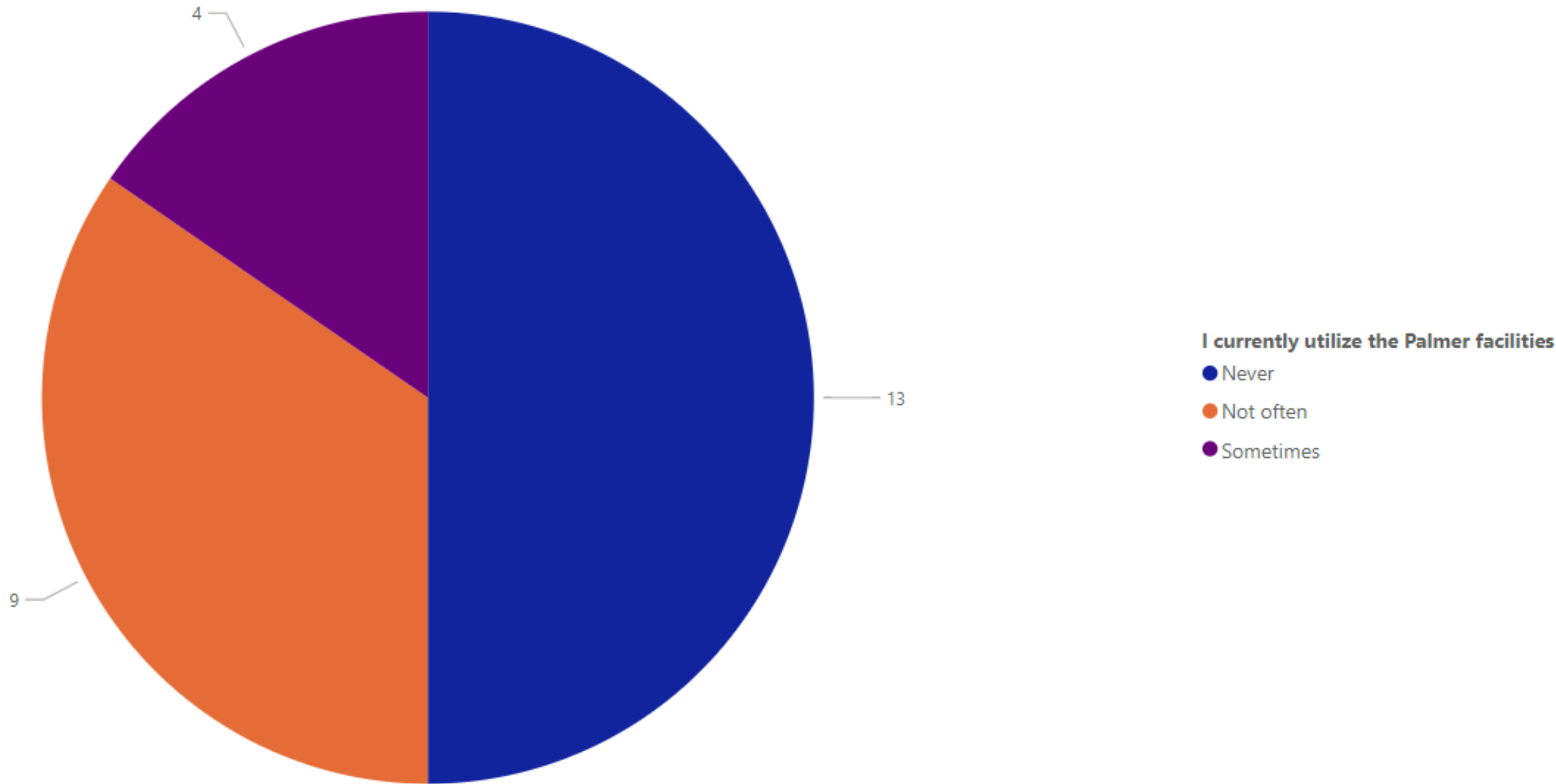
"Through the school's renovation, it can better serve its community by considering construction and temporary access to, through, and around the site."

"Traffic calming along the public streets that interface with the school's properties can make student and public travel safer while the renovation is underway."

"Respect and preserve the history while building towards the future."

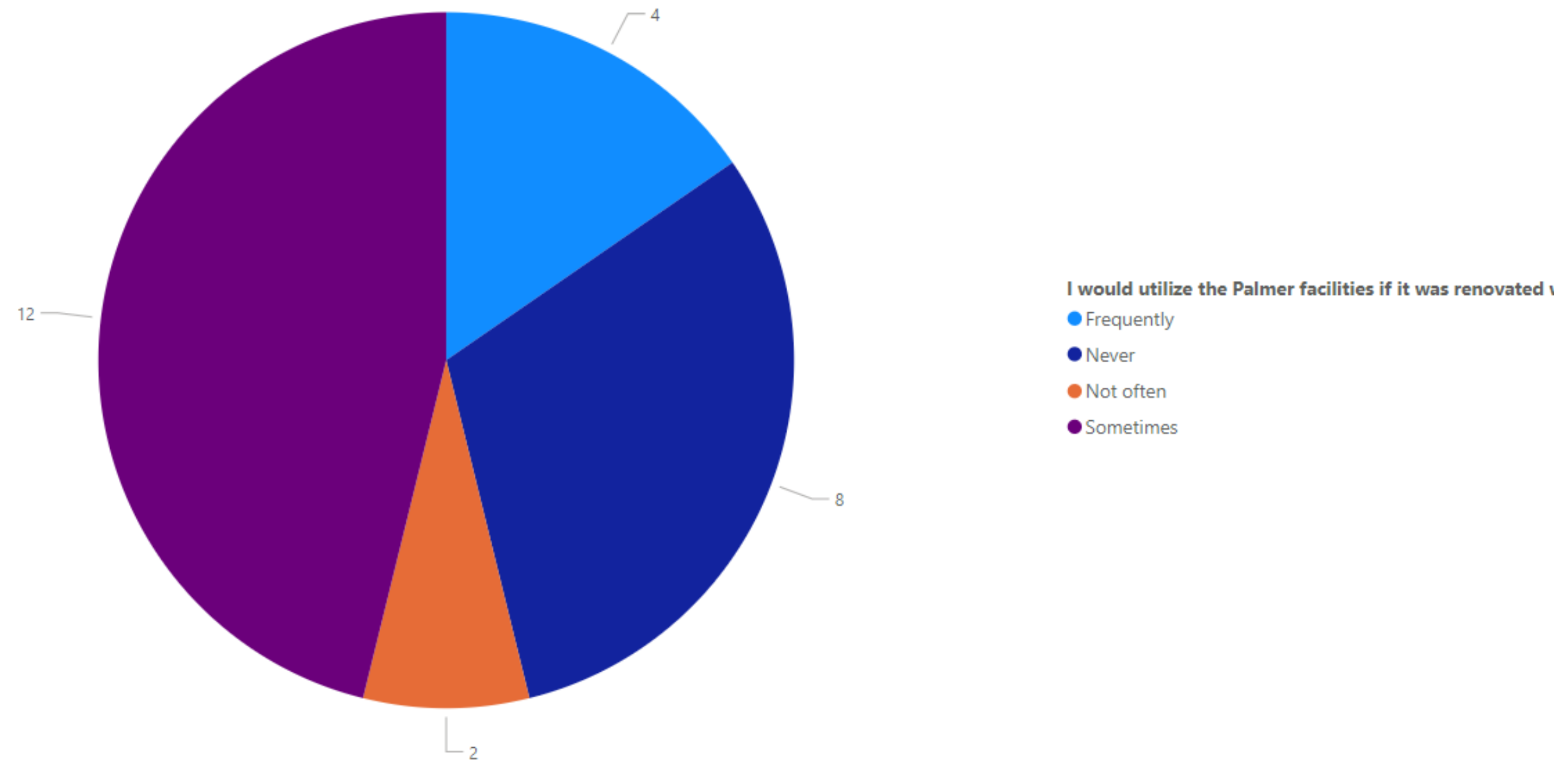


*I currently utilize the Palmer facilities.*



*76% of community/neighbor respondents chose never or not often when asked if they are currently utilizing the Palmer facilities.*

***I would utilize the Palmer facilities if it was renovated with community needs in mind.***



*Over 60% of respondents selected sometimes or frequently when asked if they would use the Palmer facilities if it was renovated with community needs in mind.*



## ***How can the school better serve the needs and interests of the community through this renovation?***

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"Traffic calming along the public streets that interface with the school's properties can make student and public travel safer while the renovation is underway."

"Respect and preserve the history while building towards the future."

"Partner with local businesses for internships, create innovation hubs, and support entrepreneurship."

"The school functions as a catalyst for the downtown area. Having more activities at Palmer for the community would bring more people downtown."

"In planning the renovation, Palmer High can become a catalyst for great neighborhoods and a vibrant downtown through: Community Integration, Sustainability, Accessibility, Cultural Engagement."

"Ensure accessibility and ADA compliance and engage the community in planning"

"D11 ought to think first about the students, staff, and families of Palmer and then address the wants of and impacts on the community."

"Modernize so that CS history is preserved."

**I believe the following ideas should be explored in planning the renovation to ensure Palmer High School and campus are a catalyst for great neighborhoods and a vibrant downtown into the future.**

*Major themes included prioritizing students and education, community engagement and partnerships, historic preservation, necessary facility updated, cultural and economic roles, and inclusivity and accessibility.*



## ***What do you value most about Palmer High School's culture and community?***

"My whole family has been through Palmer and my kids are now there. I value the pride people have in being a part of the Terror tradition and community."

"Everyone (every student, every teacher, every visitor) has a place. We all can find a 'home' where we are welcomed, championed, challenged, fueled, and included at Palmer."

"D11 pride. One of the oldest schools in the city."

"Palmer is and always has been about the diverse community that makes up the school."

"Palmer's alumni have been the backbone of change for the better in Colorado Springs and the world for generations."

"We all can find a 'home' where we are welcomed, championed, challenged, fueled, and included at Palmer."

"I value the pride people have in being a part of the Terror tradition and community."

*Major themes included emphasizing the historical significance and preserving the legacy of Palmer, diversity and community, pride and emotional connection to Palmer's legacy, and a sense of belonging.*

"The community outreach program that addresses the needs of at-risk students."

"The freshman 3rd floor history tour, famous Alumni pictures, class pictures and sports team pictures in the gym. Homecoming festivities, Alumni breakfast, community events and outreach programs."

"We understand times change, but we are sad that unless unique design elements are included, our students won't know what it's like to walk directly to Boulder street through the courtyard, or regularly visit the aux gym."

"Pep assemblies in ERPS gym, trophy cases and alumni photos in Senior Hall."

"The excellent alumni organization that chats with incoming students about Palmer's history of excellence."

"The school needs to be left alone, except with minor interior changes that are needed."

**Are there any traditions at the school that you feel are important for the design team to know about?**

*Major themes included preservation of tradition and history, alumni involvement, maintaining the unique, historical character of Palmer, and tradition of community events.*

*There is some resistance expressed to major renovations, with with individuals preferring minor interior updates rather than significant changes to the structure or layout of the school.*

## *What are your favorite features of the current campus?*

*Major themes included preservation of historic features, a love for Palmer's spread out downtown campus, appreciation for specific spaces and features, keeping tradition and character alive, and the importance of maintaining outdoor spaces.*

"The corner windows on the third floor need to be featured in any type of remodel of the school."

"I do like that it is in the heart of downtown...even if it is spread out."

"Love the fact that students move to different buildings. Love the erps sports complex."

"Bell tower, old windows facing the city and mountains. The iconic old gym on a different block, the open campus that is at the heart of downtown."

"I love ALL of the buildings."

"The courtyard... including greenhouse or sustainable gardening/demo area is nice."

"While very aged, the auditorium is truly grand... especially the balcony and theatre rooms behind that."



"Community space as a 'hub'. More security features."

"Culinary/food classes would benefit GREATLY from a modern, theater-style classroom with a central station."

"The stage... PLEASE include the current masque and sandal cabinet and their families and friends of theater (including many alumni) in your evaluation."

"We wish the football field was regular size AND included comfortable crowd/audience room."

"Air conditioning and climate control in general, more reliable elevators and updated bathrooms."

"Building facades and grounds."

"Keep the students together more."

"The front 'nine' doors are abysmal with their current use."

## What features of the current campus could be improved?

*Major themes included a desire for modernization and updates, concerns about performing arts and athletic spaces, community and security enhancements, specific facility and functionality improvements, and preservation of historical elements.*

*Many respondents also offered practical, detailed suggestions for how Palmer could become more modern and functional.*

## ***What do you value most about Palmer High School's culture and community?***

*Major themes included diversity of student body and inclusive culture, emphasizing Palmer's rich history and long-standing tradition, school pride and belonging, Palmer's downtown integration, commitment to academic excellence, longstanding alumni connections, unity, and an appreciation for Palmer's safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.*

"What I value most about Palmer is its outstanding educational institution that has remained steadfast."

"The downtown location is amazing and the broad and diverse staff and student body is most valuable."

"My whole family has been through Palmer, and my kids are now there."

"The teachers are outstanding, dedicated individuals who are genuinely concerned about the students' learning and well-being."

"The long history of Palmer is a foundation of the community."

"Palmer has been a steady educational institution for a long time, and an important part of D11."

"I value the student-led productions and creative arts of the school."

"It's the only school like it in Colorado Springs. Open campus, spread out through several blocks."

**Are there any traditions at the school that you feel are important for the design team to know about?**

*Major themes included ringing the bell, preserving the historical elements of the school, including the alumni museum, hall of fame, the courtyard and open campus, school spirit and community events, and maintaining the aesthetic and architectural heritage.*

"Bonfire at the field for homecoming has been happening since the 1920s."

"The bell in the courtyard, a welcoming and parting gift for every student."

"Keep the history of the school alive— the alumni room, the memorabilia."

"Palmer is about history and heritage, not eliminating buildings."

"The historical bell tower and the clock should stay."

"Concerts, sports events, and student performances form a large part of our identity."

"The courtyard is essential for bell ringing and other student activities."



## ***What are your favorite features of the current campus?***

"The open campus, combined with the downtown environment, fosters independence and a sense of agency among students."

"The campus layout feels like a mini-college, preparing students for managing time between classes."

"The historic nature of the buildings and their wide hallways and high ceilings make the campus feel special."

"The layout of the school, with multiple buildings and a campus that spreads over several blocks, feels more like a college."

"The courtyard, with its grass and trees, offers a serene space in the middle of downtown."

"The auditorium has over half the seating capacity of the Pikes Peak Center, making it a valuable asset to the school and community."

"I love the front entrance with the clock and the iconic architecture that gives the school its unique character."

*Major themes included the courtyard as a crucial space for students to gather, relax, and connect, the freedom for students to move between buildings and downtown, the campus' historic architecture, the integration into the local community, and appreciation for Palmer's auditorium and theater spaces.*

"Bathrooms are constantly closed and could use more privacy and functionality."

"Classrooms are generally very uncomfortable spaces—old, bad furniture, temperature variations, and small spaces."

"HVAC and electrical systems need significant updates to meet modern standards."

"The athletic facilities, including Erps Gym and the pool, are old and need modernization."

"Heating and cooling systems, natural light, classroom space, and bathrooms."

"Security is a concern, and more measures should be put in place for entry and access points."

"I would love to see all the buildings interconnected, so students don't have to go outside for classes."

"Traffic flow and student safety need to be addressed, particularly in high-traffic areas."

"The auditorium needs a lot of improvement—it could be used for public events."

## What features of the current campus could be improved?

*Major themes included widespread demand for improved climate control across the campus, the need to modernize Palmer's interiors, concerns on athletic facilities and gym improvements, a desire for better access between different campus buildings, bathroom and facilities updates, parking and traffic safety, accessibility, and general modernization and maintenance.*

## ***What does a 21st century learning environment and community hub look like to you?***

*Major themes included flexible, adaptable environments that support both individual and group learning, with spaces that encourage creativity, collaboration, and social interaction, integration of technology, natural light and open spaces, community hubs that foster connections beyond the classroom, offering spaces for community events, extracurriculars, and engagement with local businesses and organizations, inclusivity and accessibility, and sustainable design.*

"Flexible learning spaces, welcoming community-facing areas like the theater, library, and auditorium."

"The rich history of Palmer should be honored, and the building should remain connected to its past while moving forward."

"More trades programs and hands-on learning spaces that support diverse career pathways, not just college."

"More use of technology, from modern labs to digital assignments. Tech should be integrated, not just centered."

"Big windows and natural lighting are crucial to making the learning environment feel more welcoming."

"Sustainable, energy-efficient design with lots of natural light, green spaces, and eco-friendly building materials."

"Spaces that are inclusive and cater to different learning styles—seating options for kids with ADHD, sensory tools, etc."

"It should be adaptable for student and community use, incorporating spaces for events, meetings, and collaboration."



## What does a successful renovation look like to you?

*Major themes included successful renovation should retain the historical architecture and character of the building while updating it for modern use. This involves maintaining the distinctive elements that make the school unique while incorporating new amenities and technology, updating essential infrastructure, minimizing disruption to the learning environment during renovation, enhancing student centered design, engaging students, staff, and the community throughout the renovation process, and strike a balance between maintaining the school's traditions and history while preparing it for future generations by incorporating modern amenities and designs that reflect 21st-century learning environments.*

"At minimum, A/C, improved circulation in the hallways, access to bathrooms, and a functioning HVAC system."

"A renovation that honors the past while providing the best of current learning environments."

"A historic feel with modern technology and appeal."

"Minimal impact to current and future students; does not change the architecture of the current campus."

"Spaces that enhance student learning through engaging physical structure."

"Involving students, staff, and the community in providing feedback and making adjustments."

"A successful renovation would preserve the past while still updating for the future."

## ***What are you most curious to learn more about regarding this renovation project?***

*Major themes included in how the renovation will preserve the historical and cultural aspects of the school, such as the architecture, gym, and important spaces., curiosity about how decisions are being made, what the design and renovation plans are, and how transparent the process will be. Concerns about what will happen to important athletic facilities like the gym, field, and pool, financial aspects of the renovation, how the community, including students, staff, and alumni, will be involved in the renovation process and how their input will be integrated into the final plans.*

"How the history of CSHS/Palmer will be carried on in the design."

"What is the timeline for completion and how will the renovations affect the learning environment?"

"How much of the buildings' bones will remain and how the historical elements will be preserved."

"Will our feedback be considered, and how will it impact the final plans?"

"How the history of CSHS/Palmer will be carried on in the design."

"Why is the big gym and track being considered for demolition?"

"Exactly what the renovation will look like and how community feedback will be used."

"Is the budget enough, and how will funds be allocated?"

## September

- **Community Engagement Sessions + Visioning Committee Creation**

- ~~September 5: Open House~~
- ~~September 9: Town Hall meeting~~
- ~~September 10: Student Engagement~~
- ~~September 11: Student Council Meeting~~
- ~~September 12: Palmer staff meeting~~
- ~~September 12: Athletics meeting~~
- ~~September 20: City Staff-level discussion~~
- ~~September 20: Downtown Partnership Annual Breakfast~~
- ~~September 23: Downtown Focus Group~~
- ~~September 24: Neighborhood Focus Group~~
- September 28: Alumni Breakfast

## October

- **Community Engagement Follow Up and Design Direction Sessions**

- October 2: D11 Board Meeting Update
- October 3: Palmer Alumni Association Board Discussions - Virtual
- October 3-4: Palmer Visioning Session
- October 28: Community town hall
- October 29: Palmer staff meeting
- October 30: Student Council Meeting
- October 30: School Board meeting (tentative)
- Follow up meetings with students, staff, alumni, community associations, business partners

## November

- **Recommended path forward at the end of November**

- Steering committee meeting
- Website posting
- Board meeting