

Bond Advisory Committee Question of the Week #3 Summary

- **Considering the growing needs within our education system, how crucial do you think it is for our community to secure consistent funding for school building improvements?** Considering that nine facilities require either update or replacement, what are the potential long-term impacts on students, teachers, and the broader community if this investment isn't prioritized? How might we balance immediate financial concerns with the future benefits of a well-maintained, updated educational infrastructure?

Survey Responses (attached below)

The survey results revealed overwhelming community support for prioritizing consistent funding for school-building improvements, with most respondents deeming it "extremely crucial" to the education system's future. Three key themes emerged: the importance of **maintaining safe and functional learning environments** to ensure student success, transparent **communication regarding fiscal management** and **project prioritization**, and the urgency of addressing equity concerns by focusing on neglected schools, such as **Waller Road**. These responses emphasize the community's recognition of the direct impact that well-maintained facilities have on education quality, student safety, and long-term district reputation.

A few key themes emerged from the responses:

1. Importance of Safe and Functional Schools:

- Several survey participants highlighted that neglecting to invest in building improvements could lead to unsafe and deteriorating environments. This may result in missed educational opportunities, a decline in the school's reputation, and potential school closures. There was a strong consensus that modern and secure facilities play a direct role in supporting student success.
- Specific concerns included outdated HVAC systems, old infrastructure impacting water and air quality, and overcrowded schools.

2. Community and Public Perception:

- Several respondents believe that neglecting school buildings reflects poorly on the community's values. Poor maintenance sends a message that education and student well-being should be prioritized.
- There were calls to raise awareness about these issues through social media, public campaigns, and community engagement.

3. Balancing Immediate Financial Concerns with Long-Term Benefits:

- While financial concerns were noted, especially regarding the reliance on levies and bonds, respondents often felt that long-term planning should prioritize proactive maintenance and upgrades.
- Suggestions included engaging the community more deeply, investigating alternative funding methods (grants, state funding), and focusing on budget management efficiency, especially by reducing administrative overhead in favor of direct school investments.

4. Urgency for Action:

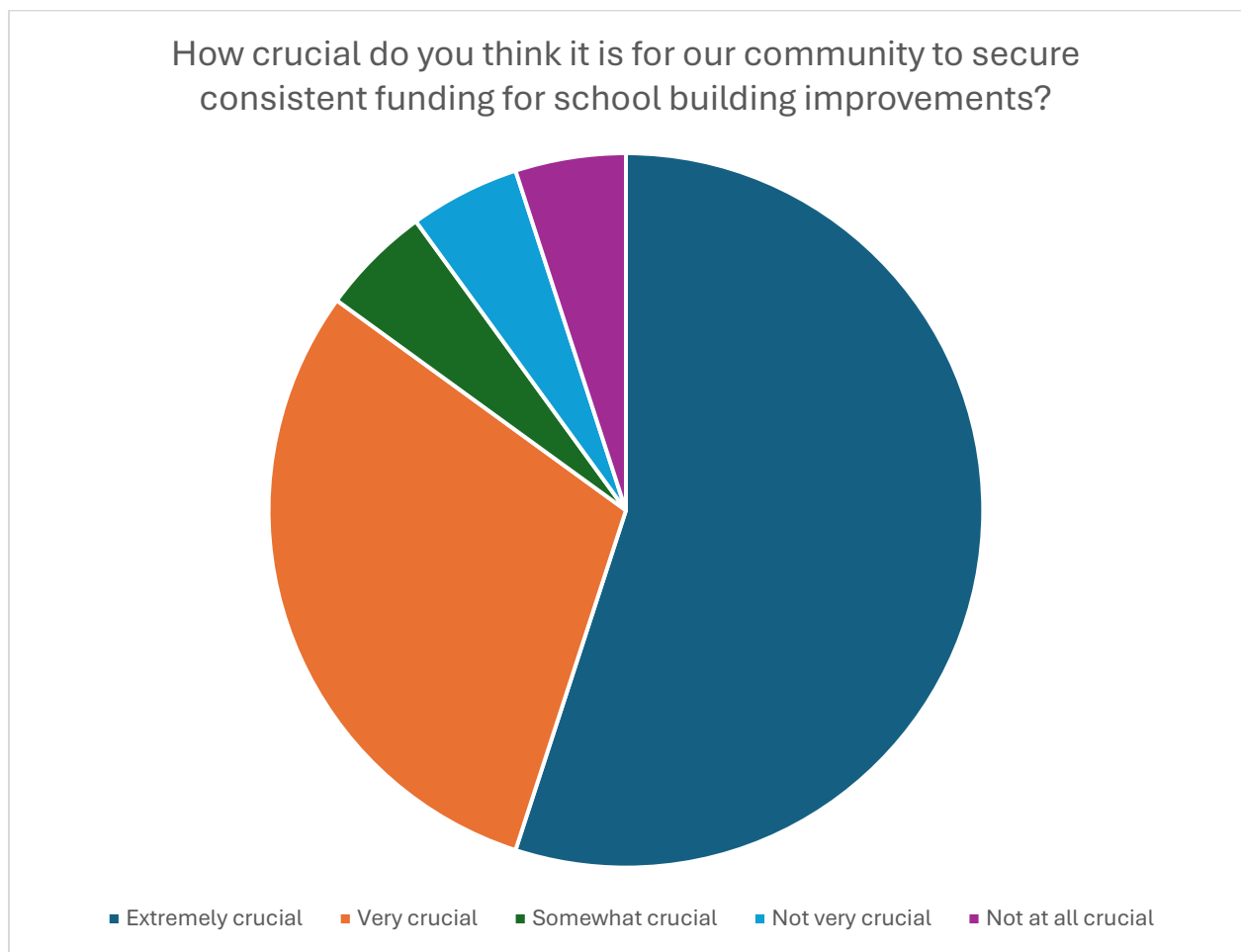
- Several respondents noted that delays in addressing building improvements would exacerbate problems, leading to higher overall costs. They advocated for a phased plan that balances short-term repairs with long-term investments, highlighting the need to avoid reactive "band-aid" solutions.
- There were also suggestions to involve staff in identifying the most critical needs and to explore all funding avenues to secure the necessary resources.

5. Equity and Access:

- Equity issues surfaced, especially regarding older, neglected schools like Waller Road. Some felt it needed to be more equitable that certain schools had modern facilities. In contrast, others were left in poor condition, affecting student morale and staff effectiveness.
- Respondents highlighted the importance of ensuring all schools provide a safe, welcoming environment, with some advocating for more consistent standards across the district.

6. Community Engagement and Advocacy:

- A recurring recommendation was to engage more with the community to foster understanding and support for future funding initiatives. Respondents suggested that the district could better communicate the impact of school improvements on student outcomes, linking facility upgrades to metrics like graduation rates and test scores.
- Several respondents encouraged the district to be more transparent and proactive in its advocacy for better funding at the state level.



Analysis and Recommendations:

The overall tone of the survey indicates that the community sees the value of investing in school infrastructure. However, there is a notable concern about financial transparency and the effective use of current funds. The district may benefit from:

- **Phased Investment Plans:** Communicate a long-term, phased plan that shows how immediate and future projects will be funded and prioritized.
- **Community Education and Advocacy:** Continue building trust with the community by educating stakeholders on the necessity of investments and their long-term benefits.
- **Equity in School Improvements:** Ensure equitable attention to older, more neglected schools to build community confidence and demonstrate a commitment to all students' success.

The survey responses emphasize the community's need for consistent funding to improve school buildings. The feedback shows that safe, modern facilities are not just a luxury but a necessity for student success, teacher retention, and community pride. The community demands more transparency in the district's finances, strategic investments, and fair attention to all schools, including historically neglected ones. This shows a strong desire for long-term solutions. By prioritizing these investments, the district can create environments where students can thrive and families can feel confident in the quality and safety of the education system. Failing to act risks the deterioration of physical structures and undermines trust, community support, and the future of Puyallup School District.

BAC Question of the Week #3 Results

ID	Date	Considering the growing needs within our education system, how crucial do you think it is for our community to secure consistent funding for school building improvements?	Considering that nine facilities require either update or replacement, what are the potential long-term impacts on students, teachers, and the broader community if this investment isn't prioritized?	How might we balance immediate financial concerns with the future benefits of a well-maintained, updated educational infrastructure?	Submitted By
4639	10/9/2024 17:33	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.			Anonymous User
4641	10/9/2024 18:35	Somewhat crucial – It would be helpful but not the highest priority.		School admin / whoever is in charge of projects needs to be very clear and upfront with how money is being spent. A lot of community members have little faith with how funds are spent.	Anonymous User
4642	10/9/2024 20:21	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	Students and faculty need strong, safe environments to learn and thrive in. Without a focus on proactive upkeep, updates and/or replacements, only failure of the places protecting our children remains. And with failure is a large bill the community will eventually have to front to bring everything back into shape... or we'll just be stuck without safe facilities to send our kids to.	Engage more with the community to educate on what the district really needs, continue to find ways to tell your stories of education and the impact you have on the children you are developing, protecting and serving. Look into as many grant programs as possible, lean on your staff to tell you what is needed as well.	Anonymous User
4643	10/9/2024 21:03	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	Safety issues and learning loss.	Prioritize immediate needs.	Anonymous User

4645	10/9/2024 4 21:44	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	Not taking care of buildings tells students, staff, and the public that students DON'T matter. Nit caring for schools tells voters that you don't care at all.	Stand up loud and strong for better money. Make it a big issue in media, in Facebook posts, and other ways. Show us what needs better money from the state. Give us addresses to write to for better funding.	Anonymous User
4653	10/10/2024 12:50	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.			Anonymous User
4663	10/10/2024 17:58	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	There is a very real possibility that failing to maintain our buildings will result in a loss of education for our students. Jobs could be lost and valuable teachers will go elsewhere to other more well managed districts.		Anonymous User
4664	10/10/2024 18:37	Not very crucial – Other issues are more pressing than school building improvements.		I'm am aware that some improvements are above and beyond what is actually needed to educate children. For instance, flat screen tvs in common areas are not necessary for education.	Anonymous User
4667	10/10/2024 20:25	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	It means, as our schools grow and with no funding, the student to teacher ratio will increase.	How do we use our current budget that we receive to save for these types of changes? It just seems that the district relies only on levies or bonds to do significant improvements instead of fiscally using the dollars you already receive and save it. Taxpayers already pay the dollars for the school district and the EP&O levy. Relying on more dollars from taxpayers who are already stretched isn't fiscally responsible and puts another burden on us.	Anonymous User

4668	10/10/20 24 20:26	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	It is important to look at population growth in the Puyallup area. Our enrollment hasn't stabilized so we still need funding. I am not sure the forecasters will be able to accurately predict the student growth/decline. Watching districts like Bellevue and Seattle have to close schools because of lack of students/funding seems far off, but it might not be... do these 9 schools have a consistent upstream of students?	Teachers are constantly being asked to do more with less, Puyallup seems admin heavy, compared to our needs (not compared to other districts) I would like to see cuts in other areas to better prioritize students. I understand that budgets are different but money is money.	Anonymous User
4669	10/10/20 24 21:17	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	Extremely important- the Puyallup population is only growing- we need to improve present buildings and preserve land for more	Good question... I'm not an accountant or legislator- I have no idea what the local and State budgets can provide	Anonymous User
4672	10/11/20 24 1:55		start looking at building another high school	this district has grown consistently for 15 years and it's about to stop... plus, older people are selling their homes and many younger families are moving into the district.	Anonymous User
4674	10/11/20 24 6:59	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	I think that we are going to see a backslide in the quality of education as we aren't meeting the basic needs of the students and teachers.	This is a statewide problem and really I feel this needs to be addressed at the state congressional level.	Anonymous User
4675	10/11/20 24 7:15	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	If these building projects are not prioritized, then we will see more building being 'condemned/closed' like the Library/Science/Art Building at PHS. It has impacted every student and staff member. We have gone over a year without additional portables being delivered/installed.	By putting a percentage of immediate projects and a percentage of maintenance projects.	Anonymous User

4679	10/11/20 24 9:23	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	<p>School's may be shut down. Graduation rates, connections to the community, and student engagement may drop.</p> <p>Attending Puyallup schools used to be a selling point, that is no longer the case. Puyallup often cites equity as a core value; however, this is not reflected in the schools.</p>	<p>Create a phased plan that shows tangible educational benefits and return on investment of upgrades such as improved graduation rates, higher test scores, and student engagement.</p> <p>Show how improved learning environments can attract families and teachers to the district, boosting enrollment and in turn, funding.</p> <p>Optimize administrative efficiency to free up funds for educational infrastructure. Prioritize infrastructure investments based on educational impact that are aligned with the direct needs of students and teachers, for example, updating buildings may have a greater impact on student learning than non-instructional facilities.</p>	Anonymous User
4680	10/11/20 24 9:25	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	<p>Students may choose to leave the Puyallup school system in search of better facilities to support their students' best interests, less students means less funding. Old/outdated facilities feeds into the reputation of the Puyallup school district and we want to do all that we can to maintain and uphold a positive reputation in the eyes of our community.</p>		Anonymous User

4682	10/11/20 24 9:43	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	<p>Long-term, tending to aging facilities will positively impact so many aspects of the educational system. Some of the positive impacts would include safe drinking water to remain hydrated and free from harm from old pipes; comfortable, regulated temperatures across all school spaces supports learning (look at the research) and allows staff and students to work at their most efficient level every school day; safe air inside the buildings to breath supports learning and decreases illness; creating buildings that have safety features that make sense can support how the school functions with efficiency; school culture will be improved as we have a space that we can proudly invite the community into; sufficient space for staff resources to work and deliver services in (special education, MLL, etc. etc.);</p> <p>I'm glad to see Waller Road on the list. Meeker needs to be added for sure.</p>	<p>You would balance immediate concerns with future infrastructure like all of us do....prioritize immediate concerns and save for the future. Have folks give a sense of future need on physical features....for example, a roof generally lasts xx number of years, air systems should be updated every XX years and budget for those things.</p>	Anonymous User
4684	10/11/20 24 10:06	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	<p>Without adequate funding educational facilities will continue to deteriorate. We need a new funding mechanism,</p>	<p>They both are important. A well-funded system, providing for immediate needs and long-range planning is vital in</p>	Anonymous User

4688	10/11/20 24 10:56	Extremely crucial – Securing consistent funding is essential for the future of our education system.	<p>which will allow for consistent, adequate funding. We cannot continue to rely on property taxes and timber sales to fund our schools. We must work with the State Legislature to develop alternative funding. Why</p> <p>Waller Road is a neglected school for students and staff. It is inequitable that there are brand new beautiful buildings for students in the district but then schools like Waller. These students need a safe and welcoming place to come and this school is so old and outdated and teachers do their best, but it is a hot mess. This district has neglected this school and it is clear to see. If this investment is not prioritized it will effect student & staff wellbeing. The staff does not feel as valued as other schools because the other schools have things that work! Students are affected because they do not have a facility with working technology or even a playground suitable for Washington weather or for playing.</p>	ensuring high quality education for ALL students.	Anonymous User
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4694	10/11/20 24 12:32	Very crucial – It is important and would significantly improve education outcomes.	<p>Schools could become hazardous to occupy and students could be moved to other buildings farther away.</p> <p>I think it would be good for the district to make alliances with parents and community to spread the word about supporting bonds in the future. The school district has been doing a good job of starting to get the word out. PTAs and non-profit organizations could be a good alliance. I also think studying what other school districts in the state are doing is a good idea to see if there are other ideas and resources to find.</p>	<p>Prioritize student learning and plan to do critical repairs of buildings each year along with learning so that at least some items of infrastructure are being addressed.</p>	Anonymous User
4697	10/11/20 24 14:46		<p>School is a place where students need to feel safe, supported, and energized, especially to ensure maximum learning.</p>	<p>The balance is simple, stop putting so much money into unnecessary or low priority locations and ideals. Prioritizing</p>	Anonymous User

4700	10/11/20 24 18:09	Not at all crucial – I don't believe securing funding for this is necessary.	<p>If a student arrives at a school that is falling down, unsafe, has poor air quality, or has poor water quality, they are not going to feel comfortable enough to do their best work. A school should be a beacon of light where students are not at risk for health hazards. A school should not be left behind to rot like an old, stale, moldy piece of bread. Schools should be a healthy environment where students success is the priority, where students and teachers should not feel like around the next corner is another illness waiting to infect them. Communities take pride in the location where their students go to school, and they should be considered the highest priority among districts to ensure safety for everyone! If this is not done, more families will move away from our schools and our di and the consequences will be lost jobs, lost history, and lost communities. Our property taxes just went up with this last Levy. I think we are good for now. Not a priority.</p>	<p>a school is more important than putting more cell phones into the hands of principals and vice principals. Prioritizing schools is more important than building a massive structure to house administrative personnel who never leave that location to visit a derelict structure, which some of our elementary schools are becoming. Stop putting an emphasis on funding for so many administrative personnel (not actually working in the schools) and hire more help for the schools, i.e. vice principals for every school, PE for all students in all grade levels, nurses at every school every day, SEL TOSA's at every school, and much more safety personnel on school grounds to keep all students safe. The boots on the ground workers need to be a higher priority than what has been prioritized in the past. If you fix it, they (families) will come back!!</p>	Anonymous User
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