



RJB School Staff Survey Results on Facility Needs and Priorities

Written responses from the 40 participants based on the following question:

- Renovate existing RJ Baskett facilities
- Demolish RJ Baskett and build a new middle school facility connected to the current high school.
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Clarify your thoughts on what should be done to ensure the long-term viability for middle school facilities.

- I believe that the gym should be kept and the classrooms to the WEST (science and band rooms), Turn the RJB into central office and transportation center, building a transportation building and storage. Use gym for overflow gym space and community.
- The location of RJB is great for the community, and being separate from the high school is beneficial. It is a central part of Gas City and demolishing it would be against what Gas City believes. Not being apart of the high school location allows for less problems, the students to feel like they are on their own, and less clutter at begin and end of school days.
- Add new building to existing High School. Current R.J. Baskett could be a great bus barn or administrative building. The building still has use but is just not designed for the amount of students there. The car drop off and pick up is too congested with no good option for the amount of people.
- There is SO much that needs to be fixed at RJB. In my classroom alone, I have multiple sinks that leak, have water turned off because the pipes busted and flooded, I have to flip a breaker at least once a day so that the lights will work, outlets do not function, the heating system does not work in the building. In order to make this a healthy and safe working environment for teachers and students, we need a lot renovations in this building that are too costly. It would be more cost effective to build onto the high school.
- Overall most cost effective in the long run
- This building has served the school for many years but we are limited with the space. We need more conference rooms to have child/counselor meetings. We could also use rooms for parent teacher conferences. The space we have now does not have a great location for that. The limited number of restrooms also cause an issues throughout the day. Adequate functioning bathrooms would be a great addition. The children vandalize the restrooms frequently and this causes more issues to the already limited space. The roof is constantly leaking and causing safety issues despite being assessed and fixed. A 70 year old building does not service the staff and students appropriately.
- It does not make financial sense to continue to sink money into the current building. A new facility, attached to the high school, would be better for the future both for our students, staff and community. The lower level/gym could be renovated for the daycare program if that

cannot go at Westview and the upper level could be demolished. This would allow for a closed off parking lot, enough room for a playground, a gym indoors for inclement weather, etc. Making this addition to the high school may also be better for transportation and buses as well, possibly shortening bus route times.

- I believe as middle school athletic director our facilities and building could still be useful if we updated our building and utilized empty space that is not needed or not being utilized in the manner it should be. (The stage, upper north bleachers, locker rooms etc..) If we do not wish to do that then a new building with a fresh set of plans and prioritize functional usable space then a new building would be great as well.
- I think by the time you effectively renovated it, it would be cheaper to build on to the high school.
- Listen to the people who work in the building, our daily struggles, needs to better serve our students.....
- Keep the gym and the newly renovated area with the Kitchen for other school uses.
- The current building has so many issues, it'd be worth investing
- I could see the benefit of both, if you can renovate then by all means but there is a long lengthy list of what would need to be done to renovate. There is a ton of history connected with the building too. I could see building a new facility for middle school closer to the high school. Please make sure all classrooms have windows it is soooo important for the development of middle school and teachers though. Solid walls too, middle schoolers are loud. Make RJB another facility to be used in the school district as well and preserve the history. Thank you for the opportunity to give insight.
- RJB is beyond repair and needs to be torn down and that space could be used for a new admin building and transportation building/garage/meeting room
- I think the RJB building is a great representation of Mississinewa Community Schools for those who are not from our community. However, RJB is no longer able to meet the needs of our students and staff. I do feel it could still be used for an alternative matter for the Ole Miss community.
- Our school is very dated throughout and not large enough to accommodate the growing number of middle school students we have.
- I would love to see an up to date facility that would entice families to move to our community for the wonderful school district that we are. I do think that having the facilities on the same property or connected would have a lot of positive impacts to many areas (transportation especially - for our district & our parents).
- By having one secondary campus, there are ways that we could save some money and streamline some processes. Teachers could be shared between the high school and the middle school and there could be fewer bus routes if there was only one secondary campus.
- Unless there is a lot more land available for building on to the HS, I don't see how you can eliminate RJ Baskett altogether. You might be able to have 2 grades at RJB and add on 7th and 8th facilities to the HS, but not 3 grades. Demolishing things would be ideal as the facilities are very run down but I hate to see the bandroom and the science wing demolished as it's a newly renovated area. Maybe demolish the 6th grade part of the building and the annex and spend money renovating the rest of the school for an intermediate school.
- "I think combining the middle school and high school would alleviate a lot of transportation issues as our district has 4 different buildings and it becomes too much sometimes for parents with kids in multiple buildings. Additionally, I think that would be one less travel issue for teachers that share duties at the middle school and high school and would allow for administrators to have one location instead of 2 if they are needing to visit both schools.

- As far as the facilities themselves, RJB is old and has multiple levels requiring an elevator (and the annex does not even have one). This makes it slower and more difficult for those with disabilities or injuries to get from class to class. The parking at RJB is not good. Traffic is always a problem around drop off and pick up, and it gets congested enough it becomes dangerous.
- Also, in the spirit of complete transparency, there are cockroaches at RJB and I would venture to say it is an infestation. I have been in two different rooms and have had them in both. I had baby ones in my room. Other teachers have saw them when they came in early and would turn on lights, they would scatter. We even see them during the day sometimes. Renovating would not take care of the problem. I think there are too many hiding places for them at RJB and I genuinely believe they are everywhere. They are not seen on a daily basis, and I have not seen one lately, but the fact they have been seen off and on and at all stages of development leads me to believe they are living here and I don't believe they have gone away. "
- Our school system needs a building that is one level making it more inclusive for all students and staff. The middle school needs a large entryway that allows students to enter the building with less congestion. Our middle school would benefit having a larger cafeteria for a growing student body.
- The existing facility has had multiple renovations already, and will continue to need major renovations as it stands. There are unsafe areas in the existing facility that put the district at risk. Adding on the the high school will give us the opportunity to create a facility that we can tailor to our student needs (based on the strategic plan), as well as give us new opportunities with the land at RJB.
- I think RJBs needed repairs are far too large to be cost effective and would be better demolish and build new. It just needs too many updates.
- There is a threshold of repairs versus a new building that can be utilized to find an economical and financial answer. Since I do not know that number, I will share the things I see needed at the middle school. The safety of the students is my number one priority, as I know it is everyone's, and as the middle school stands, it is a very unsafe environment, as you stated in the video. To make our building safe it will take some major overhauling. The ground-level annex rooms do not give students a safe place from intruders. The windows are massive and the doors to the rooms are not secure. I can easily kick out the grate at the bottom of my door and break the window at the top. The access from the outside is also excessive. Between my room and the office, there are five sets of doors only visible by camera, with another set on the other end. There are also no double-entry door situations anywhere in the building. Life skills students can easily run into the street without an extra barrier, or students can easily open doors to others. When students are in the hallway during passing time, the front door of the building will be opened to guests, these people though screened by the office before they open the door, are now arm's length from our whole school population. If we keep the annex, then the tunnel needs to be rerouted or connected differently so that anyone from the outside cannot get to the school population and the doors need to go - although that may be a fire code situation. The rooms in the upper and lower B hallway are not healthy for working in. When I worked in them I was constantly sick with allergy and sinus problems due to the issues with the leaking and mold. Once I moved to another area - I had less issues. The lower B hallway is a very depressing area to work. The rooms facing east have no natural light and are akin to a dungeon. Also, our life skills students deserve an area that is modified to fit their specific needs. We also need state-of-the-art safety features that can be built into a new school. Ways to shut off hallways to intruders, as well as alarm and distraction systems that disorient intruders. The classrooms need to be able to accommodate modified seating and be more conducive to class projects and discovery. These concerns of mine are beyond the structural issues that need addressed of which I do not know the monetary need. So, if money was not an issue then I would start all over.

- "I hesitantly think adding on to the high school is the best option. My reservation is that it doesn't appear that there would be enough room to accommodate the entire middle school population and staff in what space is available. The plans to add on to the high school would need to be generous enough to absorb this amount of students while keeping them primarily separate from the high school population of students. So, in that scenario will another cafeteria and gym be added?
- Moving 6th-8th grade makes the most sense logistically. RJB has served it's purpose well and is no longer a wise use of taxpayer money
- I feel like if we put both schools together the high schoolers will have kids that look up to them on how to behave and act when they are at school.
- raise the pay for all contracted employees to a minimum of \$15 months er working hour regardless of department
- I hate the thought of demolishing RJB. Maybe it can be used as a 4th and 5th-grade building, and add on to the high school for the 7th and 8th grades.
- Needs to be done!!!!
- The buildings list of repairs will be more expensive than building a new building.
- "safe office entry
- new parking lot (more spots and safe for students)
- less glass in hallways out front
- new system for bells
- new office area
- more plugins in front offices
- better controlled heat/air in classrooms
- storage area for athletic gear (football gear, duffel bags etc)
- not as many entrance/exit areas (unsafe having so many for students)
- better wifi in lower B area
- If we renovate, we need all new exterior windows and doors, all bathrooms need updated, roof needs replaced, drainage system put in around school, gym floor needs replaced, bleachers need replaced, plumbing is old and needs replaced, and that's not counting the age of the boilers and pumps and fire alarm system. It would be cheaper to build new in my opinion
- I think a new middle school facility would be most beneficial. There are many things that need renovated/replaced in the RJB building and I think it would be most effective to just start over. I like the idea of connecting the middle school to the high school for many reasons. One being it encourages growth among both age groups, as they are able to participate in mentorship opportunities and coexist.
- It would be better to add onto the high school I feel by building up the high school (making it multi level, such as add a floor on top to accommodate making it grades 7-12) and making the current middle school an intermediate school for grades 5-6.
- If you renovate the building we are currently in you will still have to add on to the building in certain areas to accommodate for the larger classes that are coming in the future. Long term a new building will require less maintenance for a longer period of time.
- "It would be easier for parents to drop off kids at one campus. It would help on traffic control when parents drop off kids.
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- I've worked at a school where the middle school and high school was connected and it worked out well for all. They had a hallway with the shared auditorium dividing buildings. (Western School Corporation.)"
- As a previous student that went through the building and now a current teacher, I fully believe that RJB would benefit from a complete demolish and add a middle school to the High school.
- "Discuss the needs with each individual teacher, their needs to better serve their students.
- I teach art. The classroom I have currently at RJB is not a safe, or competitive learning environment for the large number of students I have. The room was designed for science classes."
- I selected demolish current building and I do think RJB needs a revamp; however, I think the current RJB building should be left standing and remodeled into the TIA building or something else for the school district.