



RJB School Strategic Planning Committee Survey Results on Facility Needs and Priorities

Written responses from the 28 participants based on the following question:

What is the best long-term solution for a viable middle school facility?

- 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 rebuilding the middle school to attach to the high school would be best for everyone! It would be amazing to have everyone together. The prior schools I have worked for had both middle and high schools connected.
- Demolish the parts that are too costly to renovate. Keep the Gym, cafeteria, and renovate the lower area.
- If we were to demolish the building to add the building we now have to think about traffic. At Northview the car rider lines are horrible on H St and if we were to combine two more schools on the same street the pick up and drop off will be just crazy. I propose demolishing the old building where it is at and building anew where it is at.
- Relocate middle school students to new addition at the high school plant
- A new middle school building is a must. We can no longer continue to sink money into renovations/upkeep of the current building. The lower level/gym area could be restored. A new facility, attached to the high school, would be the best option.
- Demolish the building and build a new administration office on the site
- In my opinion the facility is beyond repair/renovation. Current buildings should be demolished. Land cleared and cleaned and sold.
- I think the current RJB facilities have run their usefulness. Renovating would cost a lot and still be left with an old, barely useable facility.
- Honestly, the building is a disaster, but I'd prefer for the high school to have the new building/addition :)
- The existing RJ Baskett facility has too many structural needs to waste money trying to repair. Financially, it would seem more feasible to build a new middle school.
- To create a more modern and state of the art learning environment tied in at the current high school campus.
- The current RJ Baskett would need too much to renovate and its landlocked and wouldn't allow growth or updating. If we renovate now we would have to keep renovating to keep it updated. The traffic around that area is horrible. Building onto the high school would allow for shared resources and room to grow.
- If building a new Middle School that is connected to the High School, the Middle School cafeteria and classrooms should be separated from the High School. The reason for this is because Middle school students are 11 and 12 years old while High School students range for 13-19 years of age. Having students that are 7-8 years of age difference in the same hallways and cafeteria could lead to the older high school students getting into legal trouble.
- I believe there is still value in RJB and that renovating would be far more cost effective. Of course, it would be nice to have a shiny new building, and when the question is worded as this one is, it leads toward an answer I believe the leadership is wanting to hear. However, when considering the increase in taxes and/or the loan the district would need to cover these costs, it does not seem like the financially prudent option. Long term—a new building would last longer, of course. But I believe we have the financial responsibility to look at renovation costs for a lower income community. While companies you bring in to consult will want to upgrade you toward a new building, as that is significantly more profit for them, my husband is a contractor and also believes renovation is the better solution.

- I would really need to see what the cost would be to renovate the building before making a decision. I would choose whichever would be the most cost effective.
- "Summarizing my thoughts:
- 1. Demolishing Most of the Building: Restructuring the property to house essential administrative functions, such as the Central Office, Transportation, Technology, and Business Offices, seems like a streamlined and efficient use of the space.
 - 2. Repurposing the Band Room: Utilizing the current band room for school board meetings is just a thought. Its acoustics and layout could make it a welcoming and functional space for such gatherings.
 - 3. Salvaging the Gym: Preserving the gym for continued community use is a great way to honor the building's legacy while ensuring it remains a valuable asset for public and school activities. The locker rooms and restrooms would need serious overhaul, and the stage could be demolished as well. "
- Add on to the high school and put the jr high at the high school
- Although the location where RJB Middle School is currently housed is great, and highly visible, the current status of the building and its viability have run its course. A new build complex that would take the corporation to "the next" is truly needed when it comes to the middle school / Jr. High. Thanks!
- Due to the excessive needs of RJB it would be more cost effective to build a new building. The health and safety of students and staff are being put at risk being in a building that is not to code in 2025. Not to mention the standard of education is lacking because of the facilities.
- I think we should do the most cost effective thing. The repairs will continue to be more expensive and harder to fix. Building will become more expensive the longer it is put off. Eventually starting from scratch will be the only choice.
- The costs of renovating and updating the existing facilities vastly outweigh the costs and overall longevity of a new facility for our middle school students.
- The only way to ensure long-term viability of the facilities would be to move the classroom and learning spaces to a new facility connected to the high school and demolish the old RJB building, with the exception of the gym and new classrooms.
- Adding a middle school to the front of the high school would help out with logistics for sporting events, practices and performances. Doing away with the current middle school would be in the best interest as this building is falling apart and possibly in disrepair.
- The middle school students deserve a place that is safe and meets the needs of 21st century learners.
- Would be useful to keep the gym if the rest of the school it demolished. Teams are always needing additional practice space and it would be easy to rent-out to the community if a custodian/facility manager is assigned evening hours when rented. The classroom in the west hallway by the gym have also all been recently renovated and would be good for TIA classes or renting out as activity rooms. Depending on the condition of the cafeteria, it could also be spared demolition and would be a great rent-out for reception/party area. Weekend recreation tournaments and retreats could really bring in revenue if managed well.
- Provide a safe learning environment for students, families, and the community to take pride in.
- We don't want to lose the land that RJB sits on. I think we should save at least part of the building for some use. Adding onto the high school makes sense because shared teachers can more easily transition between grades. It more easily allows facility sharing for students and staff. There is also more room for future expansion and traffic flow at the high school location.

- I'm not interested in paying higher real estate taxes for any project. This school system has the highest rate in the county. Ask yourself, how many families in the school system can afford to pay more in property taxes. Money would be better spent on college ready and career ready programs.