Community Engagement

Princeton Public Schools
March 25, 2025

Mission

Princeton Public Schools is an innovative leader in instruction, *developing in **EVERY** learner the ability to succeed in an ever-changing world.*

Vision

Princeton Public Schools will equip every student to be career and college ready through personalized instruction, community partnerships, and collaboration.

Welcome!

Agenda:

- Recap previous meeting
- Presentation from ICS & Wold
- Small group placement/discussion of monthly allocation
  - building fund bucket
  - operations budget bucket

Goal:

Thank you for your time, dedication, and ambition as we continue to find the best possible solution to present to the school board.

February Meeting Recap – small group discussion questions

- Should the Task Force recommend:
  - a solution to address **BOTH** the building needs & the general fund deficit – MAJORITY
  - **ONLY** the building needs – few
  - **ONLY** the general fund deficit – few
  - **NO** solution needed – none

- Questions to think about before the next meeting
  - Based on your selection above, how should the tax money be divided up between the two choices?

Group Discussion Prompt

Small Group Prompt #1

Consider the design of TWO referendum questions:

(the questions on the ballet)

- $12/month for $350,000 home

- How would you split/prioritize this amount between facilities and general fund expenses?

ICS & Wold to present dollar amount options in each range
Ehlers provided the infographics for tax impacts at each range and option

Tax Impact Charts
&
Operations Questions

Operations & General Fund

Potential Protections

- Class Size
- Bussing
- Activities
- Programs

Operating Levy

vs.

Capital Projects Levy

- **Differences for the taxpayer**
  - refer to the charts provided
- **Capital Projects Levy**
  - technology use

Small Group Discussion

– building proposals
– tax charts
– use the questions to best split the monthly allocation into each bucket

Small Group Discussion – $12/month for $350,000 house

Part 1

How would you allocate the tax impact?

- **Facilities**
  $ per month
- **General Fund**
  $ per month

Part 2

- Do you agree with the prioritization of facilities spending from ICS & Wold?

- Are there other ideas and/or questions that need to be considered in regards to the building project?

Part 3

- Do you agree with the prioritization of the general funding from the staff & Ehlers?

- Are there other ideas and/or questions that need to be considered in regards to the budget?

- Which would be the most impactful:
  - Operating Levy
  - Capital Projects Levy

Small Group Prompt #2 and Discussion

Consider what would change if an additional $5/month was available:

- How would you allocate the additional money into the building fund and/or the general operations fund?
- Would this change whether you recommend an operating levy, or a capital projects levy?
- Does this 2nd option offer a **BETTER VALUE** for the average taxpayer?

Thank you!

Thank you for all of your time, hard work, and consideration for this project!

Please write down any questions, ideas, etc. before you leave, so that they can be collected and addressed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING – APRIL 22ND

www.isd477.org/task-force

Closing Thoughts – Next Meeting – April 22nd

If Time:

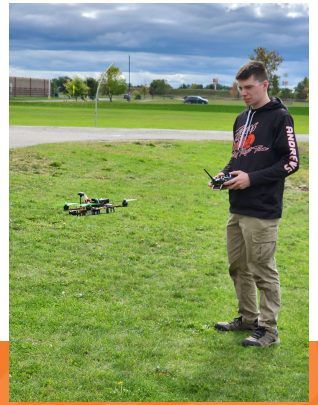
- Use a colored DOT to represent your choice
  - Blue = 1st
  - Yellow = 2nd
  - Red = 3rd

Form Survey –

complete the form indicating your 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice for the bond and building recommendation

KEY QUESTIONS

- **Beyond the survey results, how should the school board approach the decision on determining the overall tax impact of the referendum question(s)?**
- *[If you selected a strategy that includes addressing the general fund]* **Asking for a capital projects levy limits the uses and amount of any new revenue but spreads the tax burden more widely, lowering the impact on homeowners. Should the school board propose a capital projects levy rather than a simpler-to-explain operating levy?**
- *[If you recommended having at least two questions that address both the bond and the operating levy this year]* **Should the board try to equalize the tax impact of the two questions, or should one of the two areas result in a higher tax than the other?**



Board Recommendations

Task Force final recommendations → Board

May 5th or 19th Board Meeting

Thank you!!

You are the owners of our schools.

We appreciate your time and focus on these important issues!

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AGENDA

1. Welcome & Quick Recap

- Consensus: address **both** facilities & general fund deficit
- No support for no referendum
- Key questions for consideration

3. Small Group Exercise #1

- Design two referendum questions (facilities & general fund)
- ICS & Wold: Facility scope presentation ($25M–$40M)
- Princeton Staff & Ehlers: Budget impact presentation ($750K–$1.5M)
- Tax impact review & discussion

4. Small Group Reports

- Summarize key insights & categorize recommendations

5. Small Group Exercise #2

- Adjust impact by $5 more per month
- Reevaluate priorities & funding approach

6. Final Reports & Next Steps (10 min)

- Narrow recommendations to 3-5 options
- Prepare for final meeting decision