

November `18 Bond Recommendation

COMMUNITY FACILITIES TASK FORCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: APRIL, 2018

Community Facility Task Force

Convened in September, 2016

“Superintendent and Board Establishes a Community Facility Task Force”

- Comprised of 18 community members, representing a diverse group of stakeholders
- Charged with the following:

Walla Walla Public Schools requests the FTFC to convene regularly to complete the work necessary to undergo the technical review and analysis in order to deliver long term capital planning direction for administration and Board of Education consideration. The committee is tasked to deliver a final report and recommendation to the Walla Walla Public Schools on or before December 19, 2017. The recommendation will consist of varying capital programming options for district, parent, and community stakeholder review and input to help inform a possible future bond levy.

Guiding Direction

The Walla Walla Public School's charges the committee to use the following criteria in developing its recommendation. The committee's recommendation:

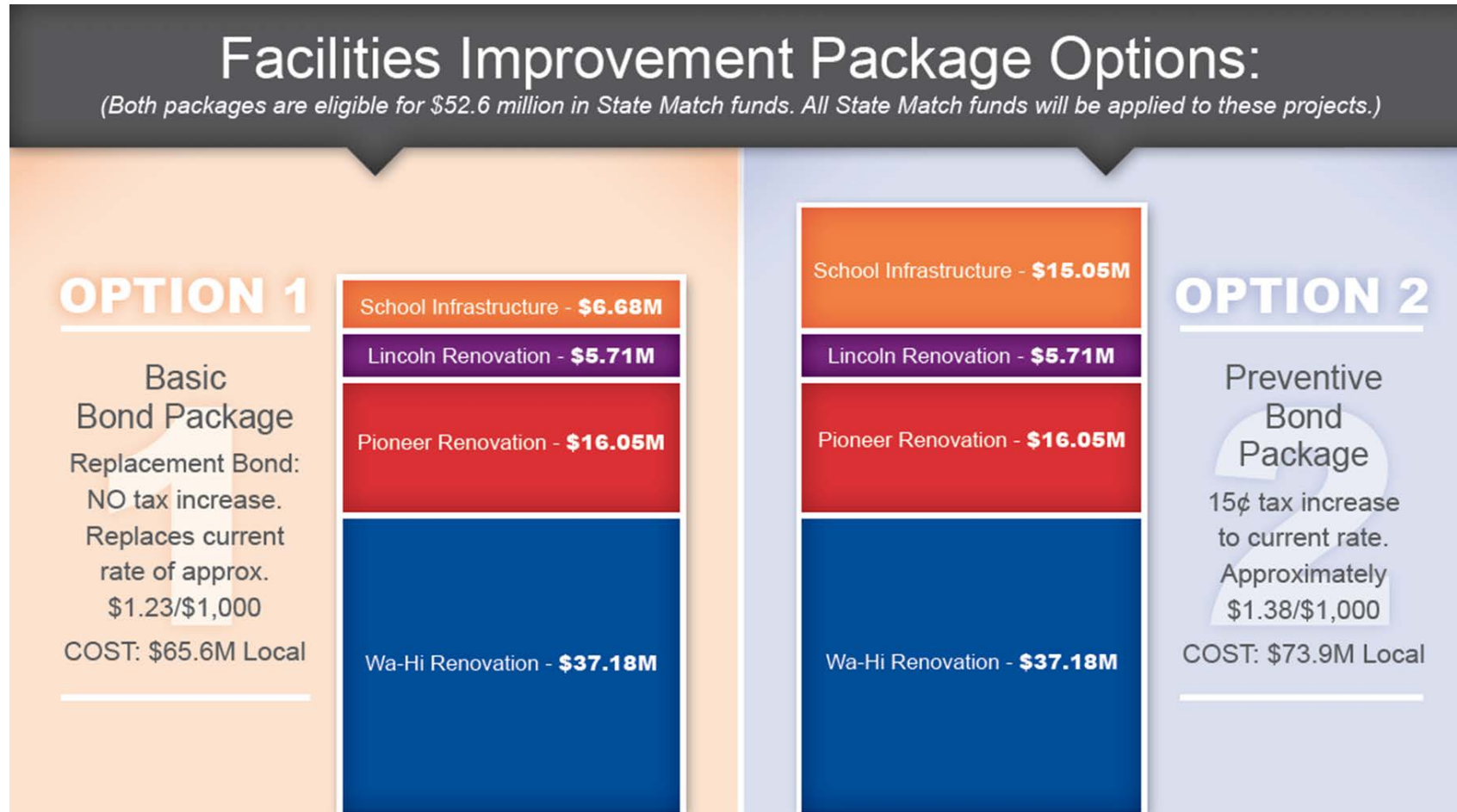
Must,

- prioritize facility needs, addressing the most urgent capital needs first
- address teaching and learning needs before other programming
- address current and projected student population and program needs
- make every attempt to bring student and staff learning/teaching environments up to current standards
- provide long-term facility program planning considerations
- consist of pragmatic solutions that help ensure longevity, durability, and lower long-term maintenance and upkeep costs
- include deliberate opportunities for stakeholder input from certificated and support staff, parents, and community/stakeholders
- capitalize on current infrastructure and historical community investment
- consider student, staff, and community safety considerations

Accomplishments to Date - Analysis

- 15 committee meetings, over 45 hours of study and analysis, on-site review and inspection
- Commissioned 14 different reports and studies to inform their recommendations
 - School Safety Onsite Evaluation Report - Sprigeo
 - Bond History Review - WWPS
 - 3rd Party Districtwide Engineer Facility Report - Wenaha
 - Local Safety and Security Review - Chief Beiber & Sheriff Turner
 - Preventive Maintenance Program Review - WWPS
 - Energy Efficiency Audit - Wenaha
 - OSPI Building Condition Analysis - OSPI
 - Tax Rate Analysis – DA Davidson
 - Student Enrollment and Capacity Study - Wenaha
 - Project Cost Estimate Analysis – Wenaha/Architect's West
 - Long Term Facility Preservation Plan - WWPS
 - State-match Review Analysis - OSPI
 - Walla Walla Historic Preservation Commission Consultation – WW Historic Commission

December Recommendation & Next Steps



December Recommendation & Next Steps

- The Board of Directors and staff perform significant community outreach between December through March through information sharing, surveying, and engagement to seek input on both options
- A statistically reliable phone survey of registered voters be performed by non-district advocacy group to help inform community priorities between the two options
- The Community Facilities Task Force will reconvene in March to review data and feedback to inform final recommendation
- April 17th Board Meeting: The Task Force will recommend the bond package to be placed on the November `18 ballot

Additional Outreach

- Patron Tours
- Open House
- Superintendent Advisory Lunches
- Dozens of small and large group presentations (from PTA's to Rotary to local government/agencies)
- Informal and formal conversations
- All in all, nearly 60 engagements in the last few months

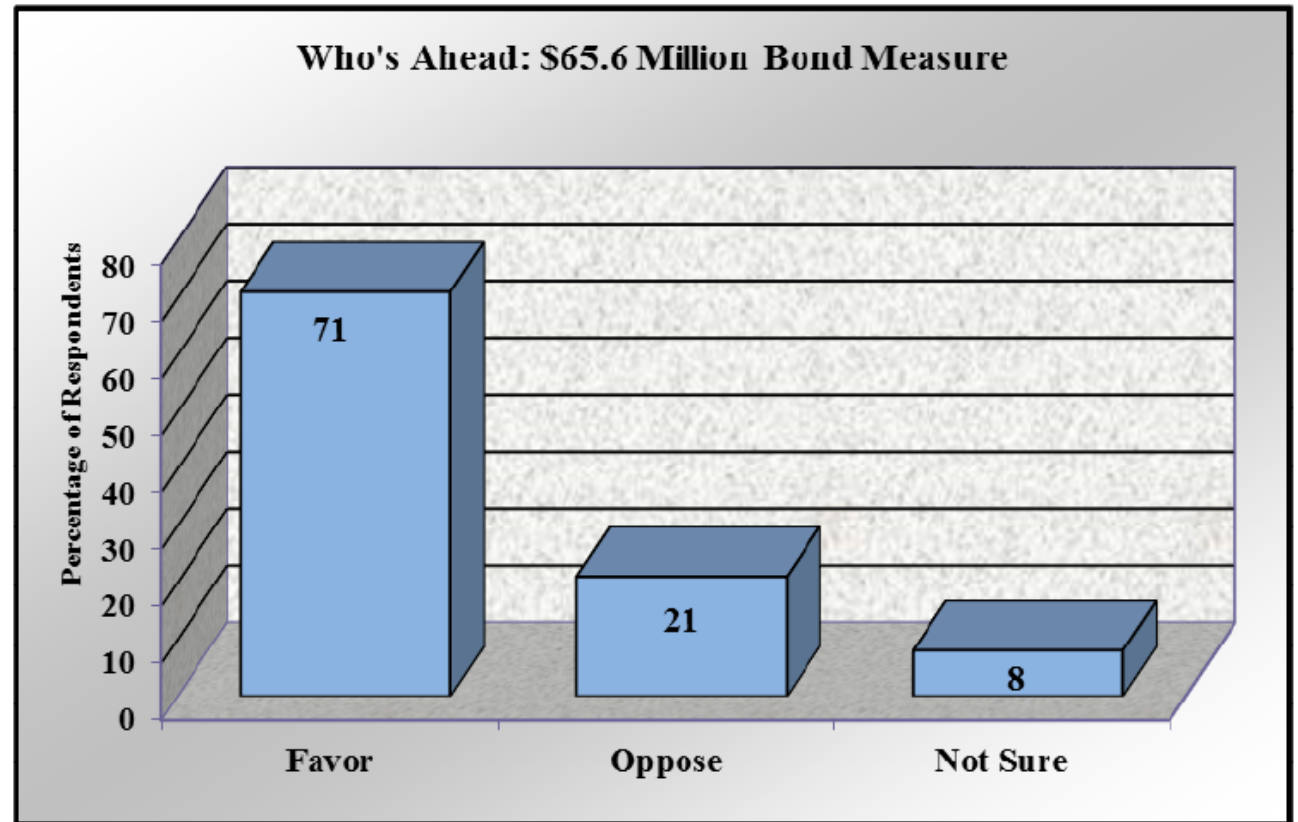
March 12, 2018 Phone Survey

- +/- 5.0% at the 95% level of confidence
- 75% were frequent or perfect voters (voted in at least the last 3 out of 4 elections)
- 71% made up of older voters (45+ years of age)
- 47% male / 53% female
- 36% had children in school / 61% did not

\$65.6M - Out of the Gate

71% Favor

- Key demographics that favored a \$65.6 million bond measure were females (74%), 18-24 years old (83%), 45-59 years old (75%), 35-44 years old (73%), respondents with children in Walla Walla schools (80%), voters in 2 out of 4 elections (78%), non-voters (73%), and 1 out of 4 elections (72%).



\$65.6M – What Resonates with Voters?

81% + Favor (state match)

- Key demographics increasing to favor were females (+12%), 60+ years old (+14%), respondents with no children in Walla Walla schools (+12%), voters in 1 out of 4 elections (+19%), and non-voters (+18%).

81% + Favor (bond oversight committee)

- Key demographics that increased in support were males (+11%), 60+ years old (+15%), respondents with no children in Walla Walla schools (+13%), and voters in 3 out of 4 elections (+16%).

81% + Favor (reno vs replace)

- Key demographics increasing to favor were 60+ years old (+14%), respondents with no children in Walla Walla schools (+13%), non-voters (+18%), and voters in 3 out of 4 elections (+16%).

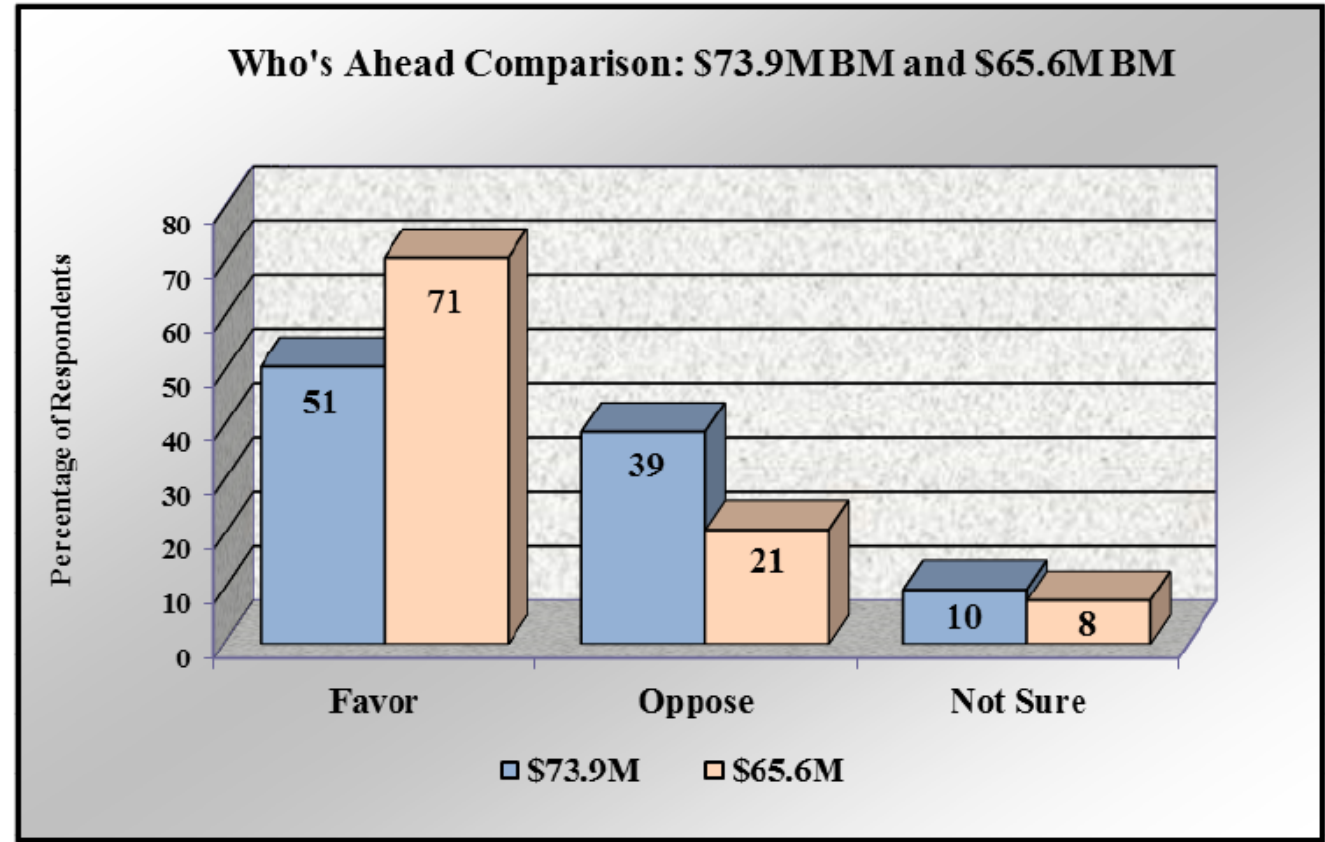
81% + Favor (safety and security)

- Key demographics responding to this information were 60+ years old (+15%), respondents with no children in Walla Walla schools (+14%), and voters in 3 out of 4 elections (+11%).

\$73.9M – Out of the Gate

51% Favor

- Key demographics that favored a \$73.9 million bond measure were females (55%), 35-44 years old (64%), 18-24 years old (59%), respondents with children in Walla Walla schools (58%), voters in 1 out of 4 elections (56%), and 4 out of 4 elections (52%).



\$73.9M – What Resonates with Voters?

- Grows from 51% to 54% when voters learn that it would only cost the average homeowner \$37.50 per year
 - Key demographics increasing to favor were 60+ years old (+4%), respondents with no children in Walla Walla schools (+5%), and voters in 1 out of 4 elections and non-voters (+10%).
- Declines from 51% to 49% when discussing the need to reduce programming to fund capital repairs if the \$73.9M bond isn't approved.

Report Conclusion

- There is strong support across all demographic groups for a \$65.6 million bond measure. In addition, several arguments significantly increase support for the proposal such as matching state funds, citizen oversight to ensure leftover funds are returned to property taxpayers, safety and security improvements and the cost effectiveness of renovating versus replacing schools.
- Respondents are significantly less supportive of a \$73.9 million bond measure. While support for the larger bond measure slightly increases when presented with the cost of the bond measure (at 15-cents per thousand), it does not solicit the 60% support needed to be successful in an election. Furthermore, approx. 40% said they can not afford the increase in taxes.

Facility Task Force Recommendation

- After nearly two years of careful study, deep analysis, and extensive community engagement, it is the unanimous recommendation that the Walla Walla Public School Board of Directors proceed with Option #1, a \$65.6M local bond with an estimated \$52.6M state match.
 - Prioritizes and addresses the most critical of facility needs
 - Represents a “no tax rate increase” that reflects sensitivity toward fixed-income residents
 - Maintains one of the county’s lowest school bond tax rates while addressing educational needs and facility preservation

