

SBAC SURVEY #2
KEY FINDINGS
—06/05/25—

BACKGROUND

This survey was designed by the Scarborough SBAC in conjunction with Market Decisions Research. Data was primarily collected through 2 online surveys programmed by Market Decisions Research, one for Staff and one for Scarborough Residents. A paper survey option was available as a secondary mode. Data collection ran from 4/29 to 5/12. Over the course of data collection 938 resident surveys were completed. An additional 789 respondents answered at least one question, but did not complete the full survey. 163 Scarborough School staff surveys were completed.

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The survey was designed to gauge community response to two possible building solutions designed to solve Scarborough's K-8 school needs:

1. A New Consolidated K-2 School, and Additions/Renovations to Wentworth and the Middle School
2. Three Neighborhood K-2 Schools, and Additions/Renovations to Wentworth and the Middle School

The survey also asked for feedback on potential scope reductions, including air conditioning at the K-2 school(s), deferment of Wentworth scope, and a series of deferment options at the Middle School. These scope reductions would lower the upfront cost of the project, with the understanding that those expenses would likely still need to be addressed in the future.

FORMAT AND SEQUENCING OF THE SURVEY

Section 1. Option Overview: Each option was presented with a broad description of the proposed project, as well as initial cost information. Respondents were asked to list benefits and drawbacks and to rate their likely support for the option at referendum.

Section 2. Building Project Tax Impact: The rough order of magnitude (ROM) project cost presented in the survey was \$133M+/- — approximately the same price tag for each option. Section 2 described the projected tax impact of the project, and respondents were asked again about their likely support for each option at referendum, keeping the tax impact in mind.

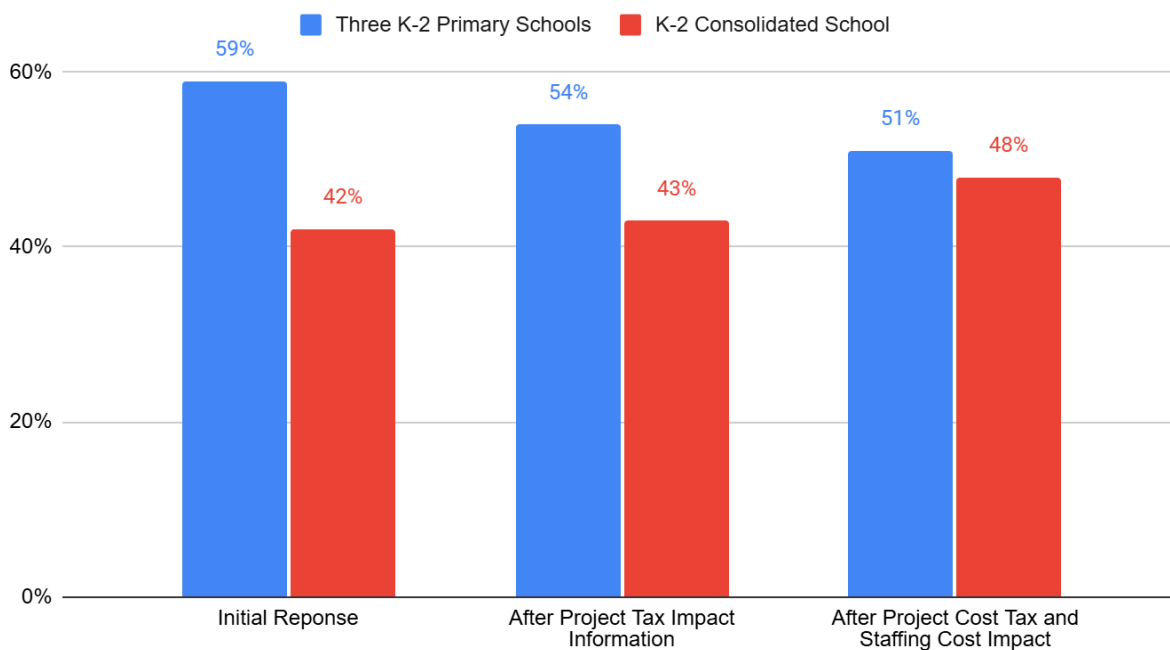
Section 3. K-2 Staffing Cost Tax Impact: Estimated K-2 staffing costs were compared. It was revealed that the annual tax impact of staffing the Consolidated K-2 School is projected to be approximately \$190-\$200 less per year in taxes for a typical Scarborough home (valued at \$600,000) compared to staffing the Three K-2 Schools option. Respondents were asked again to consider their support for each option at referendum, considering this new tax impact information.

Section 4. Scope Reduction Options: Five potential scope reductions were considered, with ROM projected savings ranging from \$3.3M+/- to \$41M+/- . Each scope reduction was presented with the overall cost savings and its influence on annual tax impact. Respondents were asked to rate their support for each scope reduction option.

OVERALL FINDINGS

KEY FINDING #1: The Three K-2 Primaries model had broader initial public appeal than the K-2 Consolidated model, but the approval gap between the models narrowed after tax impact and staffing cost information was presented.

Would you Support this Option at Referendum?



Introducing cost considerations of project tax impact and staffing cost impact increased the relative appeal of the Consolidated model and lowered the appeal of the Three K-2s.

The tables below give more detail regarding the shift in support/oppose/and undecided as new cost information was introduced. Responses were collected in three stages:

1. Initial description: project plans were shared, along with general cost information — but tax impact was not highlighted.
2. After sharing detailed tax impact projections related to project cost.
3. After sharing detailed tax impact projections related to annual staffing costs.

(Tables combine “Strongly Support” + “Support”, and “Strongly Oppose” + “Oppose.”)

	After Initial Description of Options		
	Support	Oppose	Undecided/ Prefer not to Answer
Three K-2 Primary Schools	59%	29%	12%
K-2 Consolidated School	42%	46%	12%

- Stronger support for Three K-2s
- Higher opposition to Consolidated K-2 vs. Three K-2s

	After Project Cost Tax Impact		
	Support	Oppose	Undecided/ Prefer not to Answer
Three K-2 Primary Schools	54%	31%	15%
K-2 Consolidated School	43%	44%	13%

- Reduced support for Three K-2s after project cost tax impact is presented
- Less impact to K-2 Consolidated concept
- Increase in undecided answers

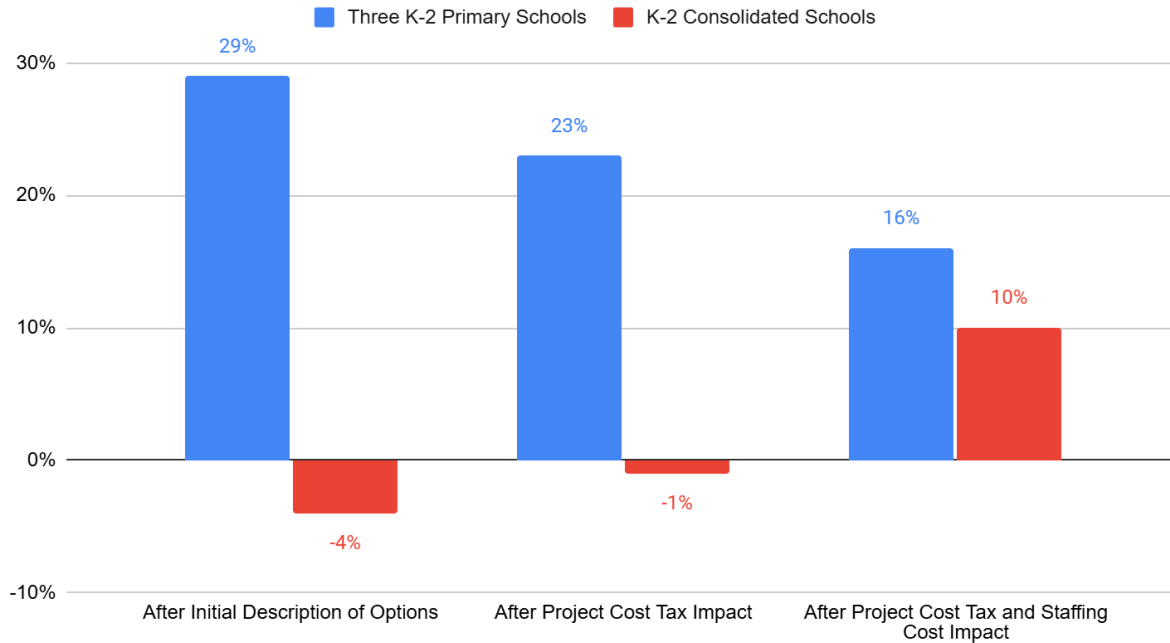
	After Project Cost Tax and Staffing Cost Impact		
	Support	Oppose	Undecided/ Prefer not to Answer
Three K-2 Primary Schools	51%	35%	15%

K-2 Consolidated School	48%	37%	14%
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- Less support for Three K-2s when staffing costs are compared to K-2 Consolidated model
- K-2 Consolidated support is highest when staffing costs are considered

Net support for each option highlights the overall stronger appeal of the Three K-2 Primaries concept. This bar chart aggregates the data to show **net support** for each option across the three cost disclosure stages. Net support is calculated as the percentage of supporters (Strongly Support + Support) minus the percentage of opponents (Oppose + Strongly Oppose). This provides a concise snapshot of how each option gained or lost overall favor as cost-related details were introduced.

Net Support at Information Disclosure Stages of Survey



KEY FINDING #2:-Deferments are unpopular as a cost-saving measure. This suggests that the community clearly recognizes the importance of the school project to solve for needs at the Primaries as well as the Middle School and Wentworth.

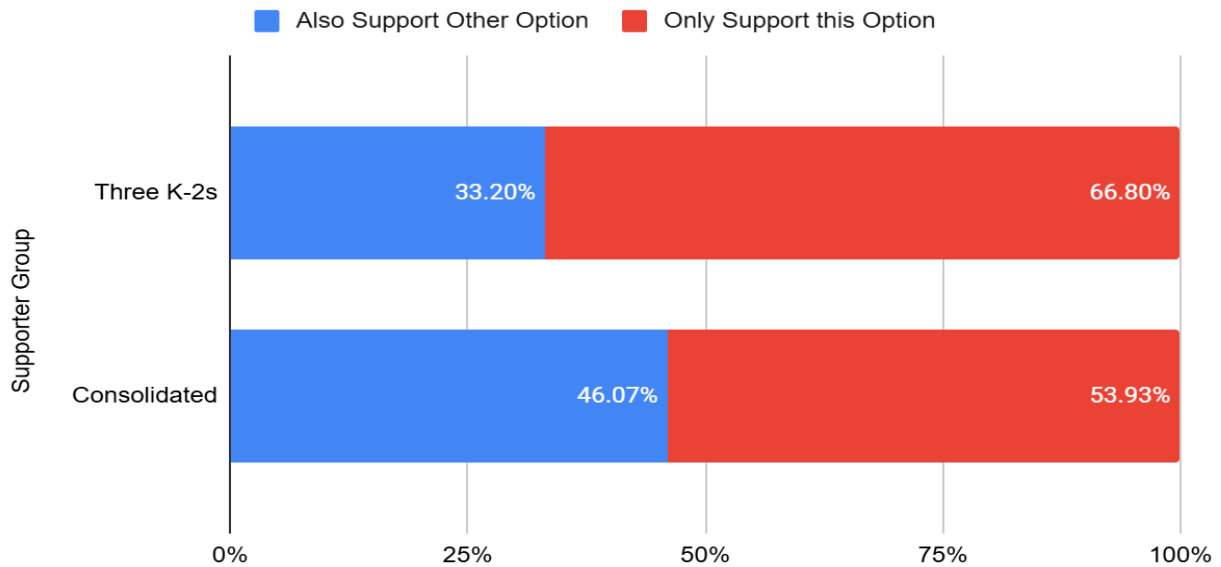
- **The bigger-ticket deferment items related to the Middle School.** These would include delaying projects to eliminate the 6th grade portables and right-size the cafeteria for the current population. All deferments were rejected by the majority of survey respondents.

The table below illustrates the level of support (or lack thereof) for each scope reduction presented.

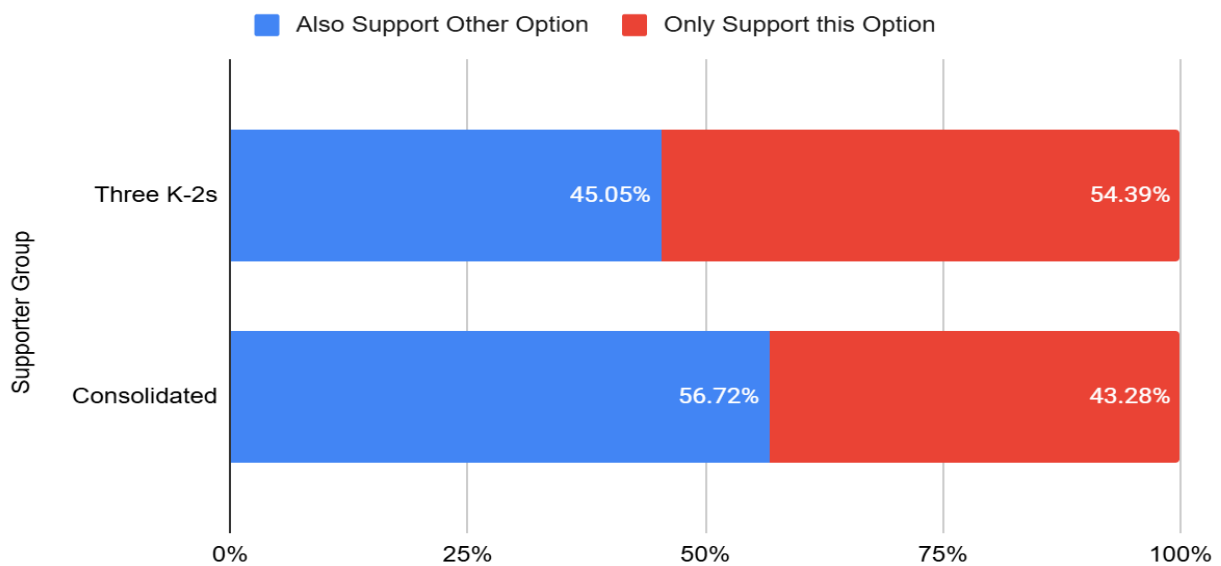
	Support	Oppose	Depends/ Undecided/ Prefer not to Answer
Eliminate air conditioning at the K-2 schools (\$5M - \$6.9M+/-)	18%	68%	14%
Defer Classroom Addition at Wentworth (\$3.3M+/-)	22%	63%	16%
Defer Classrooms at MS (\$9.2M+/-)	22%	64%	15%
Defer Classrooms & Cafeteria at MS (\$20.8M+/-)	17%	69%	14%
Defer All Work at the MS (\$41M+/-)	16%	72%	11%

KEY FINDING #3:-Those who supported the Consolidated Option were more likely to also support the Three K-2 Option. This suggests that the Three K-2 Option could provide greater flexibility at referendum.

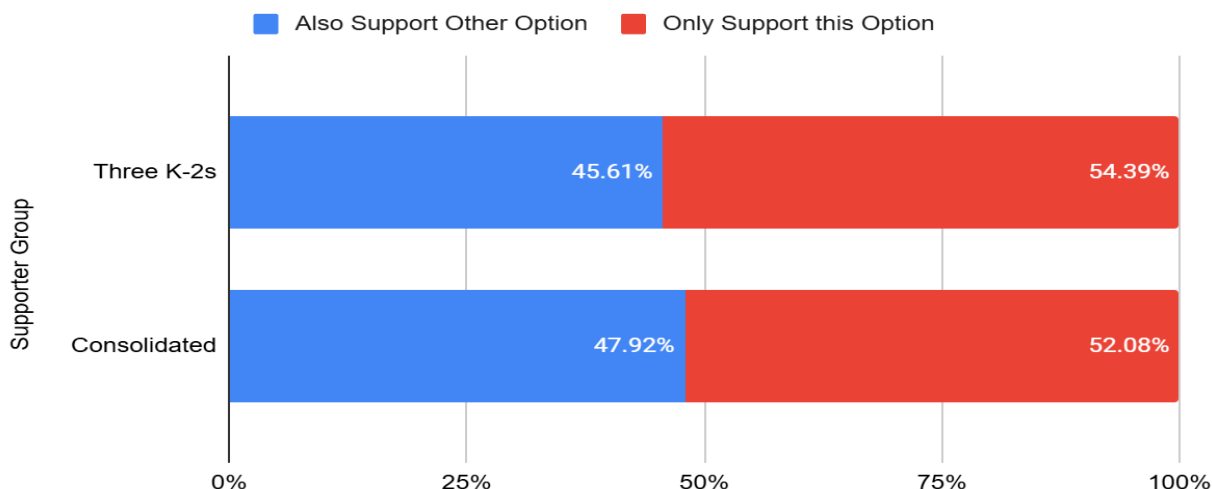
Crossover Support After Initial Description of Options



Crossover Support after Project Cost Tax Impact



Crossover Support after Project Cost Tax and Staffing Cost Impact



OTHER SURVEY FINDINGS

Cost continues to be a concern.

- The top negative comments about Three K-2s were “I don’t like high maintenance, staffing or administrative costs” (14%) and “This option is too expensive” (10%).
- For the Consolidated K-2, “This option is too expensive” was 9%. The top drawbacks for this option were related to size of the school (23%), consolidation (27%) and traffic/transportation concerns (20%).)

Comments about “Neighborhood schools” were among the most common responses on the survey, indicating that the theme continues to resonate. The top “benefit” noted for the Three K-2s was “I like that it keeps neighborhood schools (58%), and the top “drawback” named for the Consolidated K-2 was “I don’t like that it consolidates neighborhood schools (27%).

The top positive comments about the K-2 Consolidated model focused on the appeal of “new school buildings” (20%) and “lower maintenance, staffing (and) administrative costs” (16%), followed by “I like that it consolidates neighborhood schools” (11%).

To view a PDF of the Survey Questions, click [**HERE**](#).

To view a PDF of the full survey results, click [**HERE**](#).

HOW WILL THE SURVEY RESULTS BE USED? WHAT INFORMS THE FINAL SELECTED OPTION?

The survey is an important data point for the SBAC as we work toward the selection of a final supported option to recommend to the School Board and Town Council.

The SBAC will use this input along with community feedback as we consider cost savings scope items, evaluate potential scope deferments, determine the selected site, and select the final option.

In addition to this public feedback, a collection of additional data points will be used to make these important decisions, all with the goal of selecting a solution that will be supported by voters.

NEXT STEPS

The SBAC will be working over the next few weeks to identify cost savings measures in the scope, evaluate scope deferments, select the proposed site, and ultimately select the supported option. **This decision is targeted for June 16.**

The community is welcome to attend SBAC meetings to follow along and/or share additional public comment. Recordings are also available to watch online.

Upcoming SBAC Meetings and School Board/Town Council Meetings (open to the public):

- **June 5, 6PM - School Board/Town Council Joint Workshop**, Town Council Chambers A (or Zoom)
- **June 9th, 6PM - SBAC Meeting**, Town Council Chambers A (or Zoom)
- **June 16th, 6PM - SBAC Meeting**, Town Council Chambers B (or Zoom)
- **June 23rd, 6PM - SBAC Meeting**, Town Council Chambers A&B (or Zoom)
- **June 26th, 6PM - School Board Meeting**, Town Council Chambers A (or Zoom)

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