Monday, June 6, 2022
Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information

APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
****Time: 7:00 PM****

****IMPORTANT UPDATE****
The original agenda posting included old language that in-person attendance at board meetings was suspended. This was an error. This meeting, along with all Board of Education meetings, is open to the public to attend. The correct information has been updated below. Please direct any questions to Clara Kopplinger at 920-832-6126 or kopplingerclar@aasd.k12.wi.us. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

The Board of Education will be meeting in the Scullen Leadership Center, 131 E. Washington Street, Suite 1A. Some individuals will be joining via zoom and the meeting will be livestreamed on YouTube. Beginning Monday, Monday, March 21, 2022, regular in-person attendance at Board of Education meetings will resume. We will provide distancing to the extent possible and may need to limit capacity and direct attendees to an overflow location. Members of the media or general public may continue to access meetings via a live stream broadcast on the Appleton Area School District YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHo-l09YGgt4uKnCWYvt8Pw.
For remote attendance via telephone, please dial: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 978 0296 2235

Any special needs or any requests for accommodations related to accessing the meeting should be sent to Clara Kopplinger, at kopplingerclar@aasd.k12.wi.us or (920) 832-6126, at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting. This would include any person for whom it would be burdensome or infeasible to use the primary method(s) of remote access established by the District.

1. Meeting Opening

Subject	**A. Roll Call**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	1. Meeting Opening
Type	Procedural

Subject	**B. Pledge of Allegiance**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information

Category	1. Meeting Opening
Type	Procedural

2. Approval of Agenda (GC-2: Governing Commitments)

Subject	**A. Approval of Agenda**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	2. Approval of Agenda (GC-2: Governing Commitments)
Type	Action, Procedural
Recommended Action	Motion to approve the Board Agenda

Motion & Voting

Motion to approve the Board Agenda as written.

Motion by Deborah Truyman, second by James Bacon.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: James Bowman, Kay Eggert, Deborah Truyman, Kristine Sauter, Edward Ruffolo, James Bacon, Pheng Thao

3. Special Presentation

Subject	**A. Potential Referendum Survey Results Review / Discussion**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	3. Special Presentation
Type	Discussion, Information, Presentation

Bill Foster of School Perceptions will give a detailed review of the results of the District's recently completed Potential Referendum Survey.

File Attachments
2021-22 Appleton Community Survey Overall Results.pdf (1,743 KB)

4. Adjourn

Subject	**A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	4. Adjourn
Type	Action, Procedural

Motion & Voting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Motion by Pheng Thao, second by Deborah Truyman.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James Bowman, Kay Eggert, Deborah Truyman, Kristine Sauter, Edward Ruffolo, James Bacon, Pheng Thao

5. Future Meetings

Subject	**A. Board Work Session: Monday, June 13, 2022, 4:00 PM**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	5. Future Meetings
Type	Information

Subject	**B. Next Board Meeting: Monday, June 13, 2022, 6:00 PM**
Meeting	Jun 6, 2022 - Special Board of Education Meeting - REVISED to Update Public Attendance Information
Category	5. Future Meetings
Type	Information

Appleton School District

Community Survey Report

Spring 2022

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS
Measuring what matters

Our mission is to help educational leaders <u>gather</u>, <u>organize</u>, and <u>use</u> data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Contents

Background Info

Survey Information

Results & Analysis

Wrap-up/Questions

Our Process

Each household within the District was mailed a paper survey. Respondents could:

1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions

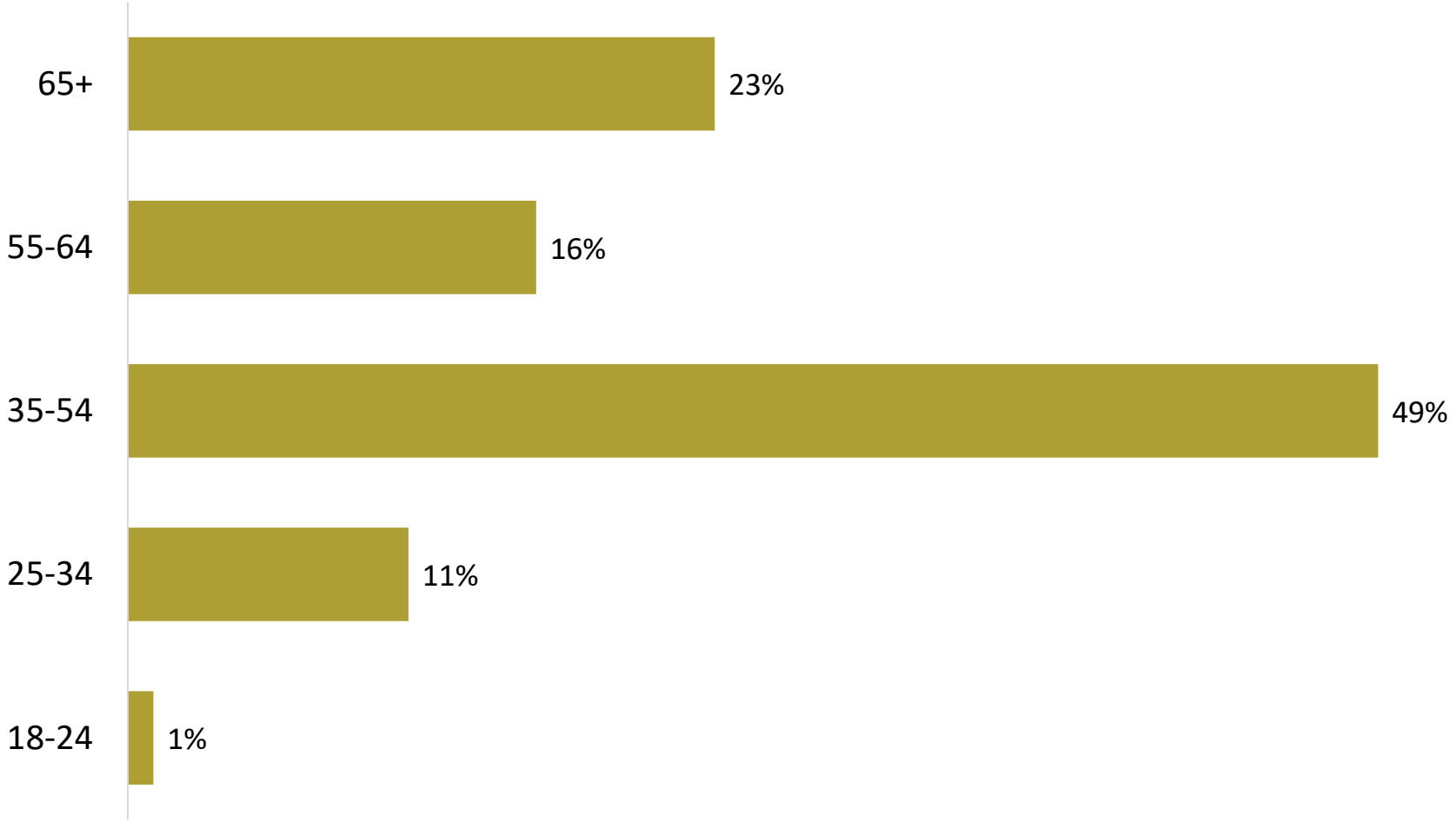
or

2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

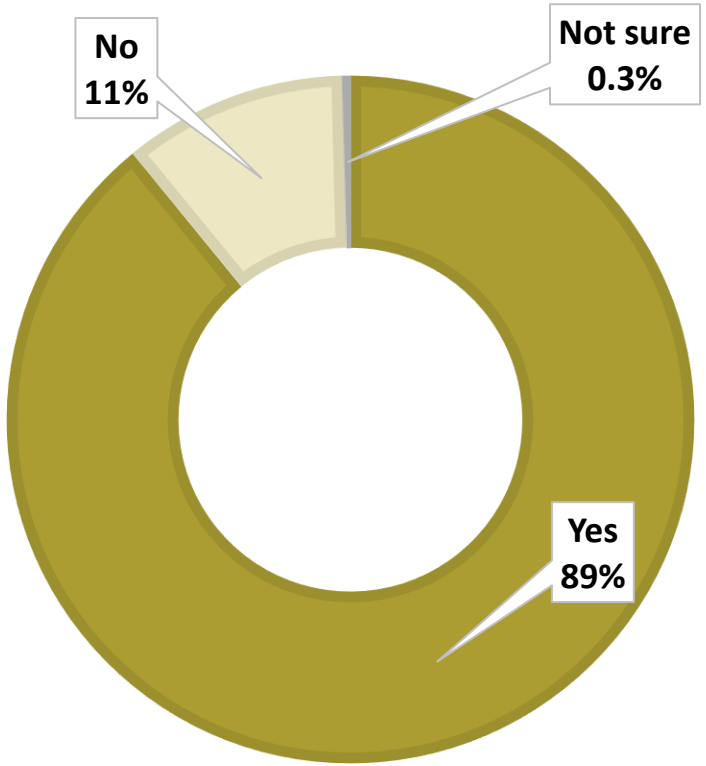
Survey Information

- **April 2022** survey window
- **5,588** total respondents
- +/- **1.33%** margin of error

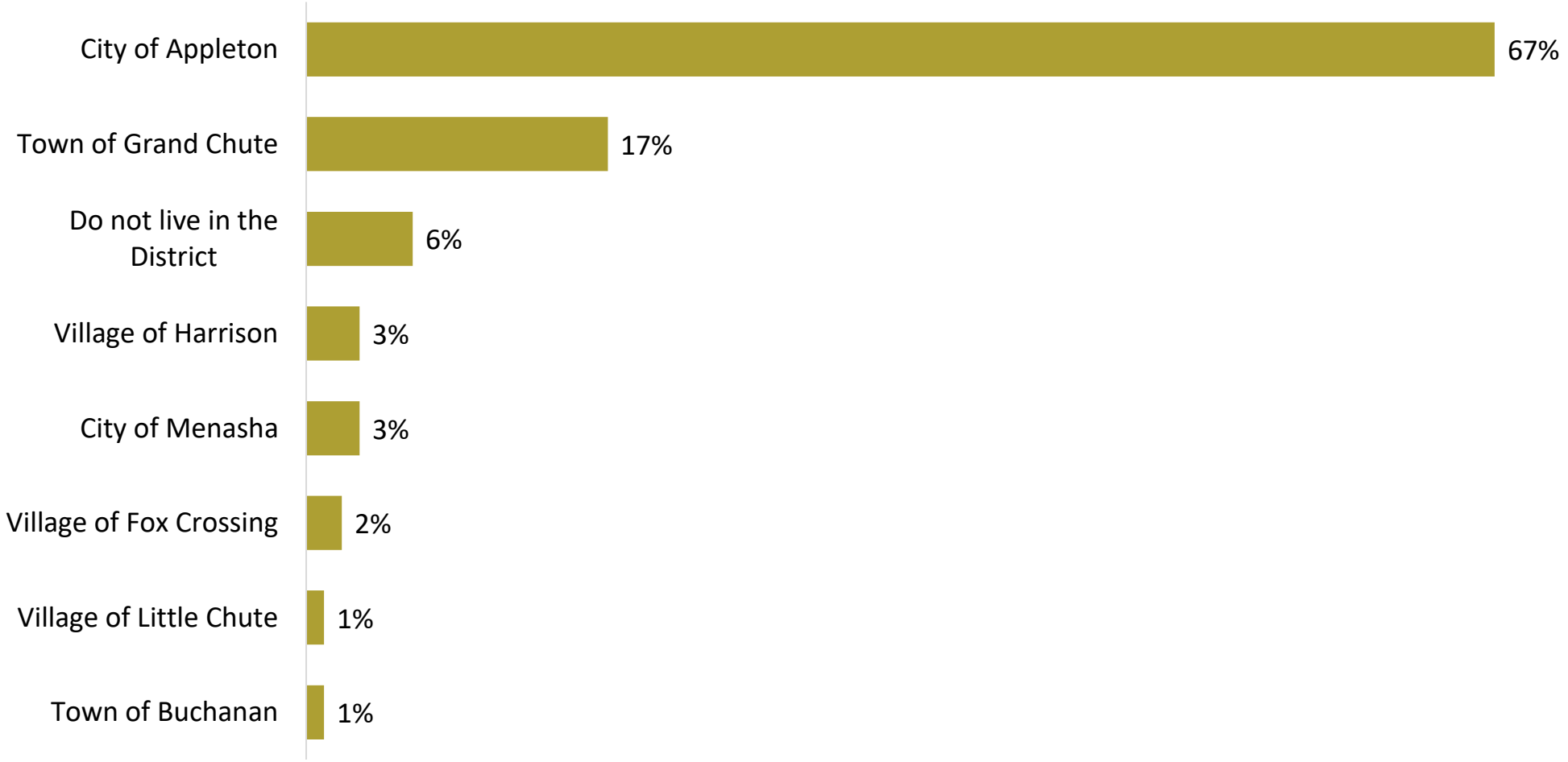
What is your age?



Do you live in the Appleton Area School District?

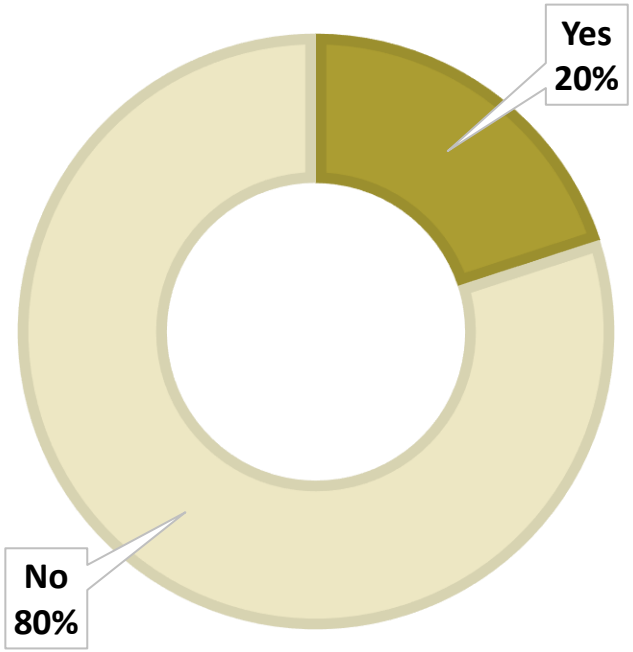


In which municipality do you live?

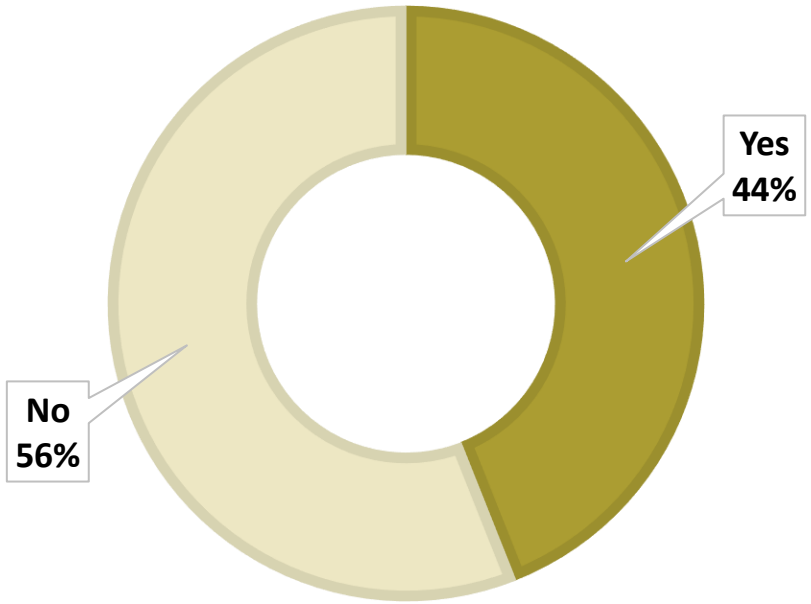


Respondent Information

Are you an employee of the Appleton Area School District?



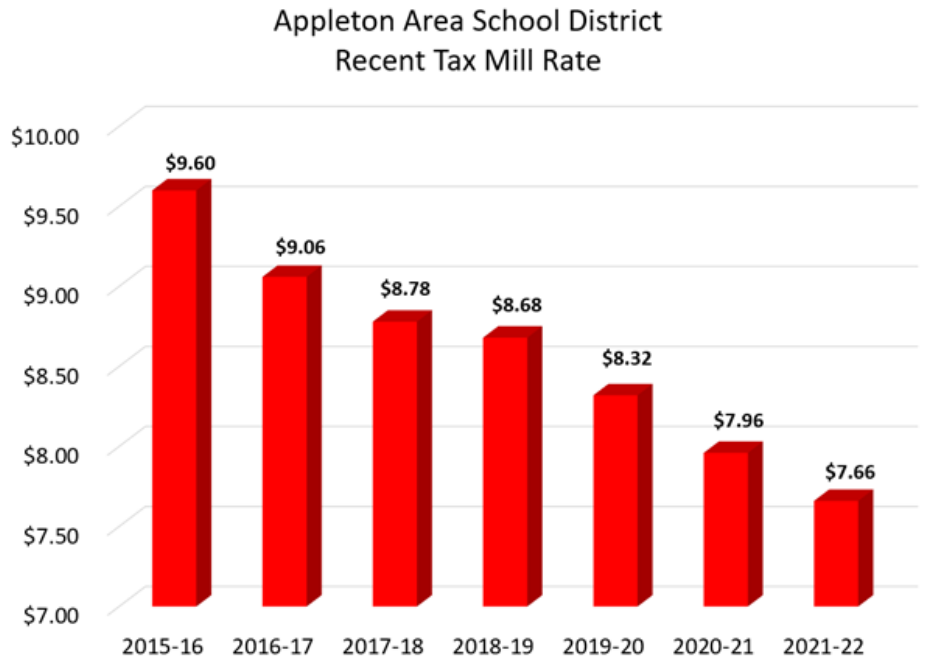
Do you have child(ren) attending schools in the District?



AASD Financial Background Information

The District's share of property taxes is calculated using a mill rate. As seen in the chart to the right, **our tax mill rate has dropped by more than 25 percent** since the 2015-16 school year.

The School Board has also taken the opportunity to pre-pay debt when possible, thus **saving over $4.5 million on interest expenses**. In addition, in 2023, the District will have paid off all loans that funded past building projects. These events will significantly reduce the tax impact of a potential referendum.



Local Funding Sources

There are two types of referendums school districts can use to request additional funding.

An **operational referendum** is used to maintain/improve current programs, services, and class sizes. The AASD community supported this type of referendum in 2014 to maintain programs, services, and replace classroom technology. An operational referendum can also be used to pay for building operating expenses when new space is added.

A **capital referendum** allows a district to issue debt (take out a loan) to pay for major facility projects. Much like a home mortgage, a capital referendum is typically financed over an extended period of time, often 20 years. The AASD community supported this type of referendum in 2014 to increase building security, update classrooms, and improve building infrastructure.

Planning Background

In 2019, the District created a Future Needs Advisory Committee, made up of community members, families, and staff, to study building needs and develop recommendations. While this work started more than three years ago, it was paused because of the pandemic. Agendas, presentations, and more information about the Committee and their work can be found on the District website under *Potential Referendum Planning.*

The Committee identified two priorities:

1) Increase School Capacity

Several elementary schools have enrollments that are at or exceed their “fully utilized” capacity. The most critical challenge is at Huntley Elementary, which is over capacity by more than 100 students.

Districtwide, elementary schools lack dedicated spaces for STEM, small group instruction, and hands-on learning. Due to space shortages, instruction is occurring in hallways and storage rooms. In addition, two of our four middle schools and all three high schools exceed building capacity.

Although student enrollment is not increasing overall, some areas of the District are experiencing growth, especially on the north side.

To help address the elementary capacity issue and deliver more age-appropriate learning, the Committee recommends moving 6th grade students to the middle level. This change will require adding capacity at the middle school level.

2) Improve Educational Spaces

- Many of our schools (22 of 27) were built more than 50 years ago, and teaching and learning has changed significantly since then. Today's education requires different types of classroom configurations to:
- Provide spaces for student collaboration and small group instruction
- Deliver hands-on learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
- Create flexible spaces that allow for project-based learning
- Ensure safe and accessible physical education areas at the secondary level

The Committee recommends updating classrooms and expanding physical education and fitness spaces at the secondary level. In addition, to better prepare students for college, careers, and the community, we would like to teach and better integrate STEM skills such as coding, robotics, manufacturing, circuitry, simple machines, and 3D printing at all grade levels. This change will require additional staffing, as well as creating labs and hands-on learning areas.

Potential Building Projects

The District could pursue a **capital referendum** to update our schools. A majority of committee members are recommending the following investments at each level.

Elementary Level: Build a School to Relieve Overcrowding

Huntley Elementary School is located two blocks west of Ballard Road and three blocks south of Northland Avenue. This attendance area has seen significant enrollment growth and new home construction. Huntley Elementary has a current enrollment of 680 students in a building with a capacity of 584. The Committee recommends building an elementary school on District-owned land south of Edgewood Drive (Hwy JJ).

Just over 50% of current Huntley students live north of Highway 41, all of whom are eligible for busing. Building a new school in this location would allow these students to attend an elementary school in their neighborhood, and resolve the overcrowding issue on the northeast side of the District.

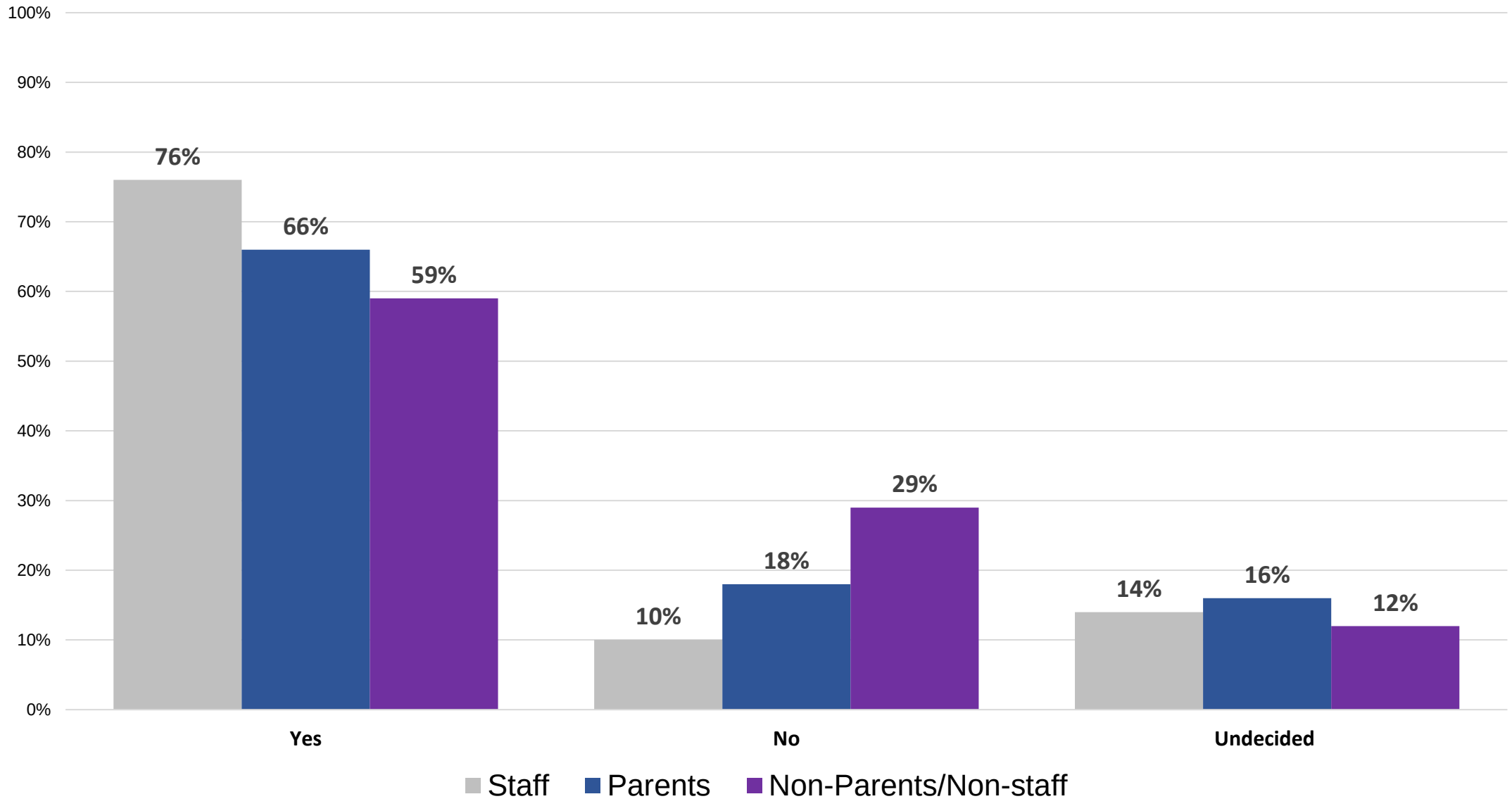
Elementary Level: Build a School to Relieve Overcrowding

The new school would:

- ✓ Be designed to serve 600 students
- ✓ Have classrooms and support spaces designed with the flexibility for small group instruction and hands-on learning
- ✓ Have modern labs to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) instruction
- ✓ Have a dedicated cafeteria and gym
- ✓ Provide high-quality outdoor learning environments
- ✓ Be designed for future expansion

Estimated cost: $36 million

Would you support a capital referendum to build a new elementary school?



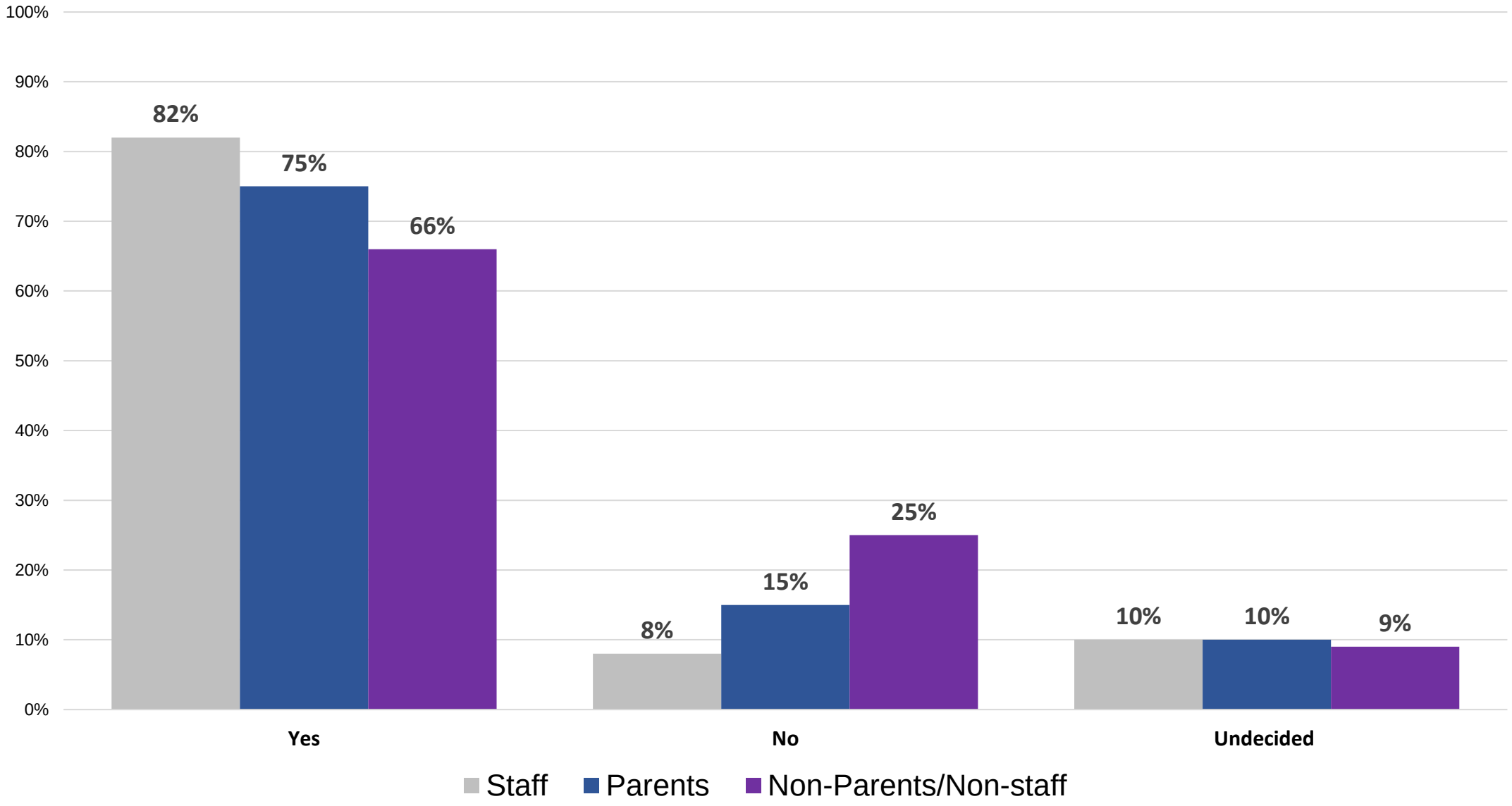
Elementary Level: Update Learning Spaces

The cost and scope of the investment will vary based on the needs of each school. Some of the more significant projects include:

- ✓ Reconstruct Houdini Elementary entrance to improve security and control visitor access
- ✓ Remodel classrooms and add STEM spaces at all elementary schools
- ✓ Create dedicated areas to offer small group and individualized instruction

Estimated cost: $13 million

Would you support a capital referendum to update the elementary schools?

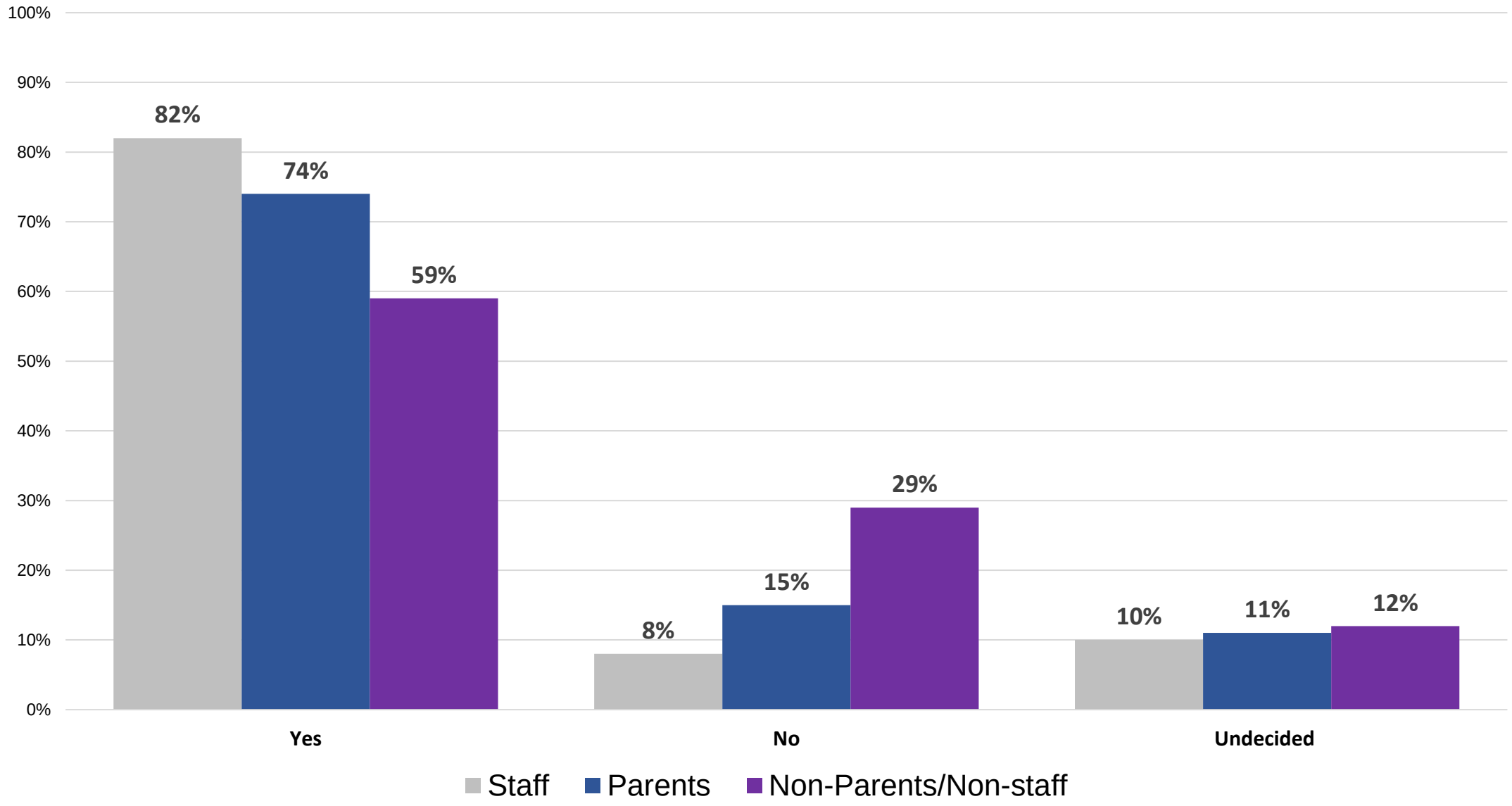


Middle School Level: Add Capacity and Update STEM Areas

Before 6th grade students can be moved, additional classroom space will be needed at all four middle schools. Updates are also needed to modernize science and technology education classrooms to support programming in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Estimated cost: $47 million

Would you support a capital referendum to update the middle schools?



High School Level

Classroom updates and additions are essential to better serve the growing needs of our students. The physical education areas are used continuously between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. at each high school, plus weekends and throughout the summer. The proposed additions would increase capacity in these high-demand spaces and provide both classroom and experiential/hands-on learning spaces for students interested in careers such as physical therapy, athletic training, and other health sciences.

High School Level

North High School

- ✓ Renovate and update the science and technology departments
- ✓ Construct a new fitness center and remodel the existing space into two classrooms

East High School

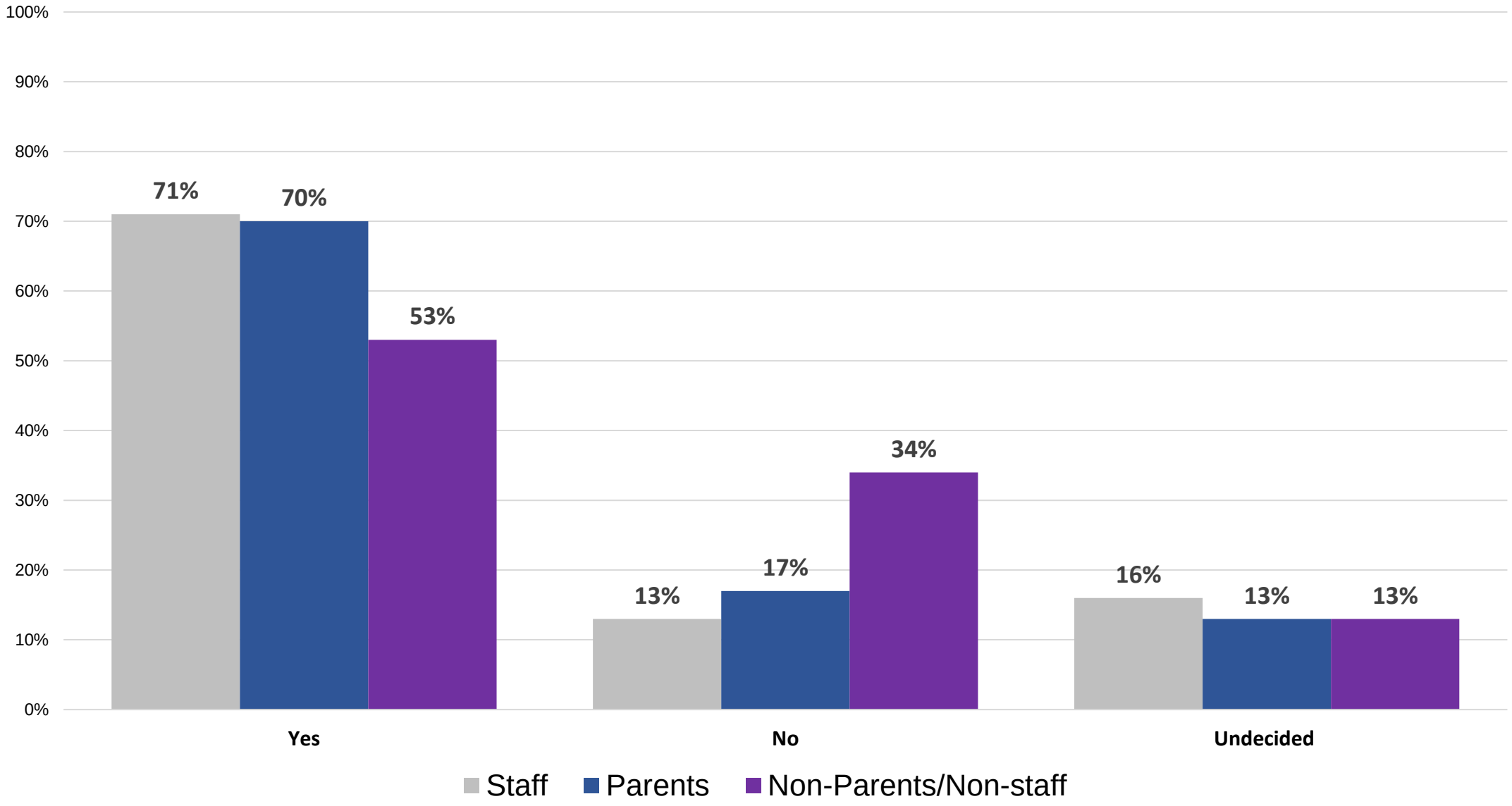
- ✓ Build classrooms and multipurpose collaborative learning spaces
- ✓ Expand the fitness center to improve safety and address overcrowding and scheduling challenges

West High School

- ✓ Build a multipurpose space and flexible classrooms, which would be used during the school day and after school for co-curricular and community events
- ✓ Build an indoor facility for physical education, athletics, marching band practice, dance, and youth teams who are all seasonally impacted by poor weather

Estimated cost: $33.8 million

Would you support a capital referendum to update the high schools?



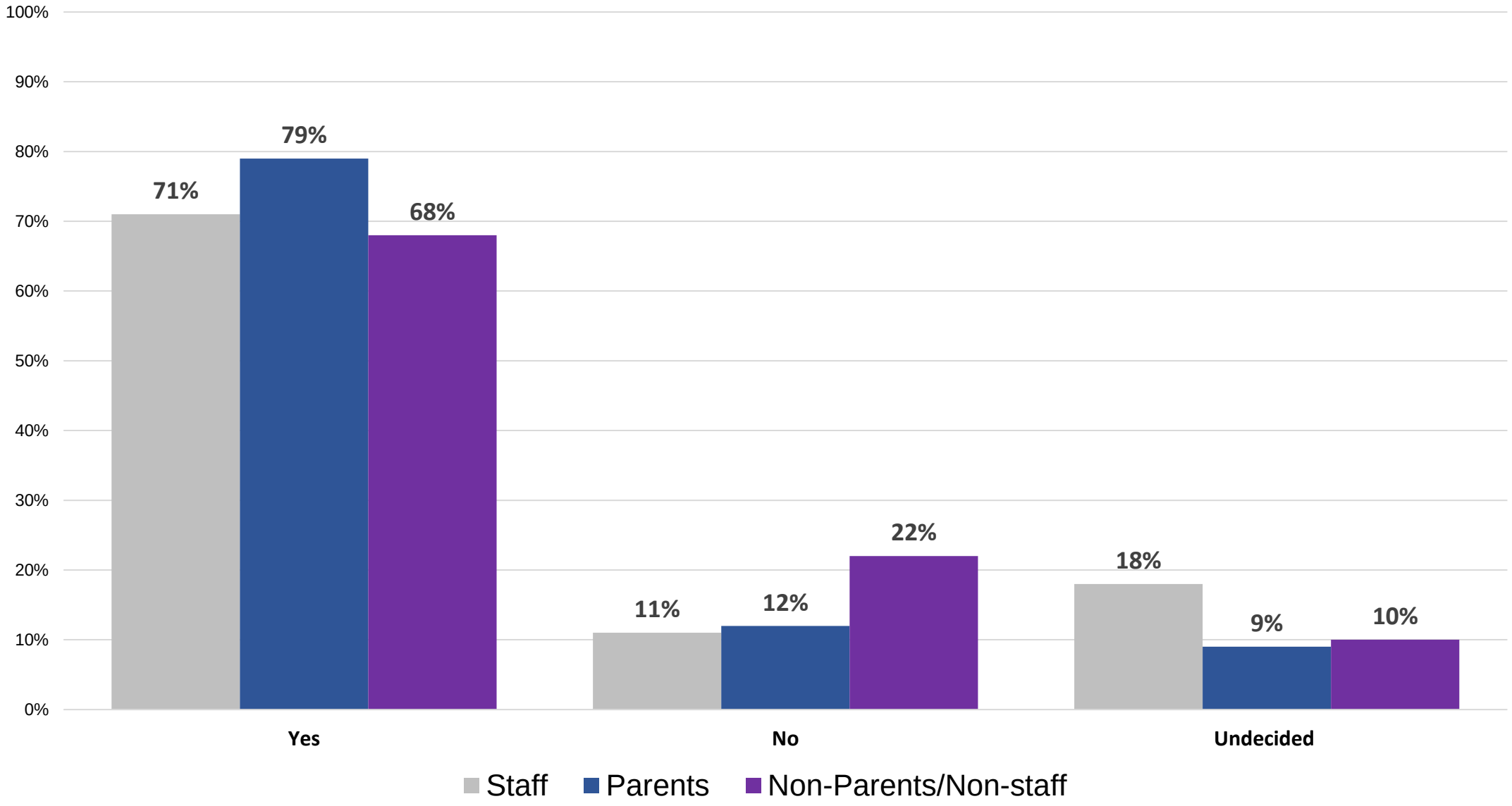
The District could pursue an operational referendum to fund the following projects:

Increase STEM teaching staff

This funding would be used to add staff to expand the teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Estimated cost: $1.2 million per year

Would you support an operational referendum to expand STEM instruction?

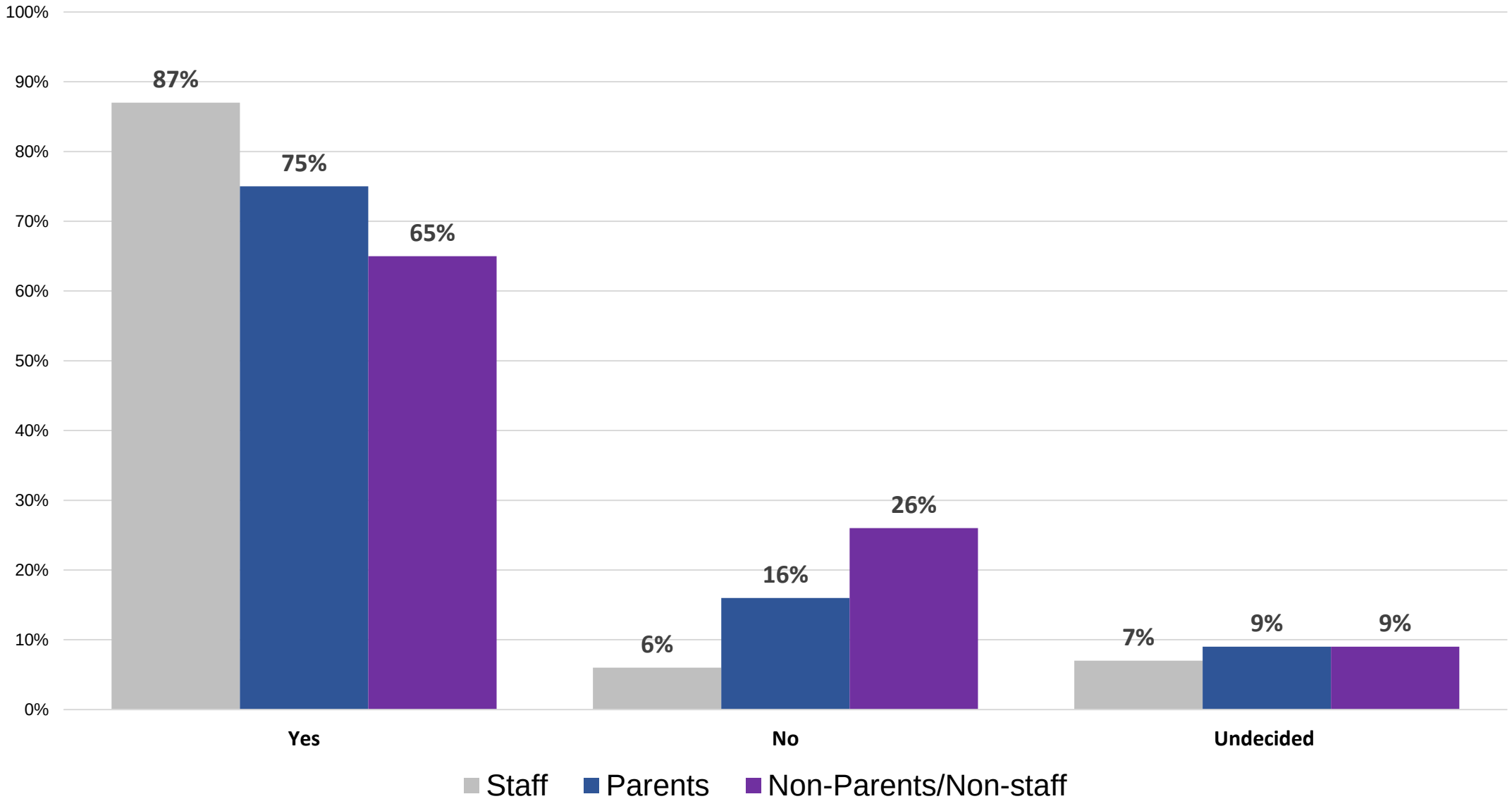


Maintaining Small Classes in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

Last year, the District used temporary federal funding to lower class sizes from 25 to 20 students in kindergarten through the 2nd grade level. We found this to be very beneficial for those students. We would need new local funding to continue providing these smaller classes for our youngest students.

Estimated cost: $2.2 million per year

Would you support an operational referendum to provide smaller class sizes at the kindergarten through the 2nd grade level?

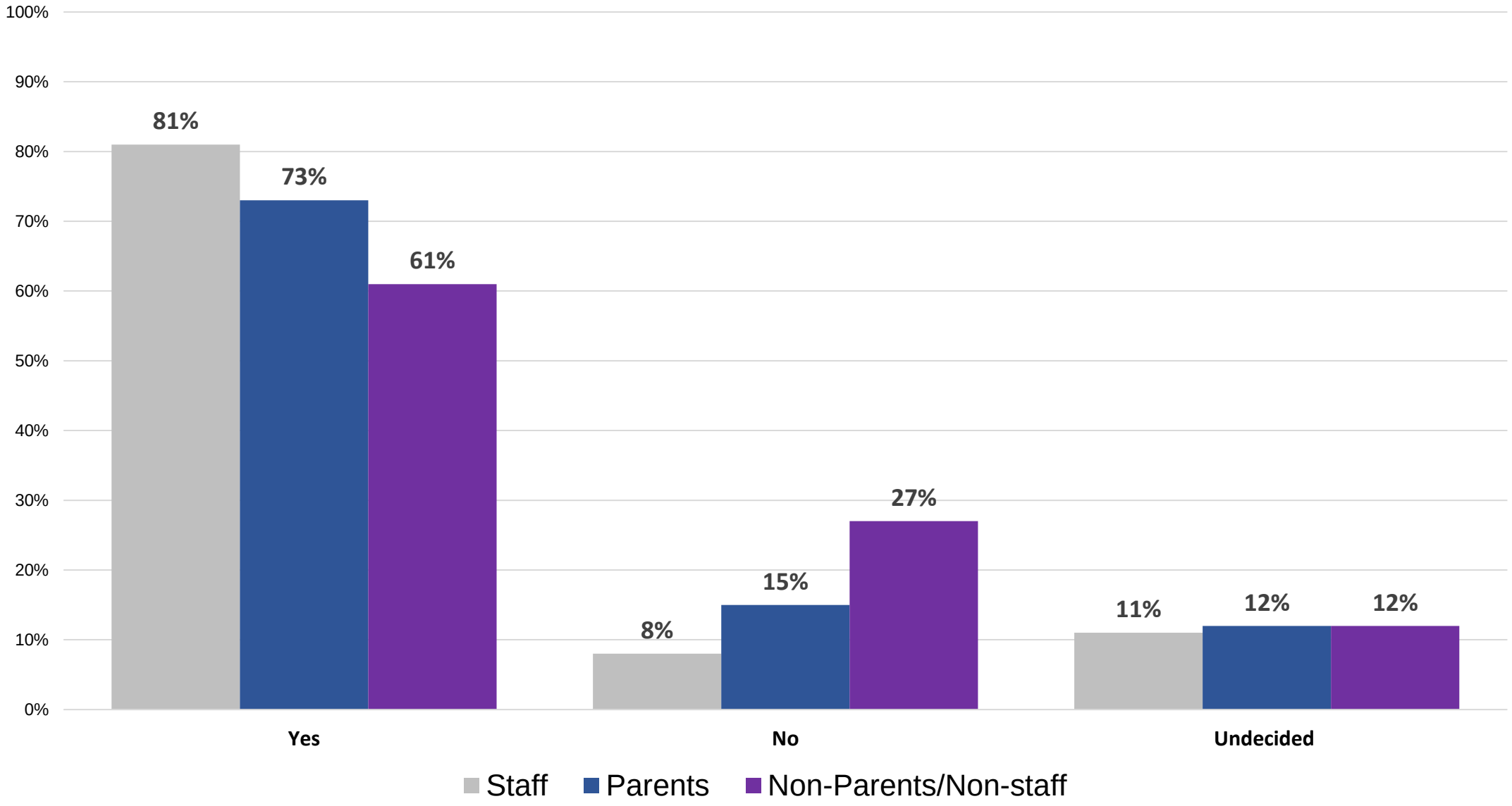


Operating New Space

If new construction projects are approved, additional funding would be needed to heat, clean, and operate the additional space.

Estimated cost: $1.6 million per year

Would you support an operational referendum to operate new spaces and/or buildings?



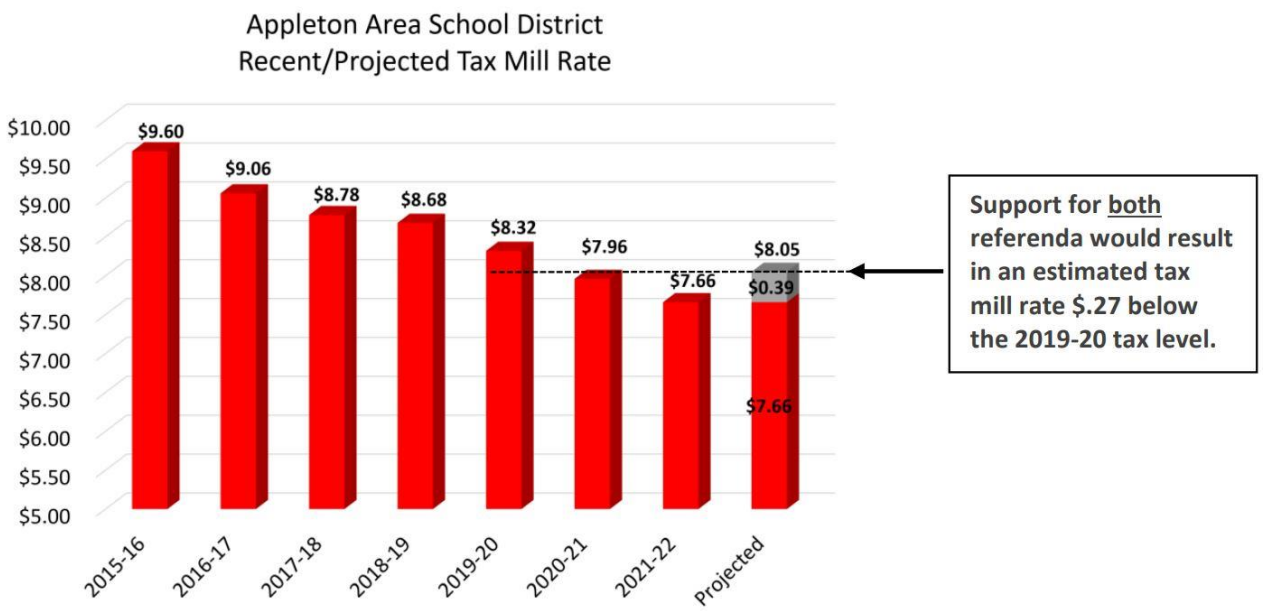
Proposed Plan: Funding Support

Since the 2014 school year, the District's tax mill rate, which is used to calculate property taxes, has declined. The bar graph below shows the tax impact if the community supports a **$5 million operational referendum** to increase STEM teaching staff, provide smaller class sizes in K-2, and operate new spaces, as well as **a $129.8 capital referendum** to fund all of the projects identified in this survey over a 20-year loan repayment period:

• Build a new elementary school to relieve overcrowding	$36 million
• Add middle school capacity and update STEM areas	$47 million
• Update elementary learning spaces	$13 million
• Build additions at the high schools	$33.8 million
	$129.8 million

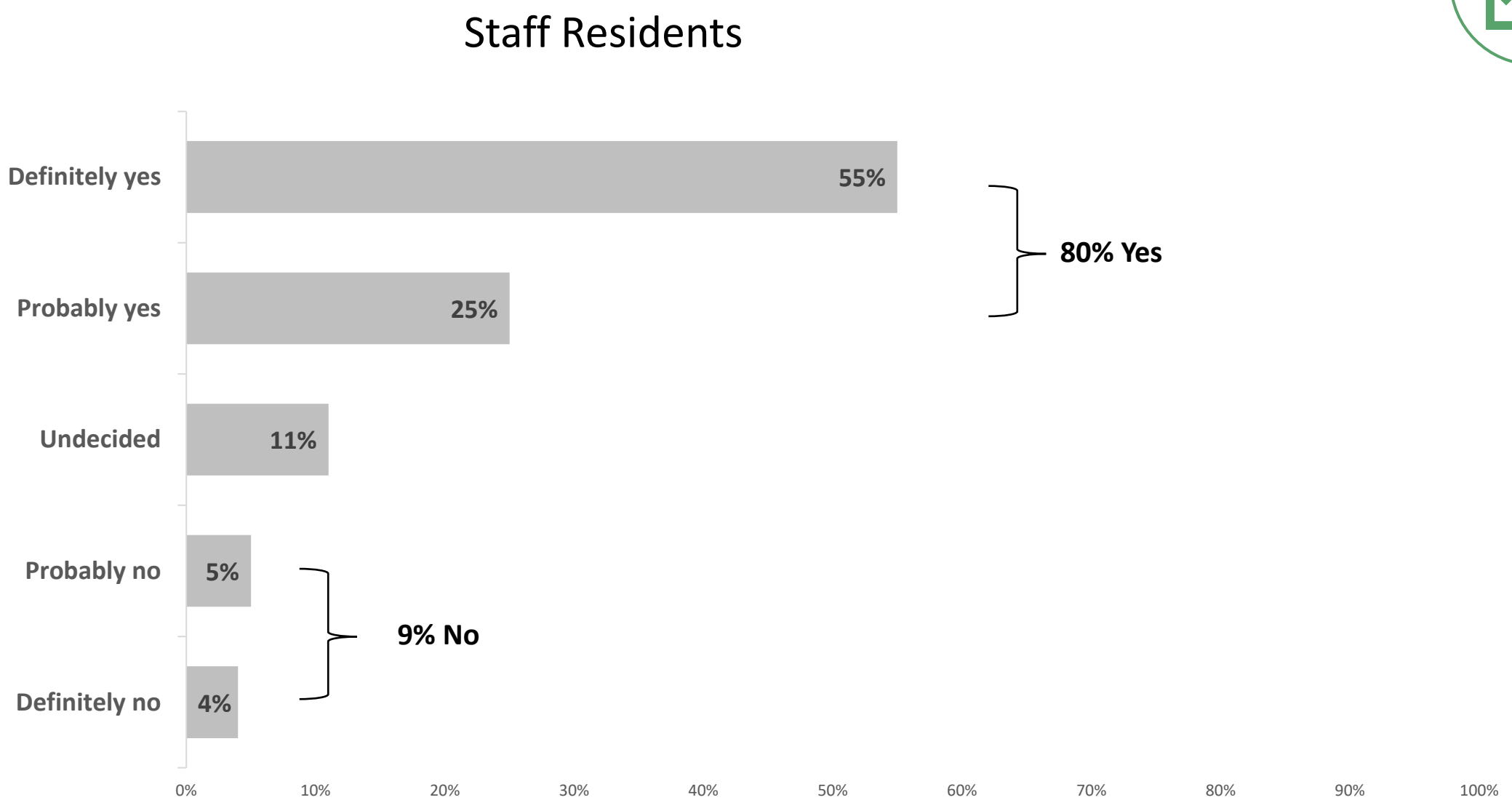
Proposed Plan: Funding Support

If the Appleton-area voters support both the operating referendum AND capital referendum, the estimated increase to the school portion of your local property taxes would be $0.39, or $39 for each $100,000 of a home's value.

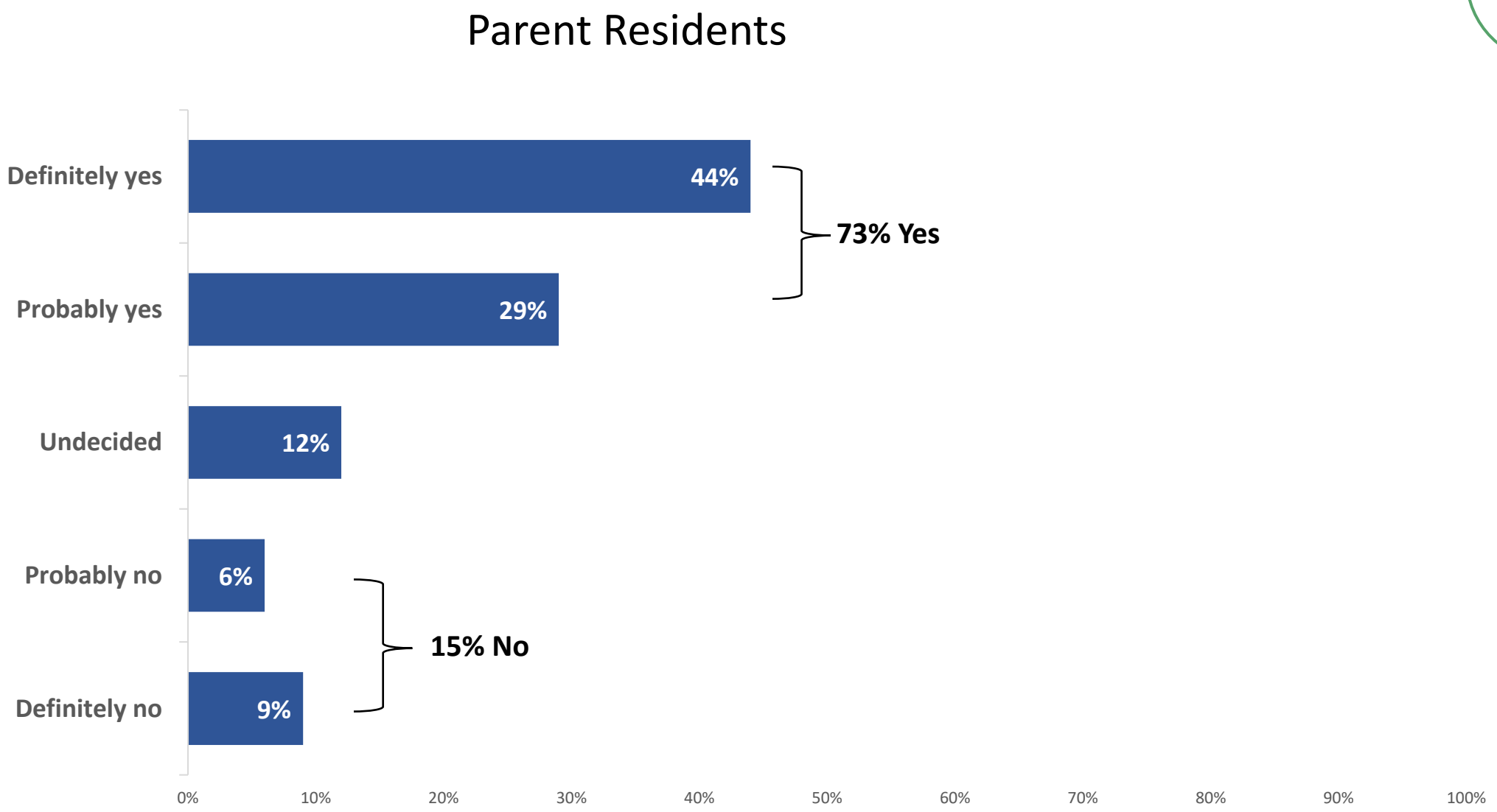


The Board of Education is asking the community to consider an operational referendum for $5 million and a capital referendum for $129.8 million to fund the Committee's recommended plan.

Funding Support: Would you support both proposed operational and capital referendums to fund the recommended plan as described in this survey?

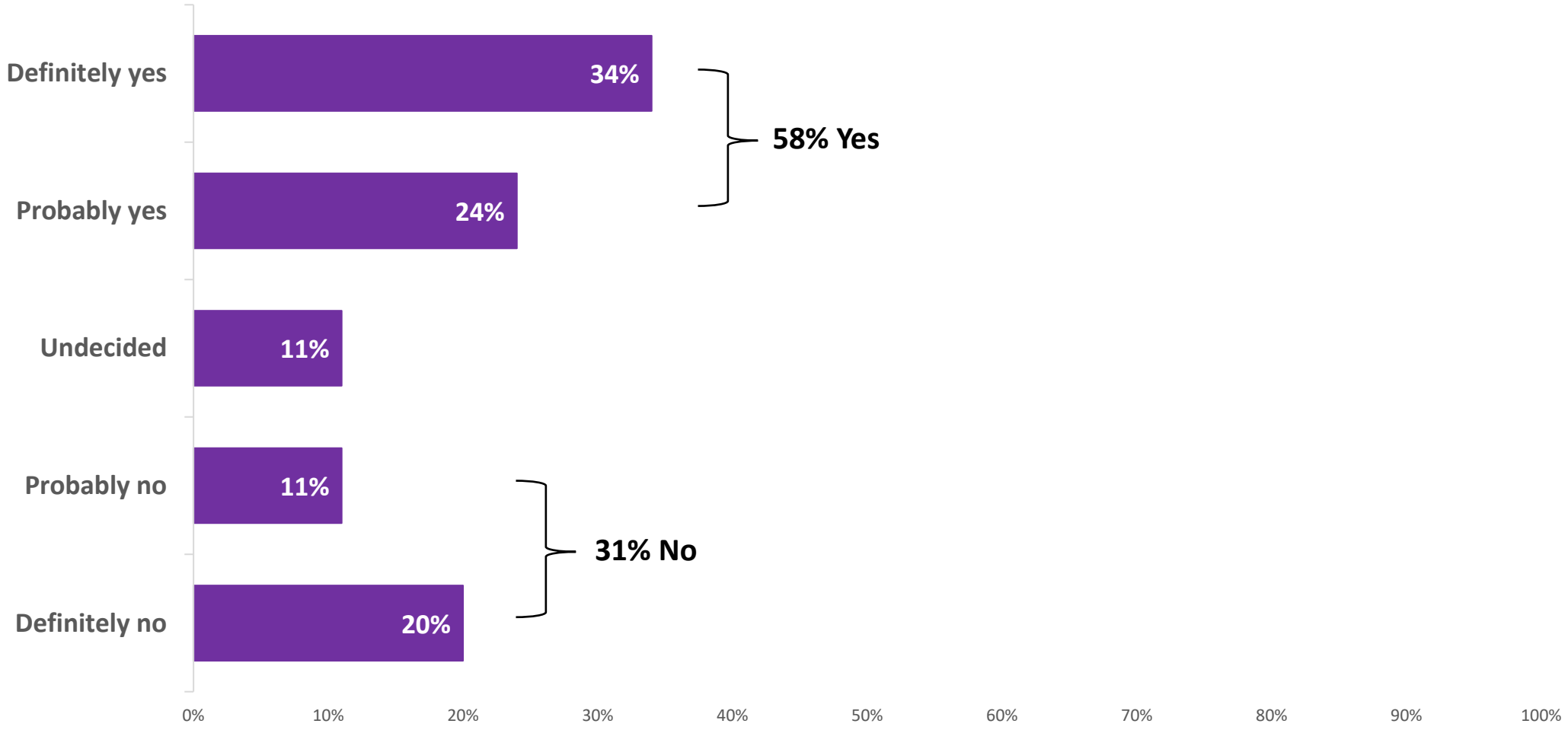


Funding Support: Would you support both proposed operational and capital referendums to fund the recommended plan as described in this survey?

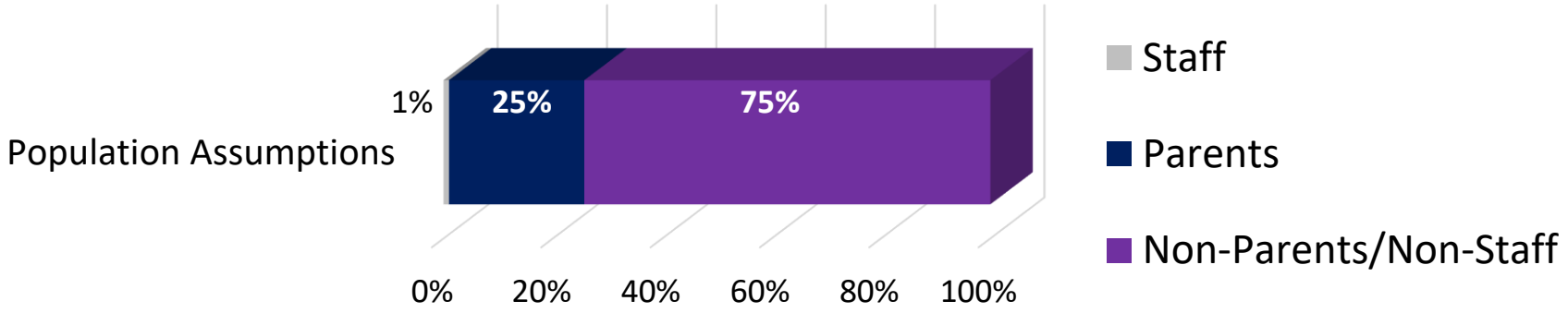


Funding Support: Would you support both proposed operational and capital referendums to fund the recommended plan as described in this survey?

Nonparent Nonstaff Residents



Additional Analysis:
Respondents support both the operating referendum AND capital referendum:



Of those responding "Definitely yes" or "Probably Yes"

0.75 (58%) + 0.25 (73%) = **61.75%**

What did we learn?

- ✓ A majority of all subgroups support pursing a capital referendum to:
  - build a new elementary school
  - update the remaining elementary schools
  - update the middle and high schools
- ✓ A majority of all subgroups support pursing an operational referendum to:
  - expand STEM instruction
  - provide smaller class sizes at the kindergarten through the 2nd grade level
  - operate new spaces and/or buildings
- ✓ If held today, both proposed referendums would likely be supported.

Questions or Comments?

Thank you!