

FUTURE-READY FACILITIES PLAN BOND TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

BOND OPTION PRESENTATION

April 1, 2025



Binders = Information



Please pick up your binders if you haven't already.

If you took your binders home, please add tonight's presentation.

We encourage you to keep the binder and the enclosed information.

Agenda

1 - How did we get here?

2 – Why this plan was taken to survey

3 – Share insights from the survey

4 – Task Force Feedback: Workshop Exercise

5 – Schedule / Next Steps

How did we get here?

**Spring
2024** Post-Election survey performed in the Spring of 2024 provided valuable insight into why the Nov. 2023 Bond Failed. Those insights were presented and studied moving into the Summer of 2024

**Fall
2024** Starting in August of 2024, Task Force Members were incorporated into the planning and development of the Bond Proposal that was presented in December 2024 and again in January 2025.

**Spring
2025** Starting in February 2025, another community survey was performed again providing valuable insight into how the community would react to the January 2025 Bond Proposal

We are listening to you and your comments!

We are in this together.

This is what we have heard.

How did we get here?

Identify problems facing District

Many of these problems were identified
in Task Force Meeting #4 when we
talked about **Competing Interests**

NEEDS & CHALLENGES



ENROLLMENT
CHALLENGES



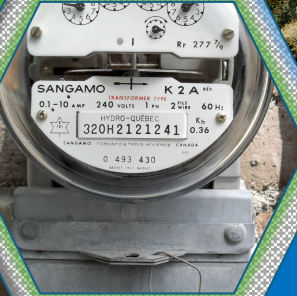
COST TO
OPERATE

NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
SCHOOLS



RIGHT SIZED
SCHOOLS

AGING
FACILITIES



HISTORIC
PRESERVATION



How did we get here?

Identify problems facing District

Propose Solutions to address Identified Problems

Must be Fiscally Responsible for the District

Historic Buildings must be preserved

Equitable Educational Experiences

Out of these Needs and Challenges, a District Master Plan evolved to begin addressing these concerns

CRCSD 2040 FACILITIES PLAN

- Bond Funded
- PPEL Funded
- SAVE Funded
- PPEL and SAVE Funded
- Design Time
- Design Time
- Design Time
- Design Time



PROJECT	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Bond Vote	★														
McKinley Med Lab	WIN - SUM														
Jefferson - Fr. Academy	SPR '25 - SUM '26														
Jefferson - Pathways	SPR '25 - WIN '26														
Washington - Fr. Academy	SPR '25 - SUM '26														
Washington - Pathways	SPR '25 - WIN '26														
Harrison	SUM '25 - SUM '27														
Hoover	SUM '25 - SUM '27														
Van Buren	SUM '25 - SUM '27														
Roosevelt	WIN '26 - WIN '27 WIN '27 - SUM '28														
McKinley Renovation	WIN '26 - SUM '27 SUM '27 - SUM '30														
New Middle School	SUM '26 - WIN '28 WIN '28 - SUM '30														
Wilson	SUM '26 - WIN '28 WIN '28 - SUM '30														
New Elementary	SUM '26 - SUM '28 SUM '28 - SUM '30														
New Elementary	SUM '27 - SUM '29 SUM '29 - SUM '31														
Kennedy - Fr. Academy	WIN '28 - SPR '29 SPR '29 - WIN '31														
New Elementary	SUM '29 - SUM '31 SUM '31 - SUM '33														
New Elementary	SUM '31 - SUM '33 SUM '33 - SUM '35														
New Elementary	SUM '35 - SUM '37 SUM '37 - SUM '39														

How did we get here? – Proposed Plan in January

McKinley Renovation

Full renovation & modernization of McKinley & Wilson

Wilson Renovation

Franklin MS students moves to McKinley

New Middle School

Roosevelt MS improvements made through PPEL

**Kennedy HS:
Freshman Academy /
Commons Renovation**

Wilson MS students move to Roosevelt

Franklin building becomes new home for Metro HS, the Transition Center and other District programming

**\$210.6 Million Bond
Budget**

Grant and CRA @ Taylor move to Wilson building

Historic McKinley, Franklin and Wilson are restored

**\$236.9 Million
savings - 20 years**

Grant, CRA @ Taylor, Metro and Transition Center facilities costs are reclaimed

New Middle School to replace Harding



Why this plan taken to Survey

To invite CRCSD constituents into the bond development process

This plan was developed with the Task Force over the past 9 months and we needed community feedback

The survey followed the timeline and purpose established in August with the Task Force

What we learned from the 2025 Survey.....





Cedar Rapids Community School District

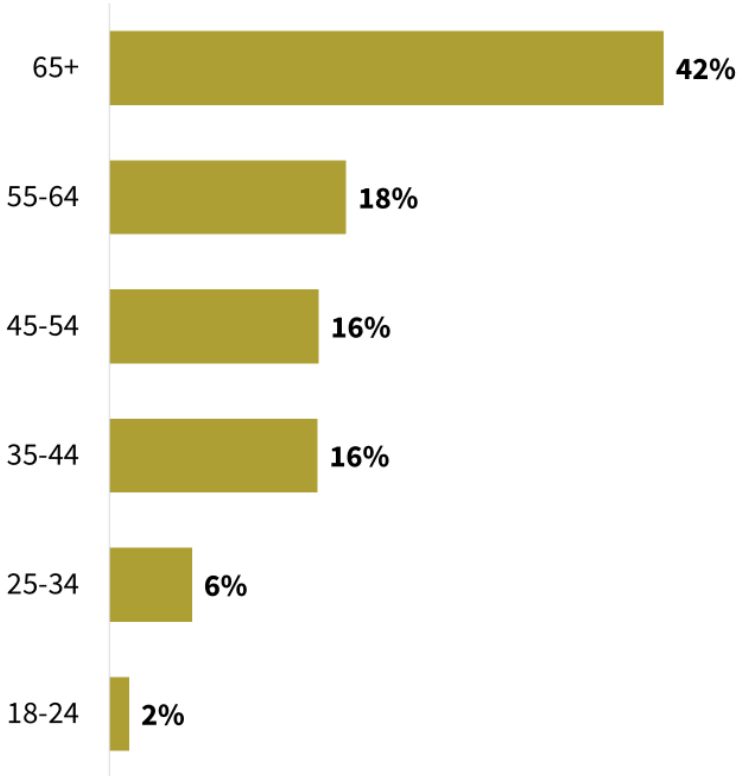
Community Survey Report
April 7, 2025

Survey Information

- **March 5, 2025** survey deadline
- **7,850** respondents
- **+/- 1.13%** statistical margin of error

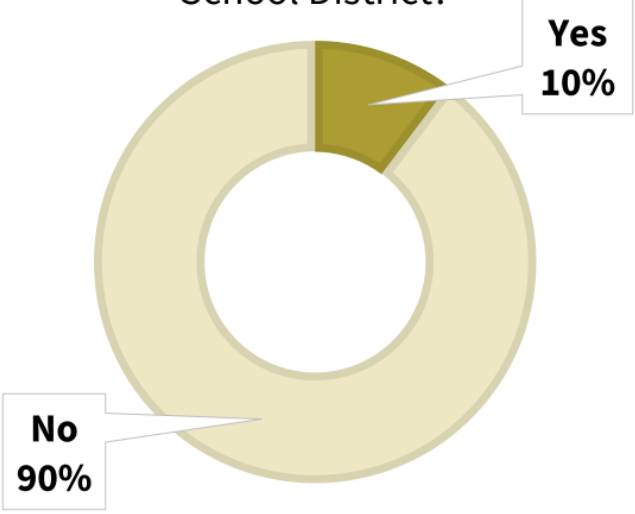


What is your age?

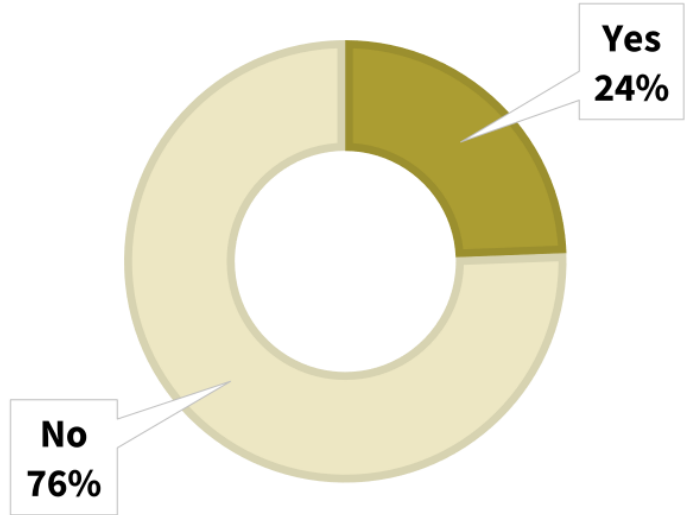


Respondent Information

Are you an employee of the Cedar Rapids Community School District?



Do you have children attending the District?



SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

33.4%

**Financial Burden and
Economic Uncertainty**

"Please pursue smaller bond referendums that support a specific thing you are trying to achieve. A bloated bond referendum appears as a money grab..."

22.7%

**Maintain Existing vs
Building New**

"It seems as if taxes would go up quite a bit. Is there a way to tier this over a set of years as cost of living keeps going up and it is hard to sustain daily living at times?"

14.3%

**Concerns about Middle
/ High School Impacts**

"I am appreciative that this proposal seems more focused on what is necessary instead of just "nice to haves" (e.g. sports complexes). I am open to an increase in taxes to support our schools; however, this proposal's impact on taxes is still about twice as much as I feel confident supporting in the current economic climate (especially as home assessments continue to rise rapidly)."

"I do agree with all the updates and needs our schools need, unfortunately residents can not afford our taxes to go up... I believe more residents would or could support this if the amount was lower."

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

33.4%

**Financial Burden and
Economic Uncertainty**

"I see good things happening for students at McKinley and Harding, but at Roosevelt, we have an aging building with many issues. There's no way our building can accommodate more students without renovation."

22.7%

**Maintain Existing vs
Building New**

"I have talked with a number of people who do not support [a new middle school] and would rather see the existing middle schools renovated and utilized."

"The building of a new middle school is unnecessary... Cut your cost and renovate the existing spaces."

14.3%

**Concerns about Middle
/ High School Impacts**

"Consolidate schools and renovate. No new construction. Cost still too high."

"I agree with updating and consolidating old buildings, etc. to reduce waste and update outdated facilities... I like preserving the old buildings and repurposing them as the plan states."

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

33.4%

**Financial Burden and
Economic Uncertainty**

"Like the plan to rearrange schools and make better use of facilities, but no one likes to hear of taxes going up."

"Franklin is a huge building. No thoughts mentioned about combining Metro and Polk students into one building."

22.7%

**Maintain Existing vs
Building New**

I don't understand the idea behind the addition to Kennedy when middle school is where kids get prepared for high school. The Franklin, Wilson, and Metro thing I get.

14.3%

**Concerns about Middle
/ High School Impacts**

"Roosevelt needs help. Our building has many issues, and we are assuming Wilson students will be absorbed into us, but there is no way our building can accommodate these extra students without renovations."

"Might support the renovation of Wilson, McKinley and Kennedy projects. Hard no if the new school to replace Harding is involved."

ECONOMIC ALLIANCE - POLLING

55%

Percentage of respondents would likely or definitely vote for the bond referendum, still short of the 60% required for approval but a vast improvement from the past election and other polls

64-74%

Improving school safety and accessibility scored highest, with 64% to 72% of respondents saying they are more likely to vote 'yes' on those components of the proposal.

61%

Voters also are compelled by cost efficiencies, with 61% expressing more support for initiatives that address the 3,500 empty seats and the millions in operational expenses that could be saved by aligning district facilities to its lower enrollments.

SOLVING PROBLEMS

District Challenges

Budget Shortfalls

Building Inefficiencies

Declining Enrollment

Master Plan Developments

Moving Population

Preserving Historic Schools

Bond Proposal Feedback

Cost impact is too great

**Work with what we have
instead of building new.**

**Address concerns about
Middle School and High
School Impacts**

Regardless of bond outcomes, the District will need to close schools due to funding reductions that are beyond our control

WORKSHOP EXERCISE

Table group Discussion

Topic:

How can we rework bond plan to resolve the challenges and feedback from the previous page?



20 Minutes: Table Discussion

10 Minutes: Reporting out from each table

5 Minutes: Menti-meter Poll of which plan best resolves the challenges faced

WORKSHOP EXERCISE

Table group Discussion

McKinley

\$58.9 Mil

- Renovate, modernize & add on to McKinley Middle School
- Combine Franklin & McKinley in this renovated building
- Franklin Converted to serve Metro HS & Transition Center

Wilson

\$35.7 Mil

- Renovate, modernize & add on to Wilson
- Turn Wilson into an ES. Combine Grant & CRA in this renovated building
- Wilson MS students combined with Roosevelt MS

Middle School

\$104 Mil

- Build a new middle school on the NE side to replace Harding

Kennedy

\$12 Mil

- Renovate and add on for Freshman Center
- Renovate and enlarge cafeteria space.

Roosevelt

\$25 Mil

- Renovate & modernize Roosevelt building
- Combine Wilson MS student at this building.

Schedule / Next Steps

April 1st Task Force Meeting #7: Survey Results and Workshop

April 3rd Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

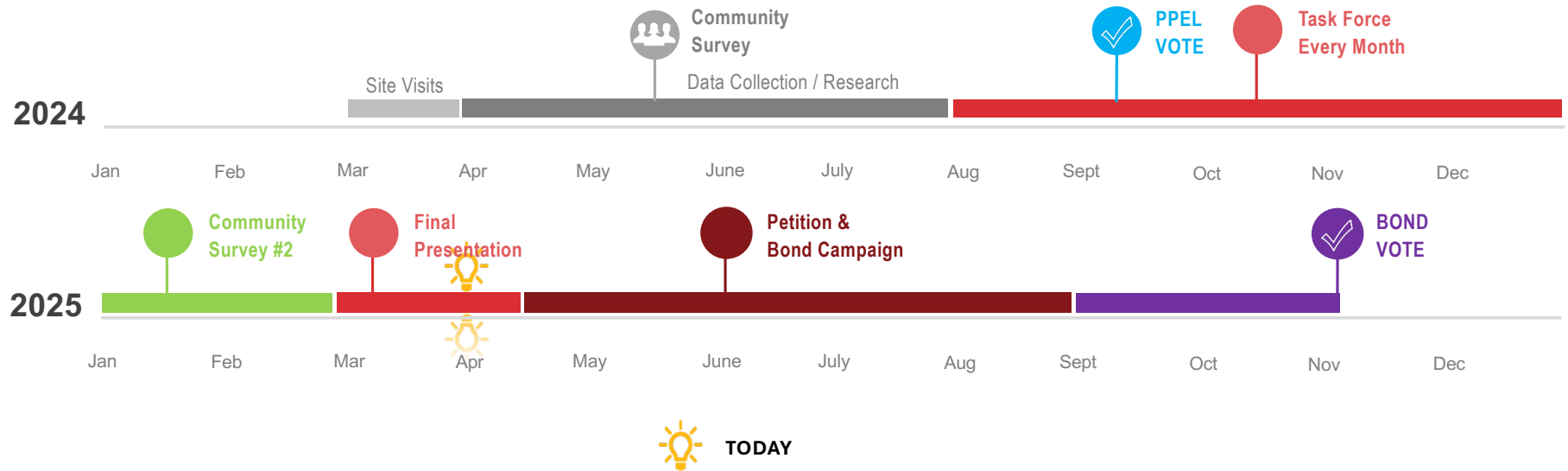
April 7th Board of Directors Meeting: Presentation of Survey Results

**April 7th
Thru 28th** Dr Grover sharing information and getting feedback from various community members including school staff and parents

April 28th Board of Directors Meeting: Presentation of revised bond proposal

May Board of Directors Meeting: Final Decision for Bond Resolution

217 DAYS UNTIL BOND VOTE





THANK YOU
For Being A
Valuable Part Of This Process

