



Final Community Engagement Report

Over the past several months, District 200 has continued to look to the community to guide us as we determine the path forward for our schools. So far, we have received 1,285 feedback responses from members of the community through in-person presentations, online surveys, and two scientific phone surveys on what improvements they would like to see to their schools and how they would like to fund those improvements.

The final phase of community engagement was conducted in October and November of 2023. Using the feedback provided by the public during the initial phase, we developed three options for the community to provide feedback. Throughout this phase the district has been diligently listening to the community as they ranked each option in order of favorability.

District 200 has continued to take active steps to engage the community and solicit feedback. To achieve this, we updated messaging, met with the Community Leadership Team for another in-depth discussion, conducted a second public phone survey, and encouraged public responses to an online survey. Feedback from the community was documented through notes taken of all direct communications, responses provided via digital forms at the Community Leadership Team meeting, responses provided to the online feedback form on the district's website, and spreadsheets generated from the results of the scientific phone survey. We received tremendous levels of engagement and feedback in Phase 3, gathering additional feedback from 585 members of the community, including 530 from the second phone survey and 55 responses from the Community Leadership Team and online feedback.

We are nearing the end of this community engagement process, which began in July 2022. As this process continues, the district, equipped with all data gathered from the community to date, will work with the board to determine the best possible course forward that aligns with the community's wishes.

Messaging

The district continued to use messaging to properly communicate how we got to this point, what our successes and challenges have been, and how to approach the path forward. This messaging detailed recent progression and improvements as well as infrastructure challenges at three of the four middle schools in the district. The six key takeaways from the messaging are below, and a full copy of the messaging is provided with this report.

- We've overcome so many challenges together in District 200 and put our district on a positive path forward that will continue to inspire in everyone a passion to excel!

- We are continuing to strive for excellence, with a special focus on learning acceleration. As a result of this collaborative work, our students achieve high levels of academic success in one of the best-ranked school districts in the entire state of Illinois.
- We also continue to strive to be operationally excellent, operating our district as efficiently and effectively as possible. We've stayed true to our district's commitment to fiscal conservatism.
- We are at the final step in catching up on our district's infrastructure needs. All that remains is to address the significant needs at three of our four middle schools, and this decade-long effort to put our district on a sustainable path with safe, efficient, and up-to-date school buildings will be complete.
- The exciting news is our district's fiscal responsibility has given us a unique opportunity to address these challenges and modernize our middle schools while giving our taxpayers even more property tax relief. We can complete the effort to fix our schools without raising our taxes.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, our community will determine the path forward together. Please plan on participating in this important community engagement process as we continue our district's positive momentum.

Options Survey

During this phase, the district conducted a public phone survey to gauge support for each potential option. For each option, respondents were given full information on each item, including which individual projects each option addresses and does not address, as well as estimated costs and the average tax impact. The survey was taken before the full public had been educated on the options in order to obtain an accurate representation of the public's unbiased, intuitive reactions to the options contained in the survey.

A full analysis of the results from the options survey is provided with this report.

Community Leadership Team

The Community Leadership Team continued to meet throughout this process to provide the district with direct, informed input. The committee is made up of a cross-section of District 200 stakeholders, including parents, taxpayers without children in the district, business owners, local officials, and teachers.

The Community Leadership Team first met last spring on April 10 and April 24. The team met again this school year on August 21 and September 25 to discuss all the potential infrastructure projects. The committee then met again on November 9 and December 11 during this phase to provide input on the three options.

Feedback Report

Attached is a detailed report of the feedback that was collected during the final phase of this process, which includes feedback from the Community Leadership Team as well as online feedback collected on the district's website.

Final Phase Analysis

In forming our analysis, we reviewed all data points in this phase as well as the initial phase. Data is broken down into the intuitive reactions from the general public, the passionate responses from those who made a point to connect with the district in this process, and the informed opinions of those most engaged with the district and this process. This allows us to

track the movement of opinions as individuals become more engaged and educated on the topics being discussed.

The feedback during this final phase continued to show solid support for moving forward with a plan that invests in improving our schools. Once again, the option to not move forward with a plan that includes additional funding to improve the district's middle schools receives minimal support: just 8%. The general public and Community Leadership Team overwhelmingly support moving forward with one of the three options, with 88% of the public supporting at least one of the options.

Each of the options are supported, giving the district multiple paths they can choose that all receive community support. However, one option receives much stronger support and therefore must be considered the community favorite. Option 3 is the preference of 50% of the general public as well as the favorite for the Community Leadership Team, followed by Option 2 at 20% then Option 1 at 18%.

Option 3 is the favorite of every demographic tested. Notably, only 24% oppose Option 3, the lowest opposition of the three options. This is a key metric we test, because opposition approaching or over 50% can be a predictor of problems at the ballot box for a referendum. In the survey, no demographic opposed Option 3 by that margin, a significantly positive indicator.

In summary, the district is on solid ground moving forward with any of the three options presented to the public, but they will be most in line with the community's wishes if they pursue Option 3, which addresses all priorities at the district's middle schools, completes the decade-long effort to catch up on the district's infrastructure needs, and provides residents property tax relief.



This is the final phase of Community Unit School District 200’s community engagement efforts being conducted in 2023 to engage in a conversation regarding the facility needs and challenges at Edison, Franklin, and Monroe Middle Schools. Thank you for participating in this important process to help determine the path forward together.

**WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?
RANK THE POTENTIAL OPTIONS BY PRIORITY FROM 1 – 4
(1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY)**

RANK	POTENTIAL OPTIONS
	OPTION 1: Essential improvements including safety & security, and infrastructure & mechanicals. Estimated Cost: \$42 million Approximate Tax Decrease: \$342/yr (Avg \$370,400 home)
	OPTION 2: Some improvements including safety & security, infrastructure & mechanicals, special education & accessibility, science lab classrooms, classroom improvements, some physical education upgrades, and some student services spaces. Estimated Cost: \$108.6 million Approximate Tax Decrease: \$184/yr (Avg \$370,400 home)
	OPTION 3: All improvements including safety & security, infrastructure & mechanicals, special education & accessibility, science lab classrooms, classroom improvements, performing arts & music spaces, library learning centers, indoor athletic & physical education spaces, student services spaces, and building layout & collaborative spaces. Estimated Cost: \$155.4 million Approximate Tax Decrease: \$73/yr (Avg \$370,400 home)
	I Do Not Support Additional Funding for Our Schools

SHARE ANY ADDITIONAL NOTES, FEEDBACK, OR COMMENTS

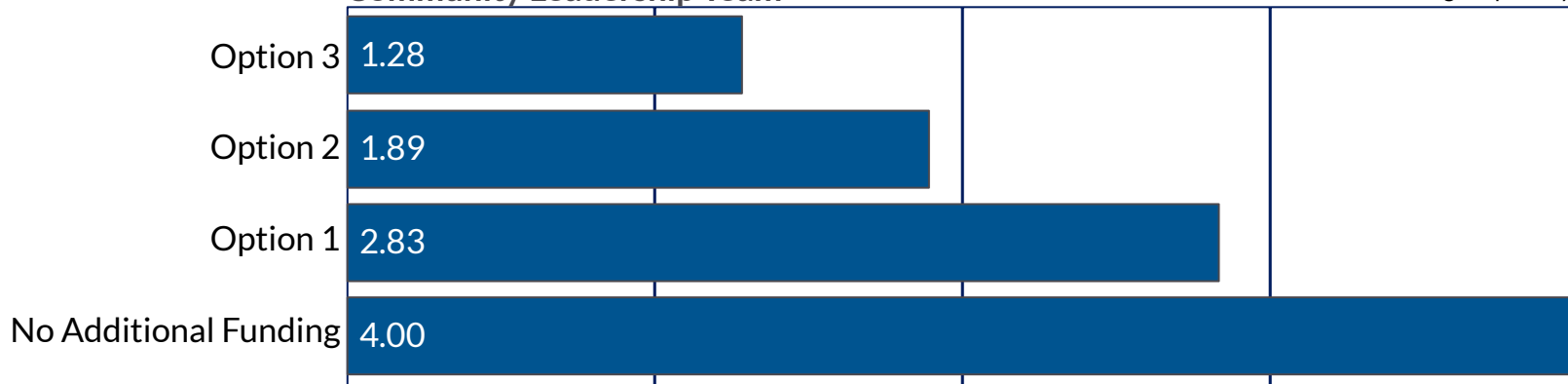


CUSD 200 FEEDBACK FORM SUMMARY

Final Phase Feedback

Community Leadership Team

Lower number indicates higher priority.



Community Engagement



CUSD 200 Options Survey | EOSullivan Consulting

Field Dates: Monday, November 13 – Saturday, November 18

Age	
≤ 44	35%
45 - 64	35%
65 +	30%

Gender	
Male	48%
Female	52%

Ethnicity	
White	75%
Hispanic	11%
African American	5%
Asian	6%
Another	2%

Ideology	
Conservative	31%
Moderate	36%
Liberal	33%

CUSD 200 Connection	
Currently	35%
Previously	33%
No Connection	32%

Option 1	
Strongly Support	22%
Somewhat Support	32%
Somewhat Oppose	20%
Strongly Oppose	17%
Unsure / No Opinion	9%

Option 2	
Strongly Support	22%
Somewhat Support	37%
Somewhat Oppose	20%
Strongly Oppose	14%
Unsure / No Opinion	8%

Option 3	
Strongly Support	46%
Somewhat Support	23%
Somewhat Oppose	9%
Strongly Oppose	15%
Unsure / No Opinion	7%

Option Preference	
Option 1	18%
Option 2	20%
Option 3	50%
No Additional Funding	8%
Unsure / No Opinion	4%