



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Systems Planning and Performance

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3081

Date: July 9, 2020
To: Board of Education
From: Russell Brown, Ph.D.
Subject: Bond Survey Summer 2020

BACKGROUND

As part of a constellation of efforts by the Board of Education of Portland Public Schools to engage its constituency in the development of a bond proposal, a brief survey was developed to gather the public's perceived priorities for the investment of bond dollars. The survey was released in 6 languages on June 23rd of 2020 and remained open through July 3rd of 2020.

The following is a summary of the results of the bond survey which can be placed in the context of the information that the board has garnered through additional engagement activities.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

Respondents.

There were 2058 individuals who participated in the survey and, of those, 1736 completed the majority of the survey items. Response counts are, therefore, included in all comparisons.

The vast majority of the respondents self-identified as White (1106). Response rates for other races/ethnicities are listed below. Many of the following respondents indicated more than one race (including White).

Table 1. Race/Ethnicity Counts

Race/Ethnicity	Count
African American	72
American Indian/Alaskan Native	40
Asian	78
Native/Indigenous to Canada	11
Hispanic/LatinX	76
Middle Eastern/North African	19
Pacific Islander	16

The majority of the respondents identified themselves as parents or family member of a Portland Public School student (70.5%). PPS educators were the second largest respondent group representing 17.3% of the respondents.

Table 2. Respondent Relationship to Portland Public Schools

Relationship to Portland Public Schools	Count	%
Parent/family member of a PPS student	1031	70.5
PPS educator or staff member	253	17.3
Other	76	5.2
Community member who lives in the Portland Public Schools district	74	5.1
PPS student	27	1.8
Community member who does not live in the Portland Public Schools district	2	0.1

Investment Priorities.

Respondents were presented with two areas of investment priorities: Educational and Health/Safety. The perceived value of these investments are displayed below in descending order of value.

Table 3. Educational Investment Priorities

Perceived Value of Educational Investments											
Investment Category	Extremely valuable		Quite valuable		Slightly valuable		Somewhat valuable		Not at all valuable		Extremely Valuable and Quite Valuable
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Curriculum	956	57.0%	469	28.0%	43	2.6%	184	11.0%	24	1.4%	85.0%
Technology	743	44.0%	605	35.9%	61	3.6%	259	15.4%	19	1.1%	79.9%
Special Education Classrooms	709	42.1%	585	34.7%	86	5.1%	266	15.8%	39	2.3%	76.8%
Additional Instructional Investments	476	29.0%	578	35.2%	98	6.0%	421	25.6%	71	4.3%	64.1%

Table 4. Health and Safety Investment Priorities

Perceived Value of Health and Safety Investments											
Investment Category	Extremely valuable		Quite valuable		Slightly valuable		Somewhat valuable		Not at all valuable		Extremely Valuable and Quite Valuable
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Roofs	750	44.5%	629	37.3%	55	3.3%	232	13.8%	20	1.2%	81.8%
ADA Accessibility	848	50.4%	514	30.6%	72	4.3%	213	12.7%	34	2.0%	81.0%
Seismic Improvements	893	53.1%	453	26.9%	78	4.6%	230	13.7%	28	1.7%	80.0%
Mechanical Systems	636	37.9%	683	40.7%	51	3.0%	293	17.4%	17	1.0%	78.5%
Security Systems	480	28.5%	457	27.2%	222	13.2%	448	26.6%	76	4.5%	55.7%

Bond proposal preference.

Given the responses to the question on modernization and rebuilding, it probably isn't a surprise that the preferred option was the Example Bond Option #3 (1 Billion) which was supported by 38.6% of the respondents to this question.

The least appealing of the bond proposals was the Example Bond Option #1 (584 million).

Table 5. Preferred Bond Proposal.

Bond Proposal	Count	%
Example Bond Option 3	571	38.6
Example Bond Option 2	404	27.3
Example Bond Option 1	241	16.3
None of the above	163	11.0
I do not have a preference	99	6.7

There were two additional open ended questions presented in conjunction to the bond proposal preference.

The first asked; "What questions do you have about the proposed bond renewal?"



The following are representative statements:

“Again, it is essential that whichever bond measure is passed, rebuilding Jefferson High School is a top priority and that this project receives full funding.”

“The difference in special education funding is pronounced, e.g., \$4.5M vs. \$22.3M. What level of funding is NEEDED? I feel the Jefferson HS district needs/deserves its new school, but not at the expense of needed funding for special education.”

“Would like to see where the money was spent from the last bond that passed”

The final bond question asked: “What else would you like the Board to consider as they decide on a final proposed bond package? Is there anything else you’d like to share about the bond proposals?”



The following are representative statements:

“Again, the top priority should be serving our BIPOC community. Jefferson and Benson should absolutely receive funds and have the voices of their stakeholders take precedent”

“PPS loves to put Black students from Jefferson in their slideshows and websites but will not prioritize the modernization. Saying the word "equity" and prioritizing "Black and Native American students" and actually doing something that benefits Black and Native American communities are very different things. Stop talking and do.”

“This is the moment to lead with your values. I understand that we white parents have loud voices, and that they may be voices the school board is more willing to hear, or may find harder to ignore. But our students deserve better; we deserve a district that isn't funded so inequitably. Support our students of color, support our diverse neighborhoods, and support the programs that help students find multiple pathways to success, whether through accessing community college early (Jefferson), through career and technical education (Benson), or through a highly supported environment dedicated to student success (Multiple Pathways program).”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item for the board.

As a member of the PPS Executive Leadership Team, I have reviewed this staff report.

_____ (Initials)

Survey Text

What should the PPS Board of Education consider as they decide on a Bond renewal package to refer to voters for the November ballot? If approved by voters, a Bond renewal would maintain the current tax rate and continue investments in our schools.

This survey asks about your priorities for investments in three categories:

1. Educational Investments in areas like technology, curriculum, and special education
2. Health & Safety Projects like roof repairs and seismic improvements
3. School Modernizations & Rebuilds, including options for Cleveland, Jefferson, and Wilson High Schools.

More information and background on these and other priority areas is shared online. Please click the link below to access that information:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NjtEWoHNqgPu4zeZm__AwH217xxwwUN7/view?usp=sharing

In addition to questions about priorities in those areas, the Board is seeking community input on three example Bond packages with different approaches to funding some or all of these priorities. The Board may move forward with one of these options, or modify an option, based on community input.

This survey closes on July 3, 2020.

Portland Public Schools is also gathering community feedback through focus groups with historically underserved communities, a representative poll, and an online town hall on June 25. More information on ways to provide feedback, and next steps on a proposed

bond renewal, can be found on Portland Public Schools' 2020 School Bond Renewal website at www.pps.net/2020bondrenewal

Following board discussion of community feedback in early July, a final proposed bond option will be published for public comment.

A Board vote to refer a Bond renewal package to voters is tentatively planned for July 28, 2020.

Priorities

Educational Investments

Technology, curriculum and special education classrooms were identified by PPS staff as priorities for educational investments that could be funded by a 2020 Bond Renewal. Though the district has many other essential needs, these investment areas regularly rose to the top during discussions on need, priority and impact.

What should the PPS Board of Education prioritize as they decide on a proposed bond renewal package for voters to consider? If approved by voters, a bond renewal would maintain the current tax rate.

Please share your feedback on any or all of these investment options, including Technology, Curriculum, Special Education Classrooms and Additional Educational Investments. More information on these priority areas is shared in this document:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NJtEWoHNqgPu4zeZm__AwH217xxwwUN7/view?usp=sharing

Please share your feedback on any or all of these investment options.

How much do you value the following priorities around educational investments?

	Extremely valuable	Quite valuable	Somewhat valuable	Slightly valuable	Not at all valuable
Technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Curriculum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special education classrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional educational investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Health & Safety Projects

Roofs, mechanical systems, security, seismic, and ADA accessibility were identified by PPS staff as priorities for physical facilities improvements that could be funded by a 2020 Bond Renewal. Though the district has many other essential needs, these investment areas regularly rose to the top during discussions on need, priority and impact.

What should the PPS Board of Education prioritize as they decide on a proposed bond renewal package for voters to consider? If approved by voters, a bond renewal would maintain the current tax rate.

More information on these priority areas is shared in this document:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NJtEWoHNqgPu4zeZm__AwH217xxwwUN7/view?usp=sharing

Please share your feedback on any or all of these investment options.

How much do you value the following priorities around health and safety projects?

	Extremely valuable	Quite valuable	Somewhat valuable	Slightly valuable	Not at all valuable
Roofs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mechanical systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seismic improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ADA accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Security systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Modernizations & Rebuilds

Portland Public Schools has a long range plan to modernize and rebuild Portland's schools—the best way to comprehensively address outdated school buildings that weren't built for current health and safety codes, or modern educational needs.

Two previous voter-approved bonds have funded modernization or rebuilding of six high schools. Franklin, Grant, and Roosevelt High Schools are complete; Benson, Lincoln, and Madison High Schools are in progress. In addition, Faubion PK-8 in NE Portland was fully rebuilt, and a new Kellogg Middle School in SE Portland is under construction. Completing Benson Polytechnic High School, building a new Multiple Pathways to Graduation programs facility on the Benson campus for programs like Alliance, and keeping the three remaining high schools—Cleveland, Jefferson, and Wilson—on track for modernization are priorities under the district's long term plan to bring all schools up to modern facility and educational standards.

What should the PPS Board of Education prioritize as they decide on a proposed bond renewal package for voters to consider? If approved by voters, a bond renewal would maintain the current tax rate.

More information on these priority areas is shared in this document:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NJtEWoHNqgPu4zeZm__AwH217xxwwUN7/view?usp=sharing

Please share your feedback on any or all of these investment options.

What would you like the Board of Education to consider about bond funding for Cleveland, Jefferson, or Wilson High School modernizations, completing Benson Polytechnic High School, or building a Multiple Pathways to Graduation building?

Bonds

Example Bond Option 1

Option 1 is an example of a renewal of the current bond tax rate for two years.

This example option would:

- Focus on urgent health, safety, and educational improvement investments
- Complete Benson and a new Multiple Pathways to Graduation Building on the Benson campus
- Postpone continued planning and design for modernization of Cleveland, Jefferson, and Wilson High Schools until 2022 or later.

This may delay completion of Jefferson High School, but is unlikely to significantly impact when Cleveland or Wilson High Schools could be completed.

Voters could be asked to approve funding for full planning, design, and construction for some or all of the remaining high schools in a later bond renewal, as soon as 2022.

Example Bond Option 2

Option 2 is an example of a renewal of the current bond tax rate for two or four years.

This example option would:

- Focus on urgent health, safety, and educational improvement investments
- Complete Benson and a new Multiple Pathways to Graduation Building on the Benson campus
- Keep modernization of the remaining three high schools on track by funding design and pre-construction planning for modernization of Cleveland, Jefferson, and Wilson High Schools.

Under this scenario, voters could be asked to approve funding for construction of shovel-ready projects in 2022 or 2024, keeping completion of Cleveland, Jefferson, and Wilson High Schools on track for modernization.

Example Bond Option 3

Option 3 is an example of a renewal of the current bond tax rate for two or four years.

This example option would:

- Focus on urgent health, safety, and educational improvement investments
- Complete Benson and a new Multiple Pathways to Graduation Building on the Benson campus
- Keep modernization of the remaining three high schools on track by funding modernization of Jefferson High School's building, in line with a recent master plan concept design for a comprehensive high school for 1,750 students, and funding design and pre-construction planning for modernization of Cleveland and Wilson High Schools.

Jefferson High School was rated as a high priority for modernization in 2014, but postponed to 2020 to allow more time for the then-new Middle College program to establish. Under this example, funding for design, pre-construction planning, and construction of Jefferson High School's building would retain that timeline.

Under this example, voters could be asked to approve funding for construction of shovel-ready projects in 2022 or 2024 for Cleveland and Wilson, keeping both high schools on track for modernization.

Option 1: \$584 Million	
Educational Improvements:	\$156.9M
Technology	127.5M
Curriculum	24.9M
Special Education Classrooms	4.5M
Health & Safety Projects	\$150.5M
Roofs	53M
Mechanical	45M
Security	26.5M
Seismic	15M
ADA Accessibility	11M
Modernizations & Rebuilds:	\$200M
Benson Polytechnic HS completion	138M
MPG new building	62M
Management (5%):	25.3M
Program Contingency (10%):	50.7M

Option 2: \$785 Million	
Educational Improvements:	\$189.0M
Technology	127.5M
Curriculum	29.2M
Special Education Classrooms	22.3M
Other Improvements	10M
Health & Safety Projects	\$208.5M
Roofs	71M
Mechanical	75M
Security	26.5M
Seismic	15M
ADA Accessibility	11M
Other Improvements	10M
Modernizations & Rebuilds:	\$285M
Benson Polytechnic HS completion	75M
MPG new building	138M
Design/Pre-construction of 3 High Schools	62M
Other Improvements	10M
Management (5%):	34.1M
Program Contingency (10%):	68.3M

Option 3: \$1 Billion	
Educational Improvements:	\$161.2M
Technology	127.5M
Curriculum	29.2M
Special Education Classrooms	4.5M
Health & Safety Projects	\$198.5M
Roofs	71M
Mechanical	75M
Security	26.5M
Seismic	15M
ADA Accessibility	11M
Modernizations & Rebuilds:	\$560M
Benson Polytechnic HS completion	138M
MPG new building	62M
Jefferson High School modernization	320M
Design/Pre-construction of 2 High Schools	40M
Management (5%):	43.6M
Program Contingency (10%):	87.2M

Which Example Bond Option is closest to what you would like to see on the November ballot for voters to consider?

- Example Bond Option 1
- Example Bond Option 2
- Example Bond Option 3
- I do not have a preference
- None of the above

What questions do you have about the proposed bond renewal?

What else would you like the Board to consider as they decide on a final proposed bond package? Is there anything else you'd like to share about the bond proposals?

PPS will follow up with you **or** incorporate this topic into a Frequently Asked Questions resource and post responses on the 2020 School Bond Renewal website.

Block 3

Tell Us About Yourself

Please share more information about yourself here.

Name (Optional)

Email address (Optional)

Optional; please include your email list if you would like a follow up to questions or to be added to PPS' email list and receive updates about the 2020 School Bond Renewal.

Zip code

What is your relationship to Portland Public Schools?

- PPS student
- Parent/family member of a PPS student
- PPS educator or staff member
- Community member who lives in the Portland Public Schools district
- Community member who does not live in the Portland Public Schools district

Other

What races/ethnicities do you consider yourself? Please select all that apply.

- African American
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native/Indigenous to Canada
- Hispanic/Latino/Latinx
- Middle Eastern/North African
- Pacific Islander
- White

If you would like to share in your own words how you describe your race, origin, ethnicity, ancestry, and/or Tribal affiliations, please use this space.

What is your gender?

- Girl/woman
- Boy/man
- Non-binary
- I use another word to describe my gender

If you replied "I use another word to describe my gender" above, please specify.

Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex assigned at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

- No, I am not transgender

- Yes, I am transgender
- I am not sure if I am transgender
- I do not know what this question is asking

Below is a list of terms people often use to describe their sexual orientation. How do you describe your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual/Straight
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual/Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning/Not sure
- Decline to answer
- I use another word to describe my sexual orientation

If you replied "I use another word to describe my sexual orientation" above, please specify.