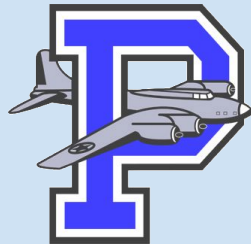


Palmerton Area School District

Proposed District Improvements & Solutions



Presenting and/or Assisting this Evening:

Angela Friebolin, Superintendent of Schools

Ryan Kish, Business Manager

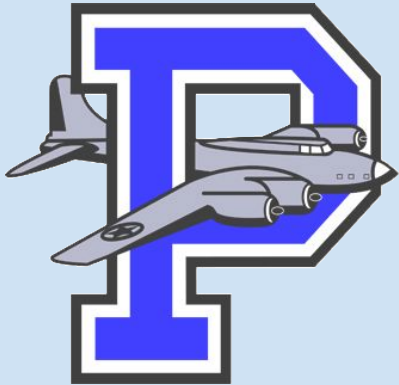
Jamie Schuler, Assistant to the Superintendent

Demi Rohlfing, Director of Special Education

Dr. Daniel Heaney, Director of Technology

Joseph Faenza, Director of Facilities

Michael Kelly, KCBA Architects



PASD Board of Directors:

Earl Paules, President

Mary Jo King, Vice-President

Dr. Stacey Connell

Sherry Haas

Alyson Krawchuk

Brandon Mazepa

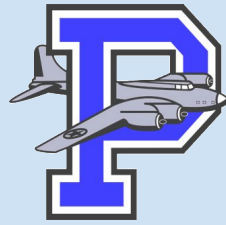
Danielle Paules

Kris Schaible

Erin Snyder



Review- Action Taken from Spring 2024-Present



Why Conduct a Feasibility Study?

Major Enrollment and Student Need Changes

Evaluate Existing Facilities

Evaluate Current and Future Enrollment

Evaluate Current and Future Curriculum Needs

Needs of Buildings are Increasing

Additional Special Education Spaces

Need for an Updated District Master Plan

History of Action on This Project:

Spring 2024- Onset of study through RLPS Architects

Summer 2024- Survey sent to community

October 2024- Partial results and recommendations for improvements presented to public at Town Hall Meeting

December 2024- PASD Administration entertained different proposals for solutions through KCBA Architects

January 2025- KCBA Architects presented proposal to Board at Workshop meeting

January 2025- Town Hall Meeting to present options and answer questions from Board Workshop

February 2025- Summary of Feasibility Study Report to be presented by RLPS

Review- Community Survey Results (Summer 2024)

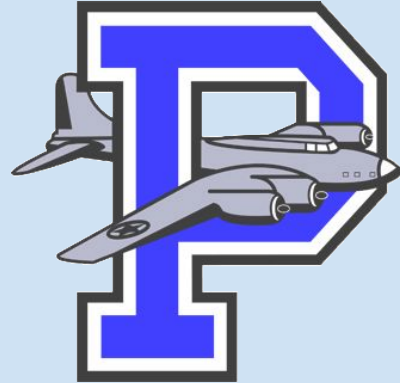
Community Survey:

Timeframe: 7/22/2024 – 8/4/2024

Responses: 277 responses

Advertisement:

- 5,000 phone calls to households
- 4,000 emails to community members
- Facebook
- School district website



Review- Community Survey Results (Summer 2024)

Community Survey:

Summary:

- **PASD distinguisher:** *Community Involvement*
- **Biggest challenges:** *Curriculum, Funding and Building Condition*
- **Priorities:** *Equity at Elementary Level, Safety & Security*
- **The community understands which schools are in the best condition.**
- **The programs that the community values the most are:**
 - *Music*
 - *Sports*
 - *Drama/Performing Arts*



Review- Community Survey Results (Summer 2024)

Community Survey:

Summary (continued):

- **Programs that the Community would like to see:**
 - *Financial Literacy*
 - *Family Consumer Sciences*
- **The Community would like the Feasibility Study to solve:**
 - *Academics*
 - *Facility upgrades/improvements*
 - *Equity across Elementary Buildings*

Review of Options Presented by RLPS on 10/22/24

Existing Facility Evaluation Summary



OPTION A: Status Quo

Repair immediate needs and address security concerns at all schools

Parkside:
K&1 / District Admin.

SS Palmer:
2-6

Towamensing:
K-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION B: Grade Realignment

Parkside:
K / District Admin.

Towamensing:
1-3

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION C: K Addition At Towamensing

Parkside:
District Admin.

Towamensing:
K-3

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION D: 6th Grade & District Admin. at Jr. High

Parkside:
K

Towamensing:
1-3

SS Palmer:
3-5

- SS Palmer under-utilized
- 6th grade and District Admin at Junior HS requires 2 additions – more expensive

OPTION E: 6th Grade at Jr. High / HS Admin. Addition

Parkside:
District Admin.

Towamensing:
K-2

SS Palmer:
3-5

Jr. HS:
6-8

HS:
9-12 **with HS Admin. Addition**

Option Summary



Review of Options Presented by RLPS on 10/22/24

Options Matrix



OPTION A: Status Quo

Repair immediate needs and address security concerns at all schools

Parkside:
K&1 / District Admin.

SS Palmer:
2-6

Towamensing:
K-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION B: Grade Realignment

Parkside:
K / District Admin.

Towamensing:
1-3

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION C: K Addition At Towamensing

Parkside
District Admin. (Renovation)

Towamensing:
K-3 (K Addition)

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12

OPTION D: 6th Grade & District Admin. at Jr. High

Parkside:
K

Towamensing:
1-3

SS Palmer:
4&5

Jr. HS:
6-8 & District Admin.

HS:
9-12

OPTION E: 6th Grade at Jr. High / HS Admin. Addition

Parkside:
District Admin.

Towamensing:
K-2

SS Palmer:
3-5

Jr. HS:
6-8

HS:
9-12 with HS Admin. Addition

Estimated Cost-Out of Options Presented by RLPS on 10/22/24

1-YEAR PLAN:

Grade Realignment
& Secure Entry at
High School

Parkside:
K / District Admin.

Towamensing:
1-3

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12
(with Secure Entry)

Total Project Cost:
\$1,269,218 - \$1,503,616

3-YEAR PLAN:

Kindergarten
Addition at
Towamensing

Parkside:
Dist. Admin. (Renovation)

Towamensing:
K-3 (K Addition)

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12
(with Secure Entry)

Total Project Cost:
\$9,377,339 - \$10,768,796

5-YEAR PLAN:

High School
Administration
Addition

Parkside:
District Admin.


Towamensing:
K-3

SS Palmer:
4-6

Jr. HS:
7&8

HS:
9-12 (with HS Admin.
Addition)

Total Project Cost:
\$2,753,749 - \$3,035,063



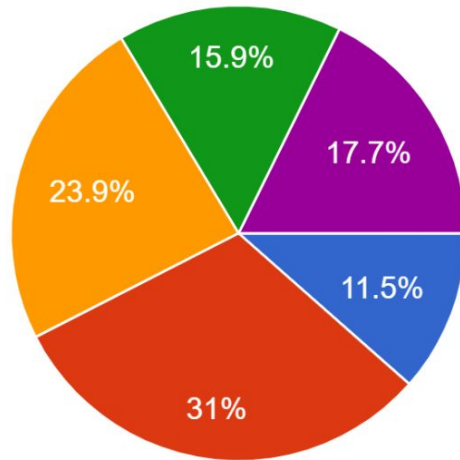
PALMERTON AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Total Project Cost for
1, 3 and 5 year plan:
\$13,400,306 - \$15,307,475**

Staff Survey Results- December 2024- All Staff

Please select your assigned building.

113 responses

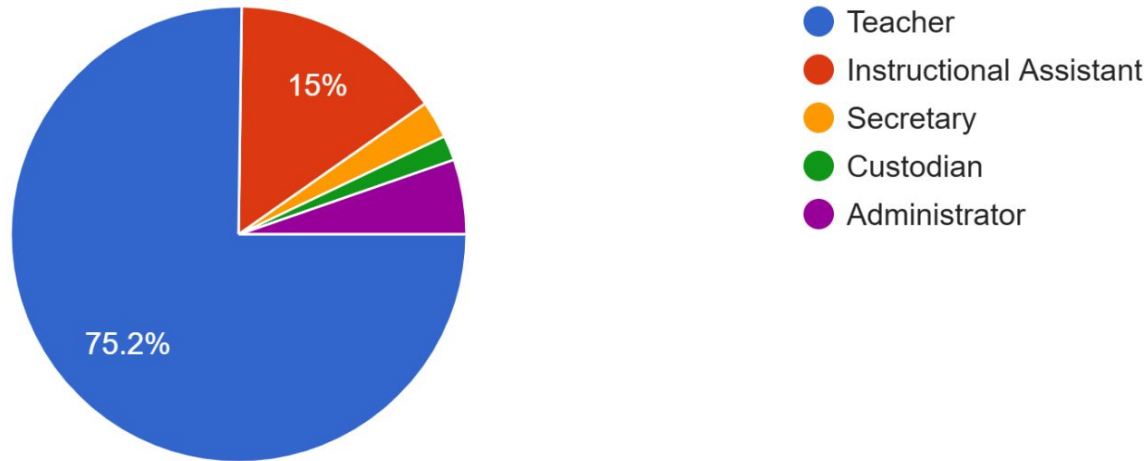


- Parkside Education Center
- SS Palmer Elementary
- Towamensing Elementary
- Jr. High School
- Sr. High School

Staff Survey Results- December 2024- All Staff

Please select your role in the district.

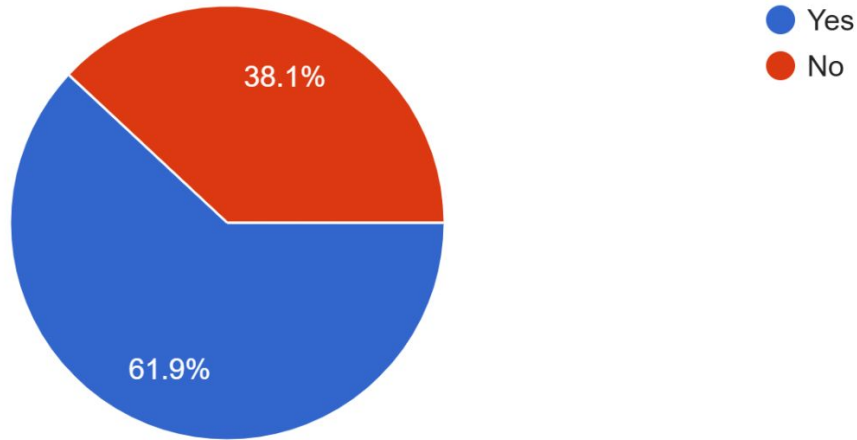
113 responses



Staff Survey Results- December 2024- All Staff

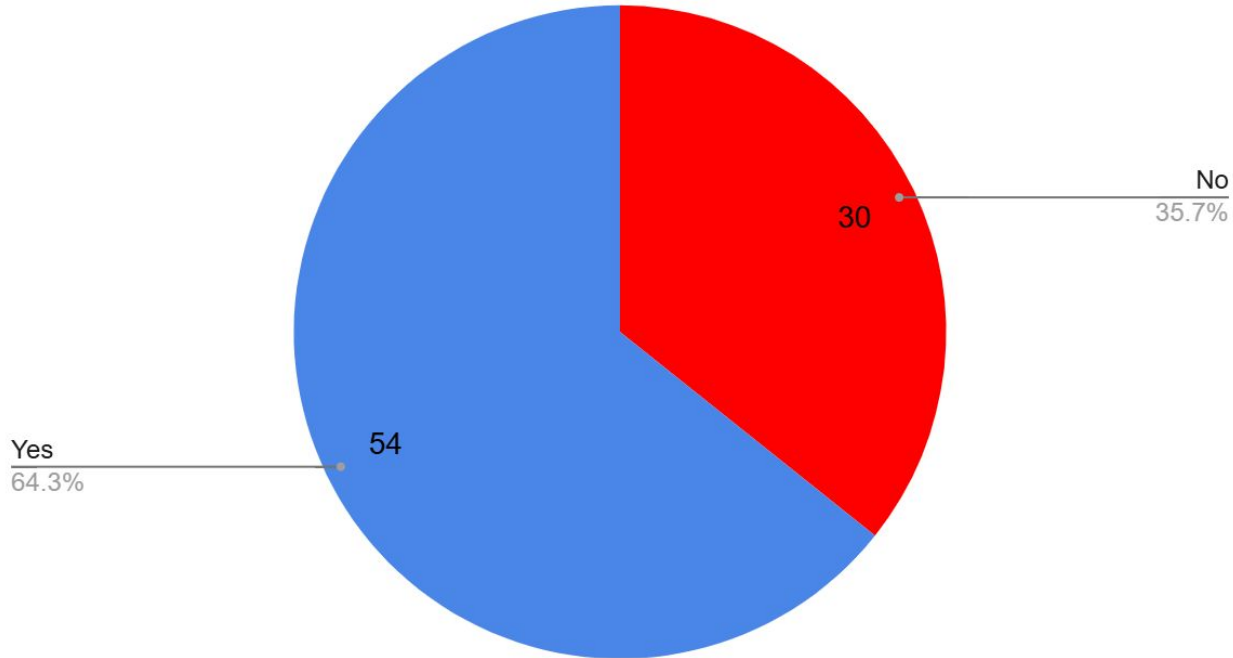
Do you feel the realignment of elementary buildings. Parkside - Kindergarten Towamensing - Grades 1-3 SS Palmer - Grades 4-6 will be beneficial to the ...y students in the Palmerton Area School District?

113 responses



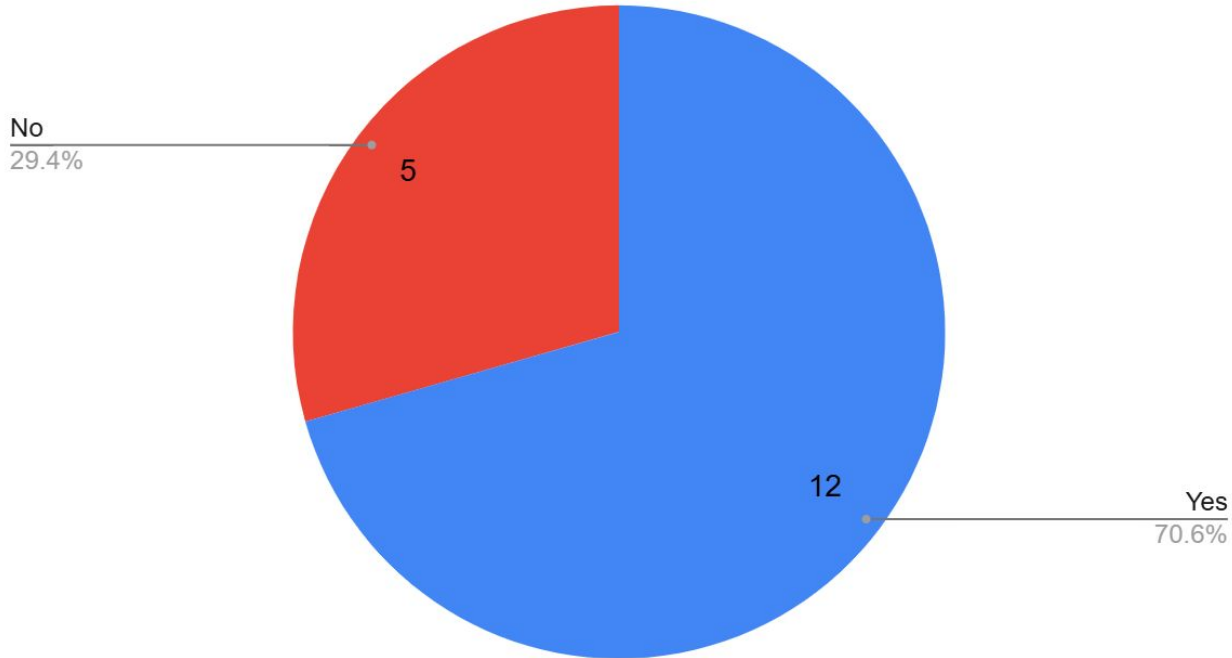
Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only

Do you feel the realignment of elementary buildings...?



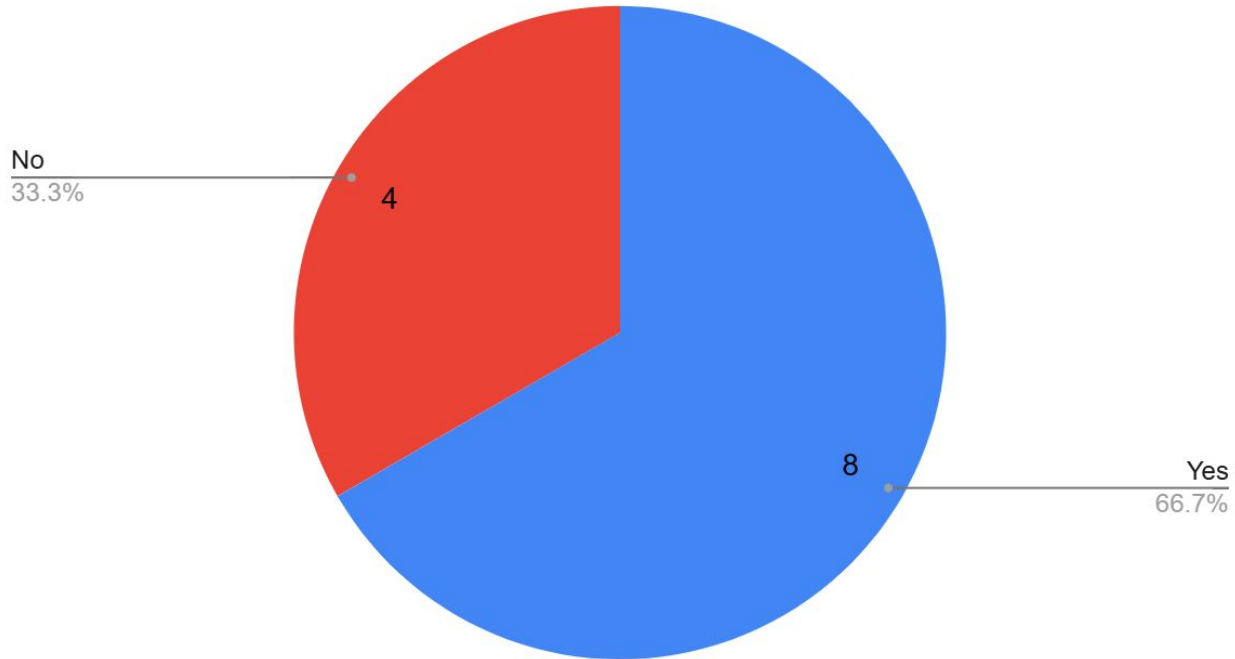
Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only

Senior High Teachers- Yes/No to Realignment

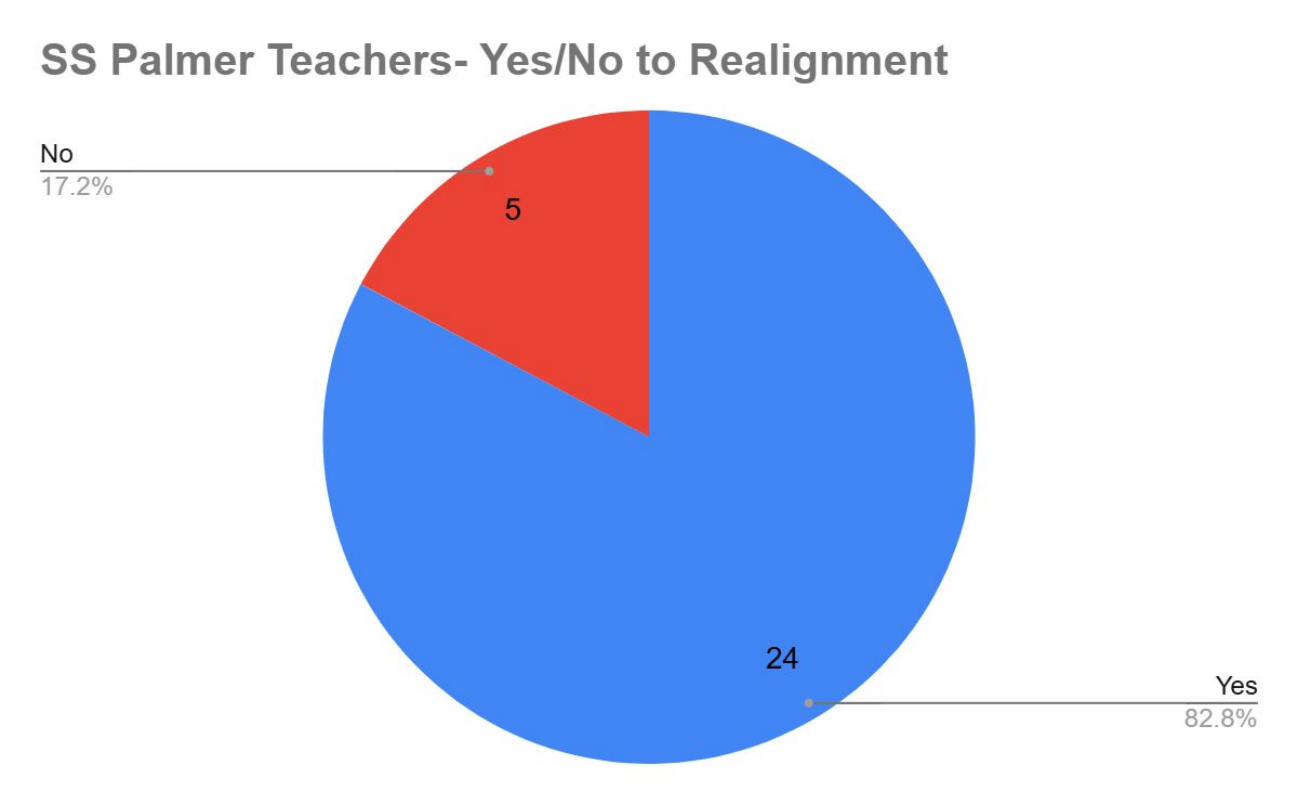


Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only

Junior High Teachers- Yes/No to Realignment

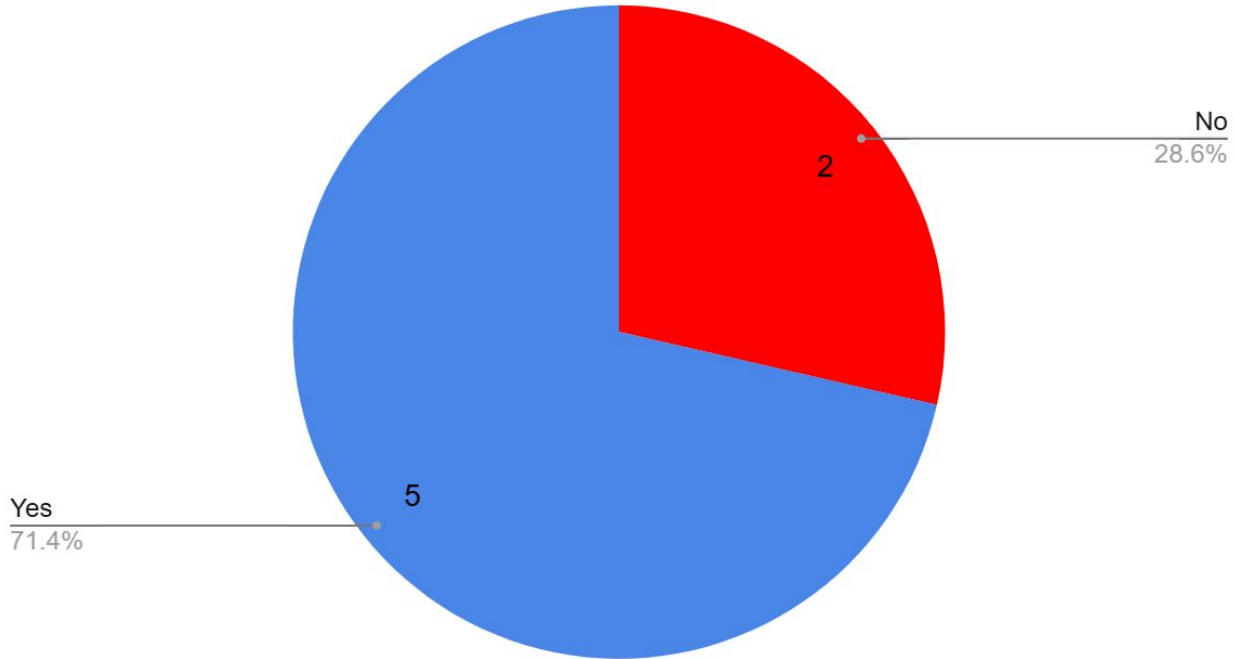


Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only

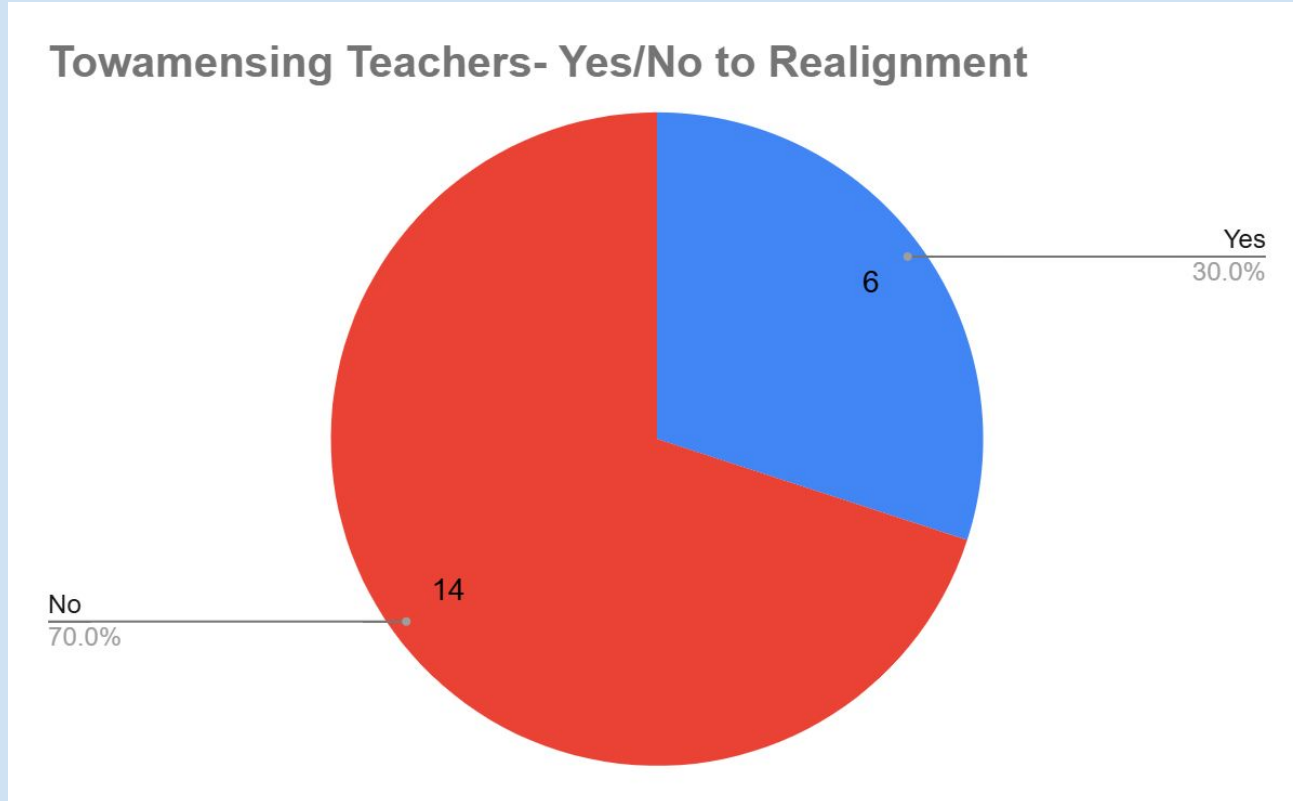


Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only

Parkside Teachers- Yes/No to Realignment



Staff Survey Results- December 2024- Teacher Only



Proposal from KCBA Architects



Financial Considerations

- To fund this project the district will have to borrow money through a bond
- Public Financial Management (PFM) will be at our February board workshop to present a plan for borrowing and how much the borrowing will cost the district per year
- Early estimates are that it would cost the district \$50,000 per million borrowed added to our General Fund Budget

| <u>Amount Borrowed</u> | <u>Budget Increase</u> | <u>Mills Needed*</u> | <u>Avg Taxpayer Increase**</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$5,000,000 | \$250,000 | 0.78 | \$34.00 |
| \$10,000,000 | \$500,000 | 1.56 | \$69.00 |
| \$15,000,000 | \$750,000 | 2.34 | \$102.00 |

* a mill is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property

** Based on average \$45k assessment

Financial Considerations- Transportation

Realignment:

The *estimated* increase in cost related to changes and additions to transportation is \$240,000 per year.

6th Grade / Administration Move:

There is *no additional projected increase* in yearly transportation costs with this option.

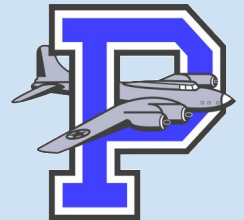
Educational Experience

Realignment:

- Opportunity for equal education and same opportunities district wide
- Enhances the special education department's ability to effectively and efficiently deliver special education services
- Maximizes our district resources (Special Education, Reading Specialists, Math Coaches, ESL services, Social Worker)
- Provides the opportunity to build professional learning communities and common planning time among grade levels and content area teachers
- Aligns the student/administrator ratio at the elementary level
- Minimizes the hiring of additional staff due to fluctuating class size
- Creates community feel rather than rivalry across the district

6th Grade / Administration Move:

- Provides additional space for instruction at Parkside and SS Palmer
- Creates a more appropriate instructional model for grades 6-8 at the Jr. High
- Decreases the student/administrator ratio at SS Palmer and Parkside
- May impact services provided by Reading Specialists and Math Coaches



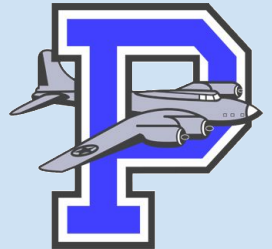
Special Education Services & Supports

Realignment

- Increased access to inclusive practices for special education and general education students
- Enhances the ability for special education staff to deliver special education services to students based on their level of support
- Increased time to support students in their least restrictive environment
- Increased opportunities for special education staff grade level collaboration
- Effective and efficient student grouping for our related service providers (Speech/Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, ESL)

6th Grade Move

- Opportunities for social emotional growth and social skill development by attending school with older positive peer role models
- Ease of transition; students will acclimate to junior high culture when exposed to older peers for an additional year.
- Student leadership opportunities
- Instructional flexibility which can include individualized pacing and cross-grade alignment of foundation skills
- Review of staff/student ratio to determine appropriate staffing



Next Steps:

- February presentation at workshop meeting regarding borrowing options, followed by Board discussion
- February/March presentation option by RLPS to present and explain final feasibility study document
- Questions and comments will be collated into a FAQ document and shared

Questions & Comments?

