

Morton School District 709 has compiled and released the results of a recent survey about school facilities. The survey was conducted in January and February. With assistance from communication consultants that conduct and write surveys, Morton District 709 surveyed two groups - a random sample of likely voters and the entire community.

The first group - the random sample of likely voters - consisted of almost 800 people across gender and age categories that have voted in at least three of the last four elections. Of the 800 surveys sent to this select group, 420 were returned with 346 fully completed surveys being used in the quantitative analysis. Completed surveys were used for the quantitative analysis of both groups. Feedback from incomplete surveys, along with the completed surveys, was used in the qualitative analysis.

The entire community also had the opportunity to complete the survey. Survey information was sent to every household in the Morton School District. Of this group, 602 were returned with 457 being fully completed surveys used in the quantitative analysis. Again, feedback from the incomplete surveys was included with the completed surveys for the qualitative analysis.

This survey was a first step in measuring community understanding of the district's facility needs for providing adequate space for teaching and learning. These surveys also provide the District and the Board of Education with input from the community about community support for options to meet these needs.

Overall, results showed the community gave a clear indication that it supports a facility plan that will meet the district's needs. Specifically, that the community feels it is important to replace worn out basic systems such as heating and ventilation as well as providing adequate teaching space in the elementary schools and to provide gyms for daily PE instruction. While a majority of people considered the construction of a new high school as important, it was not the highest priority at this time.

The last question on the survey was included to provide feedback on the two proposals that the Core Community group felt would best meet the needs of the district. The results did not indicate a clear preference from the community. This is definitely an area in which the Board of Education and administration will have to seek further input from the community as they continue to create a formal plan.

The results of the survey have provided valuable insight in some areas. The Board of Education will be looking at all elements and findings from the survey and will use that information to determine what is absolutely critical for student learning and for maintaining the community's investment in its schools.

Please see complete survey results. Some highlights are listed below.

Random Sample of Likely Voters

347 surveys completed, 800 surveys sent to this group.

96 % gave the District an excellent or good overall rating

78 % believe the District spends money wisely

62 % said the conditions of the school buildings are excellent or good

69 % favor the replacement of basic systems such as heating and ventilation and roofs

72 % said it is important to provide adequate teaching space

67 % said it is important to meet the need for daily PE

55 % favor the construction of a new high school

Option A or Option B

Respondents were provided with two possible options for all schools in Morton, as well as information about each option.

43 % favored option A

25 % favored option B

32% favored neither option

This information provides a *direction*, but not a *directive* of how to proceed, according to professionals.

Community Wide Survey

457 surveys completed, surveys sent to every household in the Morton school district.

90 % gave the District an excellent or good overall rating

62 % believe the District spends money wisely

56 % said the conditions of the school buildings are excellent or good

67 % favor the replacement of basic systems such as heating and ventilation and roofs

67 % said it is important to provide adequate teaching space

62 % said it is important to meet the need for daily PE

51 % favor the construction of a new high school

Option A or Option B

Respondents were provided with two possible options for all schools in Morton, as well as information about each option.

36 % favored option A

29 % favored option B

35% favored neither option

This information provides a *direction*, but not a *directive* of how to proceed, according to professionals.