**What changes or improvements would have caused you to support the levy?**

**156 answers**

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| **Category** | **Number** | **Sample comment** |
| Lower costs | 62 | * Asking for 1/3 of the amount of money. * More forethought on what this community can truly afford. |
| Did support the levy | 50 | I voted for the levy and I challenge anyone who thinks the high school building is OK. |
| Need greater community input | 21 | The only levy I can support is one where the entire community drives the plan. |
| Tell the truth | 21 | * Also, even though I supported the levy, I felt the advertising campaign was deceptive. * If the information provided to us had not been extremely overblown and if the requested amount of the levy would have been more realistic, then it absolutely would have had my support. As it is now, I fear I will have trouble trusting the administrators and the people in charge of giving us information. We've been scarred. It's difficult to come back from that. |
| Need to plan for all schools | 17 | Didn't address Mills Lawn, which has problems too, and we all knew they were gong to ask for another levy in the next 5 years to address that. |
| Renovate buildings | 17 | Interest in salvaging the building and consciousness about the need not to add to material and financial waste. |
| Increase ongoing maintenance | 13 | Recognition also that maintenance had been neglected for years and the budget for more staff and resources for good maintenance needs to be built into any plan. |
| Improve school board attitude | 13 | The attitude of the school board was atrocious. Be inclusive to all people and their situations. Run a POSITIVE campaign. |
| Story not clear or compelling | 13 | * And a much longer, more in-depth campaign to connect with voters, to build buy-in. * create a timeless design that would allow for all aspects of learning - not just PBL - what happens if PBL is dropped and now we have buildings that don't support the new hot learning pedagogy |
| Have one consolidated campus | 12 | I suggest we seriously look into a one campus solution at the East Enon Rd campus. |
| Needed independent assessment | 11 | I did support the levy but did so with some hesitation because there was never a second assessment conducted independent of the OFCC |
| Use a phased approach | 11 | I think focusing on a phased plan with well defined phases encompassing both schools is ideal. |
| Set priorities | 7 | We need a levy that focuses on the things that we MUST have and at the most economical cost. |
| Declining student population | 6 | The declining student population was not taken into consideration. |
| Find other funding sources | 6 | Find a way to get wealthier people to pay a larger share, so there wouldn't be such impact on lower income Springers (capital campaign, YS Foundation, etc.). |
| Wrong design | 5 | Less focus on having a state of the art building and more focus on safety of building, and recognition that good education does not rely on architecture. |
| Environmental sustainability | 4 | Radical commitment to reduction of carbon footprint. |
| Need more options | 4 | Surely, there were other options that were not even explored other than the ones presented to us. |
| Nothing will make me support a levy | 4 | I probably will not support a levy period. We already pay far too much. |
| Performance space | 3 | A traditional design with an auditorium that would accommodate large audiences for plays and graduation is what I wanted to see. |
| Cost assessment of new vs. renovation | 3 | I would have liked to seen cost/benefit analysis between repairing the current facilities & replacing them |
| Need options | 3 | A menu of design options with corresponding costs would have been attractive and encouraged buy in rather than the total package or nothing. |
| Change leadership | 2 | A change in personal from the top, broad, superintendent, and principles, sex scandal, and the drug use by the students. |
| Collaborate with others | 2 | * Collaborate with other places in town (like Antioch College for performance space -- work is starting on Main Building and Kelly Hall would be a great community investment collaboration) to minimize redundant facilities. * I love the idea of joining together in owning these schools, heart and soul. I think we as a village must together own this problem, model a new way of working together. |
| Combine with another district | 2 | We need to be thinking of combining these schools with another school district. It is simply too expensive to have our own high school and possibly middle school. |
| Coordination between village and township | 2 | There should have been a broader conversation between Village, Township, and Schools. A more strategic approach could have been taken regarding which initiative went to the ballot first. |
| Plan for real enrollment | 2 | Really consider future enrollment needs based on current and anticipated demographic changes in the Village, and try not to plan for artificially inflated numbers that are supported by open enrollment. How much space does this small Village need for educating our kids? |
| New buildings | 2 | Brand new buildings. Do it right for the long run like surrounding communities do |
| Other issues | 2 | I voted for the levy. I think is failed because there were too many side options that confused the issue |
| Plan for real enrollment | 2 | Really consider future enrollment needs based on current and anticipated demographic changes in the Village, and try not to plan for artificially inflated numbers that are supported by open enrollment. |
| Different kind of levy | 1 | Create a levy that places a much larger tax burden on higher income earners. |
| Look at other school | 1 | Let me suggest a walk through the renovated STEM school in Springfield's old "dome" Springfield High School. That is what YSHS could look like. |
| More taxpayers | 1 | A large influx of affluent new residents into the school district to share the cost. |
| Response to public lies | 1 | It would have been good if there were fact-checkers on the Facebook vile that was spread around, I know with certainty that many falsehoods were spread as fact and that led to people's mistrust. |
| Improved safety | 1 | Plan a drop off and pick up that is safe and big enough. Separate loading areas, cameras on busses, mentor bus buddy assignments. Emphasize how much safer . |
| Increase state funding | 1 | I did support it, but I believe that the state should put more funding into the public school system to allow these improvements and others to be made without overburdening the average citizen, who may not be able to afford an extra task. |
| Listen to teachers | 1 | include teachers at all levels of the design phases |
| Use state funding | 1 | Obtain state support for financing. Don't tax residence twice. |
| Realistic tax burden |  | * effect targeted improvements to solve problems while minimizing taxation to more palatable levels. It's not that people don't want to help the schools, rather they want common-sense applied that they can afford. * Wait until the utilities levy is done so I'm no longer paying 3 times a normal utility bill before you come asking for more money. |

**Comments that Relate to our Work**

I did vote FOR the plan… but reluctantly. 1. I didn’t like that it only addressed one campus. We must look at the whole picture of what we need AND what we can afford. It was not a complete solution. And, I prefered the single campus at Mills Lawn option; partially for that reason. 2. I felt like I wasn’t sure what we were truly “fixing” with the plan. I didn’t feel it would necessarily make our kids “better educated” although it would make the experience more visually appealing & comfortable. I really want to believe that the plan’s expenses are truly needed and transformational. I wasn’t fully convinced, especially in the vacuum of not knowing how it affects the overall financial situation of the system. 3. I felt that voting for such an expensive plan could effect the overall financial health of the educational system in a negative way. I felt that asking for that much public funding on the facility would cause the community to not be willing to make the necessary increases to the operational funding for future levies. Fancy buildings without money to attract great teachers does not make for better education. Look at Antioch Midwest; nice building that is a cost burden, so staff gets cut and building sits empty. I felt we may be shooting ourselves in the foot with this plan. 4. I felt like such an expensive plan could effect the financial health of our town in a negative way. 5. I didn’t feel like the plan was created in concert with the commercial forces in our town that could benefit from some of the proposed changes to parking, facility offerings etc. There may be ways to create mutual benefits that could support larger & mutual spending. 6. I think we should look into ways to spread the funding out over time, look for creative solutions through local partnerships and reduce the redundancy in offerings locally (theaters, sports facilities, educational buildings). 7. We can’t act like the school’s finances & offerings are independent of the other issues in the village (parking, public space, utilities, aging demographics, jobs affordability.)

I did support the levy and would make the unpopular argument to spend more money on the project not less. We need public institutions that inspire pride in our democratic ideals. We need an auditorium for the community. We need to build something that adds elegance and beauty to our cityscapes and not just the best thing the lowest bid could buy. Design is important! Architecture shouldn't always sacrifice form to function. The drawings should inspire confidence without the need for explanation.

I supported the levy. I think if I had been on the team, I would have tried to openly and publicly pull vocal critics into a position of making constructive contributions and pitching contradictory vocal critics against each other.

I did support the levy. I don’t believe the plan was perfect but I am challenged currently by the number of residents that have said they will NEVER vote for another levy. That is the real tragedy in this town. The organized opposition without regard to our children and our future

Honest exploration with the community of possibilities at the beginning of the proposal. Interest in salvaging the building and consciousness about the need not to add to material and financial waste. School board members and strong proponents to be able to actually discourse rather than shove an agenda through. Honest publicity. Less focus on having a state of the art building and more focus on safety of building, and recognition that good education does not rely on architecture. Recognition also that maintenance had been neglected for years and the budget for more staff and resources for good maintenance needs to be built into any plan. Recognition that this community is becoming terribly expensive to live in, and adjusting wish lists down with that in mind.

I supported the levy because I support quality education for our children. However many people were very concerned about the costs making the village out of reach for those with lower incomes. The committee needs to ACKNOWLEDGE this issue front and center. ACCEPT that it is an issue and REQUEST /SEEK BUY IN from those concerned parties. INVITE THEM TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!! That’s the only path toward success - inclusiveness.

More time to process it, and understand options. It was too high! It came on top of a federal tax increase. I do not agree with building a new facility to support a teaching methodology. The school should last at least 30 years and education methods will evolve, along with technology. We need a flexible building.

I did support the levy because of the flexibility of the space. I want my children in project-based and hands-on learning. I would've been more excited if there was a community space and arts focus. I also like indoor-outdoor spaces. I think we all need to hear about how progressive the taxes will be for the project and what the other funding sources will

I would like one campus, no extra space for PBL,repair rather than replace when it’s cheaper. One kitchen for all grade levels and do a big cafeteria that can be shared with a movable wall to divide elementary from secondary and be a stage area too. It could also be an area for pbl group activities and non ball gym classes. Plan a drop off and pick up that is safe and big enough. Separate loading areas, cameras on busses, mentor bus buddy assignments. Emphasize how much safer . At secondary level, Build some classrooms that can be divided with temporary walls for classes of 12 or less instead of a larger number of big classrooms that are half empty or empty Much of the day. Then for teachers at HS and MS make the teacher’s desk areas in a group office space instead of giving them “their “ classroom. Include storage closets . This would increase flexibility for the number of courses to be taught. Because teachers would not be in there during planning periods. This would work for all subjects except science labs. It would promote group planning. Have a doable plan for current Mills Lawn building For example an agreement to sell it to city for the senior housing like Spring Valley did and a community gym. Keep the lawn for a park. Or some other plan acceptable to community. Too late to do art studios! Have the actual predictions for how much money a one campus, one bus route, shared cafeteria/kitchen, no assistant principal, only two full time counselors, and only one pupil services person instead of 1.5 will save for staffing. Get serious about affordability. Everything in one building will help all non teaching staff efficiency and be cheaper. Look at Cedarville for ideas I know parents like MLS location but if you really show the savings and have a play area and pick up area well planned with separate sides for elementary and secondary. I think it would work, For elementary, build adequate storage closets and do not allow stuff stacked all over the classrooms anymore.. Kids need less visual stimulation and sensory input. We have a lot of kids with ADHD, Autism, emotional and sensory issues. Rooms need to have good acoustics, no Fluorescent lights, And minimal visual distractions. Besides 10 years of hoarding seldom used stuff is just a fire hazard. If you can’t do one campus you might as well just repair what you have and forget building new.

I did support the levy, & was very disappointed when it failed. Next time we'll need to use more local talent & expertise, make public an independent (non-state) assessment of the buildings, include cost estimates of renovations @ MLS, hold more talking groups face-to-face both inside & outside of school buildings, have a plan with maximum re-purposed & recycled buildings & materials, & make public results of polls of all teachers, students, & parents.