



**Kickapoo Community Survey
Comment Analysis
October 16, 2019**

The Comment Analysis Summary is intended to identify and represent the prevailing themes collected through the comments gathered in the community survey. A major theme is identified as a result of having multiple participants referencing similar issues or concerns. Supporting comments are included verbatim within each theme.

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Respondents feel that a pool would be an asset in the community.

My 3 children, when they were very young, all took swimming lessons in that pool, and learning to swim is of a lifetime value. Plus, it was so awesome to have it be inside as we have cold winters in Wisconsin - what a treat for overworked and underpaid dairy farmers such as we were.

Very much needed not just for Kickapoo Area Schools and Community - other people use the pool outside the district. People missing the swimming classes Jane had. Swimming lessons for students - life skills. We used to go to Gays Mills for lessons in the day - nice to have a pool in this district.

Swimming lessons are important to the children and I think it adds great value to our community to have the opportunity to have swimming lessons available as part of the gym classes.

The district needs the pool. Used for PE - used by the community - swimming lessons for the students - provides lifeguards a weekend and summer job. Great asset for Kickapoo Area Schools

I grew up in this community. I was proud to say where I went to school because people would always respond "Oh, that is the school with the indoor pool!" It was unique to the area. Also it taught many people how to swim and how to save lives from drownings.

The Griffen money was given to be used for the pool maintenance staffing and upkeep needs. Also, this pool benefits the whole community and people of all ages, not just school kids.

The pool has a very big draw for people in our community. I know in the past my children have attended birthday parties at the pool and I know myself I would have been more than willing to pay a fee to use the pool. I think the pool could pay for itself if we opened up more opportunities for the public to enjoy, such as exercise classes.

My husband and I moved here in retirement. We do not have children attending Kickapoo schools. However, we know that a strong community takes care of their children and their schools. I understand that increasing tax dollars will be needed to provide an optimal education for our students and maintain the pool over the years. By meeting the needs of our schools we best serve the community in its entirety. The children are our future. Our schools mirror the community and our vision of the future.

Any way that we could keep the pool for our community and our students would be the best option. By charging a fee for utilizing the pool this can also help with the costs in the future.

The pool is a great thing for Kickapoo! It was always the best thing gym class had for a student.

I brought my family back to this district because of our great facilities. These facilities include a pool.

The pool would be a positive asset any way you slice it!!

Residents are willing to fund pool operations.

I used to live in the district, I currently open enroll my child. I grew up in Viola, went to Kickapoo, my family lives in town and works at the school. Getting people to look at the big picture of \$8-12 on their taxes is so minimal. I think someone creatively can still figure out how to pass a referendum, use griffin money (why does it have to be one or the other) AND still give attention to having quality staff and educators. I think looking internally at other operational costs, overhead during these times is also very important to do. Is this something that the school is doing? Do we have someone who is dedicated to seeing what grants and other funding for the school is available?

A pool is needed - need to start a funding page - at my class reunion this summer we talked about the school and people would donate.

\$10 to \$15 per year is very minimal for a normal household to chip in.

Again, I would like to see a pool at the school. I do not want to see other facilities or activities impacted because of it, so I fully support an increase in taxes to cover the operational costs.

Pools are notoriously costly options but I believe that the overall benefits warrants an increase in my tax levy.

I am ok with any increase to my taxes as long as it supports the school and community

Okay well that wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I can easily find another 30 per 100,000 or so dollars a year to support a pool at the school! And \$100 or so per \$100,000 a year for a Splash Pad!! Double heck yeah. Sounds like money well spent, and could be a lead marketing point for the school to attract more open enrollment students.

In addition to high property taxes, I would be willing to make a donation to redo the pool. This is important to me as a parent of a student and district resident.

Pools are notoriously costly options but I believe that the overall benefits warrants an increase in my tax levy.

I, Mary Haucke, support both an Operational Referendum, which would mean I'd pay more in property taxes, and a Capital Referendum, which would take on more debt for Kickapoo but 20 years is a goodly amount of time to pay off the debt, and it isn't that bad to have a mortgage (I have one on my 2 acres residential in Forest Township which will still be there long after I'm gone from this earth).

Home values aside, the cost is worth it to have a generation of people who can swim and might not otherwise have the opportunity to swim if we don't fix our pool.

Once everything gets sorted out I will cut the check if I am able at the time of the request. But most likely I will be able to contribute.

Residents are willing to support an expanded pool.

My first option would be Option 1 but if there is not enough support for Option 1 then I would fully support option 2A & 2B. I do not support Option 3. All kids deserve to know how to swim and this has been a great opportunity for my kids to have been able to experience this at school.

Option 1 would add the most value to the community at large. It's hard to accept the increase in property taxes but Viola desperately needs improvement and things to draw people to the community. The high cost would provide long term gains.

I support option 1 the most because it provides more opportunities and has the most promise for leveraging other income potential. If the other options to keep the pool open are the most popular, I would support those measures too.

Having a splash pad makes the area family friendly for families with small children. This is exactly what we need to be attracting into our community given our projected enrollment declines. Pools can also be valuable for senior citizens (and those with other health issues that can't have the force on their joints) who can exercise in water and this would be especially nice with a zero depth entry area.

I also suggest that we add a way for the community to access the weight room area as well. If this was a full-service facility I think we could easily charge a membership fee that could off set the operating cost.

By going with the option 1 it will be very beneficial to people in and out of district that have handicapped loved ones to enjoy the pool.

The Griffen money was given to be used for the pool maintainance staffing and upkeep needs. Also, this pool benefits the whole community and people of all ages, not just school kids.

I would support any option that either remodels the current pool to function or the creation of a new pool for community use! I have two small children who would use the pool multiple times a week if open.

Added pool ammendments for the community sound amazing. I really like the idea of an indoor outdoor space with a splash area for community use for the summer. the additional tax amount is unclear to me. Does this compound? so that for every year an ADDITIONAL \$96/\$100000 is added to my taxes? or just \$96 a year for 20 years?We need a pool. Viroqua doesn't have a competition sized pool. It is a great draw for our community.

I would support a referendum that would maintain or improve the pool and increase access by the public.

In addition to high property taxes, I would be willing to make a donation to redo the pool. This is important to me as a parent of a student and district resident.

Overall, respondents are happy with school district operations.

The best school around.

Kickapoo is a great school district. I am so glad that my children can attend this school.

I love this school district, its the one reason why I dont want to move. I drive 3 hours a day to a job because I refuse to move out of our community. I want my future children to be able to have the same education and opportunities that I had at Kickapoo and I know the district and teachers we have are the best in the state hands down!

Wouldn't want to be any other place!

It's a special place. The campus is beautiful and it has so much to offer this community. Lets get that pool back up and running. Then it's time to launch a major marketing campaign. Let's capture the population of people moving into the Viroqua/Driftless area.

I have been very impressed with every encounter I've had with Kickapoo Schools. I often find myself telling people what a great school it is. No kidding.

The positive reputation the school district has is one of the main reasons my husband and I decided to purchase a house here. I am excited for my daughter to attend such a great school when she is older.

we moved out of district in June due to other factors, but we feel very strongly that Kickapoo area school district provides an excellent education and is a well rounded experience so we drive our child daily. We plan to enroll our younger child when he is old enough.

DOING A GREAT JOB

I have full faith in the current administration and school board to make wise choices for education in our district!

My kids go to Viroqua for the Montessori school we helped build and love. Every year we consider sending them to Kicakpoo because we know it is the best around. Thanks for all you do.

Keep up the great work!!

As previously stated, we moved here recently and have little first hand knowledge of Kickapoo School District. We do know that the neighbors are proud of their schools and that their Children seem to be good citizens and community members.

My son is still pretty young, but I am glad he is a third generation Kickapoo student. So far I feel he is getting a great education!! I am not ashamed to say I graduated from Kickapoo; school was one of the best things about my childhood and I felt prepared to go on to college and be an adult.

Respondents support updating the track.

I have always felt the track should have been upgraded a long time ago. I feel it is unfortunate for our athletes to have to practice/compete on the outdated track and the district and community could have been receiving income years ago if we had a track capable of holding conference, regional and sectional meets so I feel it is VERY important to upgrade as soon as possible.

Kickapoo's track used to be the best around. Now it's one of the worst. The bleachers need a facelift too (& bleachers are not just used for track meets).

The track has been untouched since it was built, it needs updating and is situated at the front of the school.

This is the first thing people see when coming to the school. It would increase potential to host more events possibly creating revenue.

Moneys should go toward an area that an actual sport is held. An upgraded track helps athletes train more efficiently. It helps students who could possibly receive college scholarships in track and field/CC, thus ensuring students with lower socioeconomic status but the athletic component; the ability to attend a college to further their education.

The track is not just for Track Meets. The community uses the track to walk. The grade school used the track. Cross Country uses the track. Kickapoo used to host Regional and Sectionals (Track). We had the best track around. The facility we have is perfect for sitting and watching games at the track. It would be a great improvement and much needed. Lee Griffin intended for the district to keep up with the changing times.

We need updated facilities in order to attract families to our community. Our track is a bit embarrassing and \$17 per \$100K value is a small price to pay to give our children the track they deserve and can be proud of.

I believe the track is much more important than the pool! The track will be able to bring in profits to our school by being able to host regional and sectional events. The use of the track is far greater than that of the pool.

I ran track from elementary school through high school. I am hoping my daughter will do the same, so I fully support any funding necessary to maintain/update the track.

The track is so out of date and the track teams have the largest participation of students compared to any other sport in the school (comparing varsity athletes), and all participants get to take part in the team, they don't ride the pine, like other sports. Also we could host larger events, like conference and sectionals. Kickapoo sends more track athletes to state than all the other sports combined. We should give back to this success!