



**Camanche Community School District
Community Survey Comment Analysis
December 4, 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 encourage the District to explore a bond referendum to fund some projects.

I would be willing to improve safety, the pool/weight room and gym. I don't see the need to expand the theater area, especially with the cost.

School safety is the top and most important. Other options could wait. I do think the community could use improvements to the pool.

maybe break it down and do security and the pool first- once that is paid for look at the theater. I can't support a new gym. Our students need facilities that will help them get a job and prepare them for a future.

Safety needs to be improved. All the other things don't have a thing to do with education. To have my already too high property taxes go up would be a huge burden with only social security to live on.

Without the pool!

again, if you do 1 project at a time....or even 2, so that is it less of a BURDEN to the tax payers

We think that we are trying to do too many projects at once. Taxes are getting too high.

I would be in favor of funding three of the four proposed projects. Without considerably more justification for the theater expansion and enhancement, however, I would be hesitant to fund this portion of the proposal in its entirety. Perhaps a less ambitious and less costly, but still utilitarian, remodel and expansion of the theater should be considered.

Not as it is drawn up currently. There needs to be a "no pool" option, as well as two or three theater options. It should not be presented as "this is the one drawing we propose". There should also be at least two or three options for the security and gym options as well. These options should have been shown to the public before surveying. I don't think the space is being utilized as well as it could be with the current drawings.

I might support some of the projects but not all of them. I would also like more information on the improvement of the wood shop. I'm disappointed that improvements to the shop isn't included. Welding and other skilled trades are where so many of our graduates will land jobs- especially if they want to continue to live in Camanche after graduation. I'm not seeing how spending money on a new gymnasium will help our students after graduation.

This is too much of an increase in one year. I don't believe all of these projects need to be done at once. It will help to absorb the cost better by not doing everything at once.

Respondents support investing in improving school safety and security.

Safety is of paramount importance.

This NEEDS to be done. There is no price for our children's safety

As you state, "The safety of our students and staff is our top priority". The safety should always be TOP priority, so why aren't the funds being spent there instead of elsewhere?

I visit multiple school districts thru my job. One district had a student shoot a gun at the office personnel about 1995- Manchester Iowa. Google it. He got 10 years. Yet as recently as 2 years ago I was able to walk into the building and keep heading down the hallway unstopped. Nobody knew me and nobody stopped me. I couldn't believe that a district that had shots fired yet didn't do anything about it. I would like to know what the plans are to increase safety and security.

I would choose to improve school safety and security first since our high school is wide open for the most part.

I am curious, given the current issues with school safety nationwide, if there aren't grants available that could be applied for to help offset the cost of safety and security improvements?

School safety is the #1 priority and is a must for both buildings being suggested.

Safety needs to be the primary focus

To further improve the safety and security of our schools should always be a top priority. Speaking as a parent in today's world, there can never be enough safety practices for our children.

The only "need", as I see it, is the improvement of security in the elementary and high schools, the rest are "wants".

I agree that updates for the safety and security in both the elementary and high schools is far overdue.

I Agree with the security of our building entrances being a priority

I think we need more security observance as some of our students come in through the back door with the bus driver and their parents and are let in by other staff members in which the parents then follow in and could be in the building without checking in at the main office.

Respondents share comments regarding the gym.

I would like a new gym.

An additional gym is definitely needed!

Back in the seventies and eighties when class sizes were well over a hundred students we were able to get by with one gym. Kids can come in the morning before school or at 5:00 to practice. With smaller class sizes around 70 students and less student participation in sports I do not believe an auxiliary gym is a wise use of tax payer money.

I would support this if this gym was with all purpose flooring and would accommodate ALL sports and not just basketball.

Gym time for school team practices is greatly limited with our current gym space. Teams must share the gym or take later shifts when the gym is available. Then by the time the school teams are done practicing, it's pretty late when the younger AAU teams now have gym time to practice. This auxiliary gym would alleviate this problem by getting teams more opportunities to use the gym space as well as earlier times to practice.

We need to be thinking about any and all improvements needed for our main gym. If this referendum passes, it will be a very long time before the city will pass another referendum. Our main gym needs updated. With all of the other improvements on the table, why wouldn't we be looking at this as well or instead of something else?

would like to see a new gym that has a floor that is not wood to allow other sports to use it. Examples are baseball softball and track. Currently during early spring practices the shot put is thrown in the current gym, Also hurdles are drug across the floor to be used. The right type of floor would allow this and also allow basketball and volleyball.

I was part of the group that pushed for the last bond that updated the elementary school gym plus other items. Currently the school district has 3 gyms. I believe that is adequate. Team practices held in the early morning or later in evening is fine with me. The kids don't need to have everything immediately ready for them. How many athletes have said that getting up early was part of their training? About every one of them.

After enjoying participating in volleyball in 7th grade, my granddaughter elected not to compete this year because practices started at 6:00 AM and she was unable to arrange transportation to the school at that time of the day. (She lives over five miles from the school so walking would not have been feasible.) It is my understanding that the 6:00 AM practice time was dictated by the difficulty in scheduling gym time because of shortage in practice space. I hate to see students miss out on opportunities to engage in enjoyable, healthy, supervised physical activity.

Respondents share comments regarding the pool.

Connect wt room/cardio room to this so that everything is in one place in the complex

If the community wants a swimming pool and rec center, then I think the community should build it. If it's at the school, then it will get run down from not being maintained like the old one.

We do not need a pool. Weightroom needs to be bigger just for weights if adding cadio this space would not work.

As long as ownership of the pool wasn't turned over to the YWCA, I would consider supporting this project.

I would support this! We need to bring back the swim lesson program that we had back in the 80's. All kids living in a river town need to know how to swim. Hopefully new weight room equipment has also been put into the budget.

This would be a hard NO from me if the pool continues to be "linked" to this project. I am unsure that many people truly know what it takes to maintain a pool physically and financially.

Having a pool costs too much money to maintain

I think this is a great opportunity for the community to have access to a fitness center, yet still retain the value of a smaller pool for lessons, and athlete rehab.

As a community on the river there is an importance to making sure our children know how to be safe around water. The pool is a big piece to this.

I do think a pool would be nice but the PE class didnt even teach much for my children when they had it. It was a very short session and they didn't learn any swim techniques. They've closed it all up vs repairing it so not sure what the point ia now. Now a public pool pool in Camanche for Camanche residents where children can go and learn how to swim and spend the summers would be totally ideal!

Would be better if the pool could actually be used for events/competition.

Physical education - Very little use before it closed
Swim lessons - Support the Y and Clinton Pool
Lifeguard certification classes - Go to the Y
Adult lap swimming and therapy - Support the Y and Clinton Pool
Warm-water exercise programs - Go to the Y
Indoor fitness/exercise - Again, the Y
Cross-training and sports therapy for high school athletes - No, no, no! Sports therapy needs to be left to the professionals in the field; physical therapists.

This seems to be a nice plan for the pool renovation, I would just like to make sure there is a plan in place to manage it better than previously for the long term, for both school and public use. It would be a huge asset for our school district to include. And I agree with the weight room improvements too.

Respondents share comments regarding the theater.

Theater needs a front to show off / present school to the community and visitors.

The plans fall short in this area. There doesn't seem to be any lobby area that is a little separated from the commons. It would make more sense to add band and choir rehearsal halls, offices, practice rooms and storage to the back of the theater. The current band room can not hold the number of participants, and does not have enough practice rooms and storage. A shared large rehearsal hall would work better. It would also allow for better access to the stage for these ensembles to perform and move equipment.

I don't see the need to build a theater that seats so many people. Camanche is a small community, and the theater we have now is rarely used, whether it be my school or community members. Can't we just remodel the current theater and make updates and make a small expansion.

The theater has done its duty. Its too small, the seats are in horrible shape, there is no orchestra pit, and it is not air conditioned.

While I do feel the theater is in dire need of updating, I don't feel that spending \$12.7 million dollars to expand the facility makes financial sense. I would definitely support a referendum to replace the current seating and fix the current stage in the theater.

This seems way too expensive. Can the number of seats in the theater be reduced enough to bring the cost down to under \$100/yr?

This theater has the potential to bring more revenue with the added seats and ticket sales. A new theater is a 100% necessity

This is something that has needed attention for awhile

The current theater is not acceptable. The entire high school can't even fit in it!

As previously mentioned earlier, there are Clinton County school district opportunities here for all schools to participate in one regional theater for \$12.7 million. Camanche schools to earn a ROI in this area is not founded and I do believe in the ARTS just as much as structured organized sports.

It still wouldn't be able to seat everyone for Christmas concerts and such so they will most likely still have to use the gym . So if it will not accommodate everyone to be able to use it for those things I dont see a point.

This could be used by all 3 schools for programs instead of doing all Christmas programs in gym. Could also be used for community dance recitals. Very much needed.

With the fine arts program growing this would be a defn need

Respondents had questions and would like more information before making a decision.

Many concerns and questions about this topic...1) who is managing the upkeep?2) where is the money coming from to upkeep the monthly upkeep?3) Over the past 10 years, when the pool was up and running, how often was it used?4) Who is paying for lifeguards? Who is scheduling the pool usage?Safety concerns:1) Are we ok with strangers using the pool when students are? After school practice? 2) Is the school liable if there is a fall/accident since it is on school property?Will the city be putting any money towards the pool since it is a "community" pool?The fitness center that is being suggested is a very minimal increase in square footage...all students, athletic or not will benefit from the usage of it. The suggested added square footage would, at most fit maybe 6 treadmills and possibly a squat station...this is a very minimal increase in space.

i will consider improvements to the theater- but maybe need more information.

Are there any supplemental funding sources to reduce the amount of the project financed by bonds? I have seen area schools in the past, construct Auditoriums classified as storm shelters, which allowed them to receive funding support from FEMA.

Why aren't new/improved shop facilities included in this plan?Preparing our students for jobs they can find locally is more important than an extra gym.We need more information about the wood shop facilities included in the theater project.

This is TOO BIG of a bond.....You have not educated and had enough INFORMATION for the citizens. So far, you have had 1 meeting and this survey. Not enough info. Look at what the city/county did to get the jail passed?????

A decision needs to be made as to which improvement you are focusing

I might support some of the projects but not all of them. I would also like more information on the improvement of the wood shop. I'm disappointed that improvements to the shop isnt included. Welding and other skilled trades are where so many of our graduates will land jobs- especially if they want to continue to live in Camanche after graduation. I'm not seeing how spending money on a new gymnasium will help our students after graduation.

Depends on how much money and exactly what it is going to be used for.

I don't know what a bond referendum is? If it requires our taxes to be increase, I am against it.

I would like to know what updates or improvements they are debating and what fundraising efforts have been attempted to raise money without incurring debt

Can we get information once grants are requested

It would be helpful to note the anticipated term of the bond in the next announcement. Assume 20yr?

Respondents expressed concerns regarding the total cost of all of the projects.

My taxes are already way too stinking high for a town with nothing in it but 2 gas stations and 3 bars. Property taxes continue to creep higher in this one horse nothing town. Trying to keep up with the irresponsible spending of other districts is laughable and embarrassing. Most of these are superfluous BS aimed only at making your neighbors pay for crap you want. None of these will actually improve test scores or make the education system in Camanche stronger and a shining beacon for the rest of the area, it's just buying more junk. Taxation is theft.

Our taxes are high enough and my question is where has our tax dollars been going to then? Trying to do all these projects at the same time is quite insane also. I feel this should have been kept up and fixed one at a time throughout all the years with the money us residents have already paid in. Instead of boom lets do a 18.1 million dollars worth of projects and raise all the resident's taxes.

I would support a referendum with a lower price tag that could be achieved by removing the expense of the pool and expansion of the theater.

I think that taking on all projects and that amount of tax hike would be too much of a raise in taxes for many residents and businesses. A lot of households live pay check to pay check and I think there needs to be a slower approach to this, one thing at a time. Prioritize which project is most important and start there. Property tax just went through a raise in Clinton County and I don't believe anyone is ready to hike that again.

Budget is too high and they need to consider other optional layouts. Additional weight room is not probably big enough given the area needed when a team is using it together.

You've been at or near the top rate for years. There is no need to jump right back up there just because you're near the bottom now. While repairs and some replacements are expected, a complete wish list is not reasonable, or acceptable.

We do not need to add tax's just because we can. Some of us have moved to Camanche for the great school and low tax rate. Lets find a middle ground with out unneeded facilities such as an expensive pool.

I will support a tax increase, but it will be a hard sell since our taxes went down last year. It's a moot point, but I wish we would have had this referendum last year.

Are you asking the citizens to go after the total 18.1 million dollar project? if so, then my answer is no. I think you need to do it like the city does....PLANNING....cost for a project....when that project is completed.....once that bond is paid off....go to the next project. Our citizens do not have the extra \$\$ of \$200 a year for this all at once....