

**LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Lincoln Board Room
215 Seventh Avenue South
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Wednesday, October 12, 2009

BOARD WORK/STUDY SESSION

CALL TO ORDER (6:00 p.m.)

1. Roll Call
2. Public Participation

AGENDA

3. Discussion—Facilities Review

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board of Education encourages participation at public school board meetings. Under normal circumstances it is desirable to allow everyone to address the Board. However, when there are many persons who wish to address the Board, the following rules shall apply to protect the public's right to be heard:

- Each speaker shall be allowed a presentation not to exceed three (3) minutes at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
- There will be a limit of one presentation per person.
- The Board requests that organizations and groups be represented by a single spokesperson. The spokesperson for each group shall be limited to a presentation of three (3) minutes. To save repetition and time, the Board also requests that persons not speak if a previous speaker has expressed a similar position on the same issue.
- The Board will accept comments from the public on each agenda item as it is discussed.

By a majority vote of the Board, these rules may be suspended for special reasons at any particular meeting. Further, the Board may reserve the right to adjust the length of time.

CONSENT GROUP ITEMS

The action of adoption of the "Consent Group" as an official item on the agenda means that all items appearing under the title "Consent Group" shall be adopted by majority approval of a single motion, unless a member of the Board or the Superintendent requests that any particular item be removed from the "Consent Group" and voted on separately.

Generally "Consent Group" items are matters which members of the Board and Superintendent agree are routine in nature and should be acted upon in one motion to conserve time and permit focus on other than routine matters on the agenda.

LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lewistown, Montana

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date

10/12/2009

Agenda Item No.

3

- Minutes/Claims
 Board of Trustees
 Superintendent's Report
 Action - Consent
 Action - Indiv.

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION—FACILITIES REVIEW

Requested By: Board of Trustees **Prepared By:** _____ **Date:** 10/12/2009

SUMMARY:

The Board of Trustees will review the responses to the survey that was presented to the community and staff regarding a bond issue to repair our existing facilities and/or construct a new school building. The survey also asked for ranking of the options presented by the Facility Steering Committee. Room was provided on the survey to allow for comments.

The Board will attempt to come up with a consensus as to the direction the District is going to take regarding facilities.

SUGGESTED ACTION: Discussion

Additional Information Attached Estimated cost/fund source _____

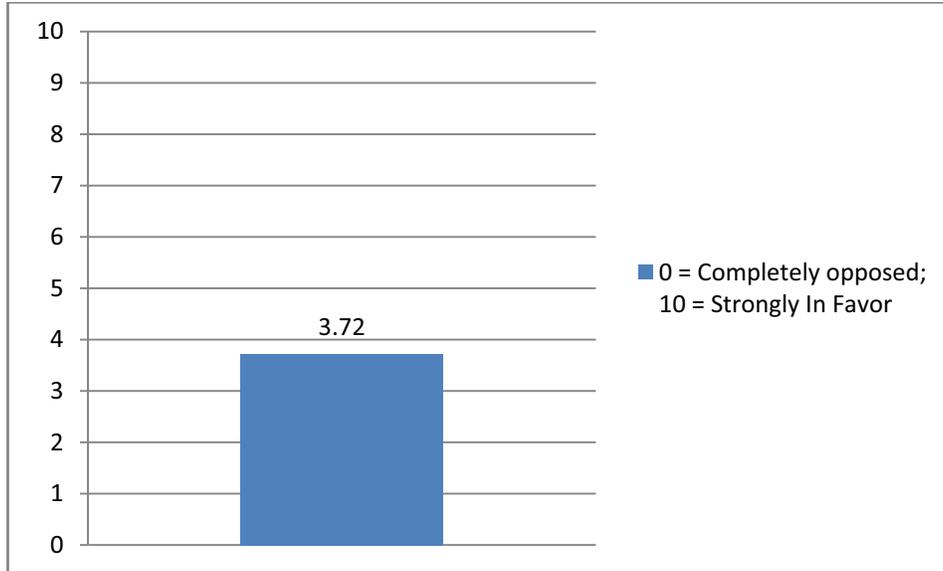
NOTES:

<i>Board Action</i>	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Other
Bristol						
Byerly						
Granot						
Jackson						
Monger						
Schelle						
Weeden						

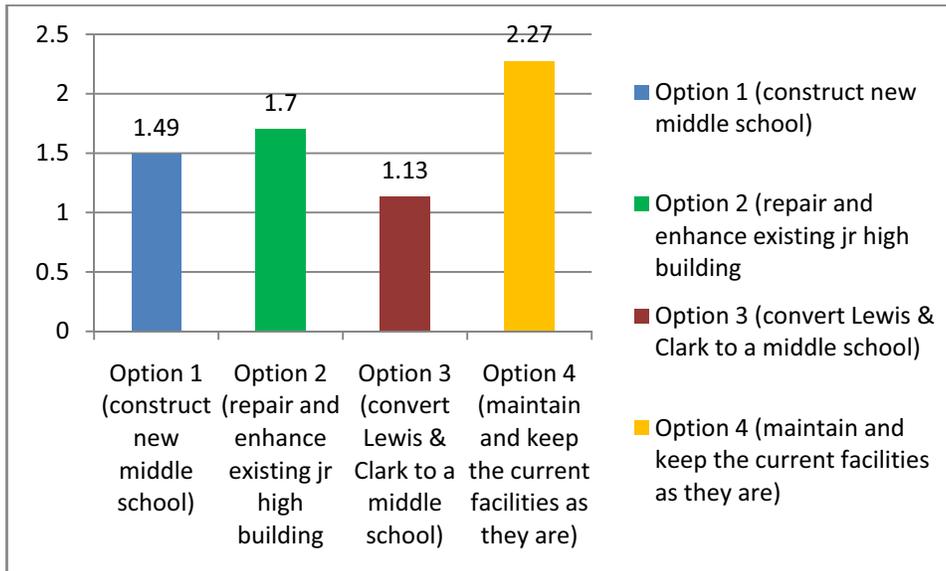
Lewistown Public Schools Summary of Facility Responses Received – Community

October 9, 2009 - 585 Responses Received

Rate your current willingness to support a large bond issue to repair existing facilities and/or construct a new school building:



Last year, a community group studied the District's facilities and considered four options for the District's future. Please rank these options in the order you would most prefer (5 = Favorite; 0 = Least Favorite).



DISTRICT'S FACILITIES SURVEY

What Would YOU Do?

First, please rate your current willingness to support a large bond issue to repair our existing facilities and/or construct a new school building. (0) Completely Opposed - (10) Strongly in Favor

Comments:

- (7) - I think the stimulus \$ with no interest is an opportunity that shouldn't be passed up!! Lewistown will grow whether we like it or not! What I'm unsure about is the people doing the planning!!
- Small Bond Issue ~ Expand Jr. High
- (5) - I believe we need safe schools but not necessarily large or fancy. Kids can learn in any environment and I believe we have the educators able to teach.
- (0) - With the re-evaluations of property and lower incomes, we cannot afford these increases.
- (8) - The new building complex would need less maintenance.
- Strongly in favor. I would like to see Fergus County employees. No out of county.
- (7) - I don't like more taxes, but I don't like kids packed into poor facilities even more.
- (8-9) - Better now than when it is too late.
- (10) - Education is important. Let's do what's best.
- (10) - New school building ~ needed.
- This should be two separate questions. You are leading the answer you want. Construct new facility (0 – Completely Opposed) ~ Repair existing facility (6). We don't have the data/research or enrollment increase to build new facilities!
- (1) - Our taxes are on a rise now. With times as they are we need to maintain what we have. Don't spend stimulus money – stay out of government welfare.
- (8) - We need to do whatever is best for the kids & their education. They need the room and better facilities.
- (10) - Let's act now when no interest funds are available. We can't let our town deteriorate or we can expect more losses in enrollment.
- (10) - Would like to see consolidation of buildings & build new. Rid ourselves of inefficient worn-out structures. This would save big \$ in utilities I would assume (and maintenance).
- (8) - Strong proactive positions will secure a nice portion of the school's future!
- (9) - Thank you for being PRO-ACTIVE.
- (5) - Value of Lincoln, is there a market for it?

- (0) - This no vote does not mean that I am opposed to solving our problem with school buildings. We just received our tax proposal for the year and our property taxes are \$4,000. We live in a modest home. This proposal would add another \$400 per year to our property taxes. This is over 10% of my gross income. To me, the burden is unconscionable.
- (7) - Thank you for covering this tough topic. I notice Garfield is way over numbers, but hear little to no complaints from staff unlike Highland Park.
- (5) - A question was raised as to the possibility of turning the Lincoln building back into a school. The answer given was that it could be a possibility. The school was turned into admin because it was no longer “useable” as a school. At least that is what I was told. Next, the high school was condemned and a new school was “necessary” but it is now a very functional condo building. I am skeptical now when I am told that a building is no longer usable and functional. I’m not saying I wouldn’t support a project for a new middle school but it’s going to be a hard sell. I think I need a lot more information first. I understand that remodeling can be big \$\$ but I don’t want to feel “bamboozled” again like what happened at the high school – with tiny classrooms and a HUGE gym and auditorium. I want to really KNOW that a new facility is needed not just wanted.
- (5) - I want the plan that meets the future needs whether enrollment goes up or down. A new school gives leeway for population bumps, pop increase, closing another school someday.
- (10) - Don’t waste a bunch of \$’s just fixing up the old buildings. Do this right and spend the money right.
- (0) - I oppose any bond issue that raises taxes.
- (8) - Bond issues are an effective way to build the community at a minimal cost to the taxpayer.
- (0) - You have not clearly justified a bond issue to replace existing facilities or construct a new school building. Do not propose raising property taxes to pay for any project that has been fully justified.
- (2) - Gym envy is not a valid reason to undertake 70+ mills.
- (0) - A tax payer mentioned that her friends were opposed to any tax increases.
- (0) – Now is not the time.
- With current economy, losses in investments and high prices of machinery and parts, I can’t go for any higher taxes.
- (10) – Construct a new school building.
- (0) – Get a maintenance budget and use it!
- (0) – Taxpayers have no extra money to give.
- (10) – Be progressive! Know that a new building will be a plus for generations to come. Look into the future. Also, best way to solve overcrowding in other buildings & make other buildings totally & truly grade level schools.
- (0) – Concentrate time and resources on education not buildings!
- (1) – I do not think this issue has been researched sufficiently.

- (0) – Although I strongly support our school system, my taxes are too high already. What with paying for fairgrounds that I don't use and the possibility of paying for a pool that I don't use, we can't afford another tax increase.
- (0) – The economy is not good. Repair as needed until better times.
- (0) – If you do this people will lose their jobs. My mother works for you for 20 years and has been laid off twice now, but goes back to helping the students she loves. She has helped so many kids.
- (0) – Where would we get these extra \$\$\$? Our income is fixed. Maybe you should "fix" your budget. Live on what you have.
- (2) – I think your consultants on the building conditions have ulterior motives for their own business and economic well being!
- (0) – We are in hard economic times.
- (0) – Population and jobs decreasing.
- (1) – We feel the way the overall economy is at this time that it is not the time to do anything major. Maintain and keep the current facilities as they are. Maybe in 3 to 6 years things with the economy will look much better. Then do what we need to do to do what is best for the students.
- (0) – People cannot afford more taxes!
- (0) – We need to stop spending money we don't have! Taxpayers' pockets are dry!
- (5) – Supportive if it isn't done the way the fairgrounds has spent community \$! Spend it on what is agreed upon!
- (0) – I don't know why you send out things to vote on because you do what you want to anyhow.
- (0) – You've already spent money to fix the Jr. High, why replace it? Enrollment is down, why is there not enough room for Title I?
- (10) – Our schools/children are our greatest asset. We are both retired on a fixed income.
- (10) – We do need a new junior high school.
- (0) – New schools are not needed and we certainly don't want any tax increases.
- (0) – The building has a new roof, new PA system, energy efficient windows, & updated heating & air.
- (0) – I am on social security and will get no raise for the next two years. I can't afford it.
- (4) – Will not support a new school.
- (0) – Not in this economy.
- (3) – A large imposition on the tax base is NOT prudent or necessary to educate our children. I do not think a new middle school is NEEDED. The building currently in use as our Junior High School should be kept as our school and NOT be converted into Administrative offices for the district. In my view, that is the best built facility for Jr. High.
- (0) – Right now is not the time for any kind of construction of schools or any other large undertaking! The economy is far too shaky!!!!
- (10) – It hasn't been discussed but if all fails, could an addition be added to the High School and share some of the same facilities?

- (0) – Do us a favor and publish this survey’s results.
- (10) – I am strongly in support of taking care of what we have. The buildings though aging have the ideal location in our neighborhoods. I feel updates and improvements are in order. Updates and improvements should be based on priority and dollars available.
- (2) – The school district is just like the City and County. Let the facilities and infrastructure fall down instead of doing up keep/repairs as needed. Then expect taxpayers to happily build new like water lines and sewer plant and fairgrounds.
- (0) – Enrollment is decreasing so why should \$ be spent?!?!
- (0) – I pay over \$4000 property taxes on a modular home. You people need to utilize what you have and take care of what you have. Learn to live on a budget & do without like the rest of us. If your kids want sports let the parents foot the bill.
- (10) – Repair our existing facilities. My taxes have doubled this year so just can’t see how I can support a large bond issue.
- (0) – I am on a fixed income. My taxes are too high now and I can’t see funding all the extracurricular stuff. Do away with some or all of it and the schools would save money for building maintenance. Go back to basics.
- (5) – We need to do YEARLY maintenance!
- (10) – It is more cost effective to do the reconstruction now.
- (0) – The buildings just need maintenance.
- (8) – People need to realize that buildings don’t last forever. Upkeep and maintenance are required.
- (0) – In light of the County’s economic situation we are opposed to any tax increase. The kids can live with what they have - and be grateful.
- (2) – I supported a bond issue for the new high school – my taxes DOUBLED – the high school is now paid for – where has all that extra revenue gone?!
- (4-5) – After reading the Board’s comments in the News Argus, my feeling is IF you receive the money tax free the Board should take that approach. Everyone knows money is short and building costs so much. What a dilemma for you and also we can’t always ignore the facts that new buildings are going to be needed. Good luck in your decision!
- (2) – Due to the current economy we need to wait a year – or two.
- (0) – Property taxes are going up due to reassignments. Is this really the time to add a school tax to finance 15 million?
- (0) – There are not any kids in the county like there was when I went to school. We had 167 in our class. The class 2 years behind me had 199. We’re in a recession – Do with what you have. P.S. You can cut assistant coaches – administration is way over staffed.
- (0) – Enrollment is way down and we’re in a deep depression.
- (8) – Covered crosswalk coming from second story of Jr. High building, across Main Street with stairs exiting on the opposite side.
- (0) – Sorry – Taxes in Lewistown are already extremely high. Especially for such a low income community.
- (0) – Closing the school is not in the best interest of the students.
- (0) – Repair.

- (5) – Our schools are not overcrowded so we need to figure out a way to be more efficient and give the property owners a bit of relief.
- (1) – Take lesson from how Courthouse has been taken care of and it's over 100 years old!
- What's large? Let's have an estimate cost before you poll. I will answer the poll when you answer the above question.
- (9) – The School Board and the Superintendent know our needs better than we do.
- (10) – Our schools are one of the most important buildings in our community.
- (0) – This is a very poor time for building anything new. We may need that money just to eat and pay rent. Get rid of Obama and his spending everything our grandkids have.
- (0) – We as seniors can't afford much. It's hard on us to help.
- (1) – The school district should have been setting aside \$ for building depreciation! Lewistown school district should do with less just like the rest of us are doing in these hard times. Maybe you could cut some of the wages for administration and teachers.
- (0) – No large bond issue. Enrollment is declining. Fix what you have sparingly.
- Completely opposed to new school building. Economy is too bad at this time.
- (0) – Leave my money alone!
- (8-9-10) – Willing to support repair and enhance existing buildings. Getting rid of existing buildings because they are old is not an option.
- (1) – I don't think a new school is what we need.
- (0) – Possibly support bond issue to repair Junior High only.
- (9) – Instead of superfluous subjects ("basket weaving") (sports), we need to get back to basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Youngsters are graduating & can't fill out a job application.
- (0) – Not at this time. The building there is just fine!!!
- (4) – It is hard to raise taxes in the current recession.
- (0) – The tax payers can't afford more taxes. Our wages are decreasing and taxes are increasing. I can't afford to support a large bond issue even if I think it would be a good idea.
- (1) – each year more \$'s are spent in the system and yet standards are declining rapidly.
- (0) – Do we need more classrooms when student enrollment is going down each year? I don't think so. Use the space we have more wisely. Our teacher to student ratio is 15.5, that's way below the average. We really need to have a twenty to thirty year maintenance program. I see none at this time. If you don't maintain building, each year they will fall apart in time.
- (0) – Why should we need more classrooms and gyms when student enrollment declines every year. Our teacher to student ratio is 15.5 now. We have good solid buildings that only need to be maintained on a regular basis.
- (1) – Every option shown shows selling the Lincoln school building. Whose bright idea was that? It is a good building, newer than the other schools.
- (0) – There is no FREE money. It all comes from the people.
- (10) – To repair current facilities.

- (2) – Location such a problem for new Jr. High – High Schoolers already drive and would wherever you have a new building – bussing a concern – buy land across west of Basin Bank. Move the Jr. High up the hill further.
- (2) – I know we need good schools but I think there is a limit to what we can spend on education. Food, health and shelter should come first. How can there be a shortage of room in the schools with less children each year?
- (10) – I worry about our community 1) not passing an elementary mill levy and 2) not giving enough \$ to fund a library. This sends a very poor message to people who wish to move to lewistown. We have an obligation to provide a quality education for our children.
- I am wondering where the maintenance budget over the past years has gone? Why were buildings not maintained & budgeted for along the way? If the Lincoln building is safe enough to be sold why not continue to use it? I am opposed to the middle school being so close to the high school. The Junior High Principals (in the last 15 years or so) have worked very hard to get the student body away from drugs, alcohol, etc. and I believe the middle school students would have more access to such things if their school was just a block away. Besides the gym (auditorium) would need to be rebuilt (repaired), etc. Why not put the same dollars into the existing Jr. High and leave it where it is at. I am very opposed to building a new structure out of town. These students do not have access to their own transportation but are old enough to walk to and from home, appointments, library, downtown, Civic Center, and jobs. They really need to work on their independence skills on a smaller scale that a town school offers. I am interested in the No interest savings however I do not see the options are right for me at this time.
- (0) – If you didn't have 5 to 6 buses going every weekend would have money to keep schools repaired. It seems sports come before education.
- (10) – But with economy the way it is right now I think we should wait a year or two. I don't think voters will approve it now.
- (0) – You're asking a double question.
- (9) – Repair the old Jr. High and other facilities.
- (3) – Remodel the Jr. High – put a gym in the back, it is a great location.
- (7) – Where does possible “stimulus” money fit into this project”? I was under the impression these funds would decrease the amount of increased taxes and that the timing for such an education/building facility application & grant was NOW!!
- (7) – Let's repair and convert a school we already have and let's keep our grade, middle & high schools repaired and updated annually so we don't have major overhauls every 3 to 5 years.
- I need to hear your facilities presentation to compare below options.
- (3) – We need to know the different options cost.
- (0) – Maintain our present building – Do repairs as needed. We don't need our taxes going up more!
- (5) – Stimulus monies are not “free”. They come from my pocket.
- (1) – We need classrooms, not a new gym as listed in all options 1-3.

- (0) – Just because our taxes raised (property) is no reason for people to spend them.
- We thought that the Board of Trustees for the School Districts was responsible year by year to maintain and keep up repair on all existing school buildings. Why is the mind set always – out with the old – in with the new?
- (0) – I don't believe we need a new school. We continue having fewer students.
- (0) – Taxpayers overloaded already
- (0) – Times are tough right now, as you all know.
- (3) – Maintenance works wonders
- (0) – My taxes are already too high. My family has to live too.
- (5) – We have never voted against a school bond and we are seniors (70+).
- (2) – My income is frozen. I can't afford any more.
- (7) – Depends on repairs-Maintenance needs to be on going and not let go as in many buildings.
- (0) – Not at this time
- (0) – Buildings do not make the quality of education.
- (0) – This could wait until the economy is stronger
- (0) – We might consider a small bond issue (2-4 Million) to address realistic needs.
- (0) – Instead of finding 20 Acres to build a new school on for the activity fields, think of partnering with the city and use soccer fields at old Berg Lumber site.
- (0) – Our Junior High Building is in great shape-We have paid to maintain it this way.
- (0) – If we have run out of room at Lincoln School maybe you have too many people hired. Combine jobs and maximize man hours and payroll.
- (0) – No way!
- (0) – Property taxes have increased-you want more money for schools. Enrollment has declined and you want more.
- (0) – How many more taxes and mil and fundraisers do you think this town can afford? Stop trying to sell this plan and figure out how to use what we have. It's what families do in bad times and these are bad times.
- (0) – Trim the fat. We have too many people at the Lincoln School. We don't have as many kids enrolled so how did this happen. I liked when the kids could walk to school.
- (0) – Your arrogance is amazing! How much more does Lewistown need to spend to keep up with the Class AA schools? Stop this crazy spending and pay attention to what really matters. We need textbooks, not band uniforms. Get rid of popcorn machine at Lincoln School and make the employees put in a full day's work. Combine services. Maintenance people do their jobs. Stop empire building. There is no \$\$\$\$ left in this town.
- (0) – Create a central Library at Lincoln for all elementary schools. Keep a nice selection of books at each school and have teachers order the special books on line. You have a truck that delivers to each school everyday anyway.
- (0) – You should not build a school out of town.
- (0) – Totally against
- (0) – Get real. This is not Helena or Washington D.C.!!! We don't have the money.

- (0) – Wake up! The bond failed this spring because people are sick of the way you spend money.
- (0) – LJHS should not be built outside of Lewistown. Children should walk to school, Not to Pamida or Basin State Bank.
- (0) – Stop spending money you don't have.
- (0) – This district is too top heavy. We have declining enrollment and now there is not enough room and now there is not enough room at Lincoln School. Instead of building new space for office, rent the space.
- (0) – Your idea of building a Junior High at the edge of town is ridiculous. This is a small town. Our kids should be able to walk or ride their bikes to school.
- (0) – Why does the administration of the school district need to be housed in a three story building? (Lewistown Junior High)
- (0) In my opinion this is the worst time.

Last year, a community group studied the District's facilities and considered four options for the District's future. Please rank these options in the order you would most prefer (1= favorite, 5 = least favorite).

Comments:

- Only if people planning this think responsibly!! You can't put a new middle school out in the "boonies". You can't expect parents to be happy about their kids on a bus for an hour a day! With gas prices you need to find somewhere central – demolish old High School?
- I accept the judgment of the District, who know the details and what's best.
- With enrollment declining and the economy as it is I believe maybe we should hold off on building and get by with what we safely have. Keep in mind the tax burden on all of us is going to already be horrific.
- We must all learn to live in our means right now. I suggest you do too. It doesn't hurt to have the music departments be mobile. It saves time to not move students & getting them resettled down.
- Lewistown is a small community and families are stretched already. If the cap & trade goes through and the economic stimulus money is going to be repaid which there is no way that is going to happen, and if our senior citizens ever decide to not see why they have to pay taxes if they don't have children in the school system, which has happened in other places in the nation Lewistown will be in great trouble. Find another place to park the buses that doesn't cost as much or anything.
- Get rid of old moldy buildings.
- Small cost for such a great opportunity for kids!!

- Construct facilities for education and not sports.
- Combine bus barn, 6-8 grades, and Admin in one facility with year round pool.
- Sell all schools – build one (K-8) – eliminate (2 principals minimum), secretaries, 1 - insurance and maintenance.
- I would like most monies stay in county.
- Build all new with bus barn campus on site. I like the idea of having the administrators offices moved to the Junior High.
- Consolidate a new building to include bus barn, admin & kitchen. Sell Junior High and Lincoln.
- If feasible a new middle school with admin & bus barn sounds like a good idea.
- Look at going back to community schools and maintain buildings.
- I like the idea of one facility for the junior high, administration, and bus barn.
- I favor a structure that would house JH, bus barn, admin, etc. One building – less maintenance, etc.
- I think 3 schools is the answer. Consolidate!! (K-5 / 6-8 / 9-12) Don't heat and maintain 5 buildings.
- I like the idea of combining bus barn, middle school, &?
- Need more info, but impressed with citizen work (08) & the presentation. Great job! Guest from OK – We pay taxes in MT and locally for services in Lewistown.
- Combine grades 6-8, admin bldg, lunch facility, and the bus barn into one facility. Sell Lincoln and JH buildings.
- I don't have enough information to give an educated response.
- I hate to see \$ from the Jr High, already spent, somewhat “wasted” by not utilizing the building. I would like neighborhood schools looked at and something with building capacity & average grade enrollment.
- Construct a new middle school because it could be used for any grade(s) someday. Build it where no schools are in town. Many kids can't walk to a school.
- Build another school but don't burn your bridges with other buildings. New school, new pool.....it feels like a weight over our heads! Make Albertsons pay their fair share, I already am. Put some burden onto country people. It's no secret why all the rich people live out of town(!)
- Convert Lewis and Clark Elementary to a Middle School (Grades 6-8) and leave JH functioning, too much construction!
- A big problem with trying to get this bond passed is that we have many elderly people in Lewistown. Somehow the school district needs to work on educating and convincing the elderly people that this is necessary.
- Thanks for explaining all this and answering all the questions.
- In reviewing the PowerPoint, I see the priority items as: 1. Space for special needs students; 2. Combine K students in one building; 3. Safe parking for JHS; 4. Fix roof & it's framing at Lincoln building; 5. Add access at Lincoln Building. None of this should cost 11-15 Million – Zero for HS.

- Sounds like a couple buildings (Lincoln & JH) could go. What about a “campus” of sorts, housing 6-8, Admin, food, bus barn, etc. Would we realize a savings in the long run? I lived in a nationally ranked school district (Katy I.S.D.) west of Houston, TX. We had neighbors that moved from the east coast to attend there. Point being, I think the school system is a major factor for folks. It is a direct reflection of the community. New buildings achieve this.
- Take/go for whatever federal stimulus money you can get and spend it on those justified priority projects that the Trustees have selected. Spend only stimulus money.
- Do not use “free” money to talk taxpayers into buying something they don’t believe is needed or really can’t afford. If you don’t get unfettered stimulus money, then go to the community – as in the past – to finance those projects that have been shown to be clearly needed.
- Build it now before it costs so much we cannot afford it but are forced to do it anyway.
- Gyms are too much of the cost. Limit one new gym at Lewis & Clark and expand class rooms only 1st priority. Teach 1st, class rooms 1st.
- Construct a new middle school and include district offices & bus barn and sell both Lincoln and LJHS.
- Construct new campus with a new Middle School, admin building, central kitchen, etc. Divest Lincoln building and JHS.
- Construct new middle school including Administration and Transportation.
- The School Board should be setting aside money for construction projects when they are needed!!! Money from a savings account is also interest free! Stop the spend, spend, spend! This is your chance to teach by example, teach the children, how to save and stick to a budget! QUIT SPENDING THE CHILDREN OF THIS NATIONS FUTURE!!!! WAKEUP AND USE SOME COMMON SENSE AND DON’T MAKE OUR KIDS INDEBTED SLAVES TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY!!!
- Construct new middle school including Administration and Transportation.
- What are the consequences if we “do nothing”? There are obviously a lot of costs to maintain old buildings. Even the “new” High School is 23 years old. The JH is closing in on 90 years old.
- Use old Junior High and rework to hold extra students (6th grade) and add an elevator, fix roof, etc. Add rooms where necessary for Title I and special needs. As stated online, enrollments are down. Is there a boom expected? Here is a question – where would the STAR classroom go? In all options? It seems to me when the High School was built it cost a lot more than the projected amount. New is not always better! Recycle – I do!
- Fix what needs to be done, not just throw money at it because we think we may need a new one.
- Please keep the Jr. High where it is. Upgrade and close off side streets (9th & Broadway) to expand the campus. They do this in other cities. Perhaps have student drop off behind school. These kids don’t drive. As it is, most kids can walk to Jr. High. Lastly, in our “throw away” society, there are merits to preserving that which has served generations before. It contributes to a sense of “where we came from”, continuity, knowing our

grandparents have walked these same halls. It seems this is a precious, and too rare, concept in these times.

- Lewistown always wants to build new buildings, etc. But never bothers to maintain & repair anything until it is falling apart.
- Can't afford a large bond issue.
- To me option #2 – Repair and enhance the existing Junior High Building, is the only real option.
- I believe we should invest in energy efficient new building. Long run it will pay off.
- Repairs should be done on a regular basis on all school buildings.
- We see a lot of waste busing 1 or 2 children in a huge bus. Lots of tax dollars being spent!
- Have you forgotten that we are in a “recession”? And there are fewer students in your school system. I believe we need to tighten our belts and live within our means. You seem to think money grows on trees and as a taxpayer I can't vote for a spendy new building. Do the kids learn from having NEW or from curriculum and teaching staff?
- Keep things pretty much as they are. Who can afford more taxes? Not me!
- How fast is the enrollment going down? Is it a good idea to build a new school?
- As a Sr. how do you expect us to keep passing more taxes??
- Options 2 (Repair and enhance the existing Junior High building) & 4 (Do nothing – Maintain and keep the current facilities as they are) are not options as far as we are concerned. You have to run with this. If the voters turn us down then 2 & 4 can be considered.
- Considering proposed enrollment, would the three schools handle K-8 grades without building a new middle school? Do we need a fourth elementary school building?
- I find it hard to see these big school buses busing (1) child. That is a big waste of money. Make the parents more responsible. Many tax payers are concerned.
- Either continue using it for the Junior High or move the Administrative building. The key is not to abandon the building. This would hurt Lewistown big time. We must all work together to keep a healthy community! Let's not look like Sidney with vacant buildings.
- Continue to use the Lewistown Junior High Building in an appropriate manner for the benefit of the school district and the community.
- Convert Lewis and Clark Elementary to a Middle School. Besides, the existing Junior High building would make a great school district admin facility plus the Calvert Hotel would buy the Lincoln School building for an expanded parking lot. Everyone wins!! My concern – middle school students are very hard on physical condition of facilities and very often don't appreciate what they have. It would be wonderful for teachers to have a new middle school, but my issue is the human caused deterioration of a new facility. The kids are just learning their “oats” so to speak. The L & C physical site would be ideal for new gym and additional classrooms. The existing gym could be used as a music room. A practice football field, Physical Ed classes, etc., would fit on existing grass footprint.
- Pay for the swimming pool first, and then maybe school make-over!

- Schools should be repaired and updated annually – not every 3 to 5 years. Our school population is not growing. So more empty school buildings, due to new construction, is not good financial sense.
- How much have you spent on the Junior High and how much more is it going to cost here & maintenance? Build an office building & kitchen someplace, use the Lincoln building as a school as it was built in the first place.
- Perhaps more in depth planning – earlier – we know these are needed, but remember you are a community of retired people.
- Please don't abandon the existing Jr. High building.
- I think we need to repair the existing buildings.
- Sell Lincoln – Rent/buy property for administration – upgrade existing structures. I do not favor a 6-8 configuration under any conditions.
- Invest money in teachers not administration. We are still paying for high school. Enrollment is getting smaller.
- Enough is enough!! The kids today are so spoiled it's a shame. The parents aren't any better either. Times are going crazy & let's get by with what we got now. It was plenty good in the past years & would be for many more.
- Why not just do a “timeline of desired facility repairs” and do no new construction?
- Just build new gym. Why not just build a new gym across the street from the old middle school & leave the rest as is?
- Students need to learn how to spend their time & money in a reasonable way. They don't need to grow up with more taxes to pay.
- How are you going to get the money to do this? We already pay enough taxes. Are people who rent houses or apartments that don't own anything going to help pay this? **IS IT ONLY THE WORKING MAN THAT HAS TO PAY!?!**
- If we can't have neighborhood schools of K-6, then I like the configuration of K-2, 3-5, & 6-8.
- To do nothing is not an option. We feel strongly that we should utilize the interest free funds if they become available.
- Do Nothing at All. In these economic times, you need to suck it up like we do. The schools are fine as is for quite a few years. We (the people of Lewistown) have enough tax burdens.
- You're like a spoiled child. Break it so you can have a new one. Not your money oh well.
- I would be in favor of option #1 – Construct a new Middle School (Grades 6-8), etc. It seems like the best and least expensive of the proactive options. I do not think that doing nothing is a viable option in spite of the tough economy.
- Work within your means. Be creative.
- More options with public input.
- As a Senior Citizen, we do have concerns about the proposals presented to us. Due to the fact of the Deep Depression and Major Economic Disasters, we have great fears. Lewistown is hurting. We are losing population every year. There is hardly a street

without a For Sale sign at a house. There are 5 out of 6 nice homes in a row on lower Ash Street for sale. We keep losing businesses on Main Street and about, large grocery store, Franchise for an Auto Dealer. Businesses hurting as consumers are unable to spend. You stated in the News Argus, that your proposal would bring new jobs. Fine, for how long? Also stated that it is important to have an attractive school system can be a swaying decision for people moving in and it draws people. Let's be real. The number one priority would be jobs with permanent employment to support a family. A family of children for schools. You stated that this project at this time would SAVE us \$974 over the course of 15-20 years. But you didn't inform us what the additional cost would be. School enrollment is down. Workers, single parents are hurting. There are one and two employees in a household, who have had to take a salary cut, or their wages have been frozen. And those who have lost their jobs. They are struggling with mortgage payments, vehicle payments, cost of living continues to escalate for food, utilities, fuel, insurances, medical, taxes, and prescriptions – as are seniors. Senior retirees are hurting. Social Security was instrumented in 1935 as a supplement income for retirees. Social Security Benefits have been frozen for the next three years, regardless of COL. A law states that a check cannot be less than the previous year. But the checks will be lower each year as the premium for Medicare will continue to escalate for Health care. Those who were able to establish a retirement fund, whether an employee or self-employed, have seen these funds diminish by 50%. Social Security checks are all some people have. It is scary with the bank failures. FDIC funds are being depleted, which guaranteed certain investments. With our National Debt over a trillion and quickly climbing to 6-7 trillion. We are whirling out of control with spending and rising costs. Lewistown already pays nearly the highest property taxes of the 10 largest cities in Montana. Taxes are not expenses or a debt of choice. Fears of many are that we will be taxed out of our HOMES.

- It would be pretty silly not to take advantage of Federal Stimulus \$ and not to move our educational facilities into the 21st century.
- Use option 4 (Do Nothing), cut back on ridiculous administrative costs throughout the entire district for a few years – then come back to the taxpayers. They may feel better about increasing their taxes if they can see that the school district is making sacrifices also. If option 3 (Convert Lewis and Clark Elementary to a Middle School) is feasible, then why can't we go back to neighborhood schools, close one of the grade schools (especially if the enrollment is down like they keep saying it is) and save a bundle of money on busing and employees costs. We could sell that building and with the operating cost saved we could be putting money into a savings plan so we would have money down the road.
- Buy homes above the Junior High – expand and remodel – then maintain.
- Enrollment is down. Lewistown is not business friendly.
- Put the schools back to K-6 per school. Now single mothers or fathers have to drive everywhere to pick up all the kids. I'm a single mother and have lived here my whole life. I hate the splitting up the grades. It is ridiculous. Just keep the schools up to code to save money.

- Review all expenses. Cut programs not necessary for an education. Turn out lights; turn down the heat; cut trips on school buses.
- Drop the whole idea!
- Lewistown does not want to bring in new businesses, but you want to pay more school taxes? DO we really need another GYM??? Have the teachers help the kids who need it – It is Not all about SPORTS.
- Do Nothing – too many older people on fixed incomes.
- I understand that with minimal work and expenses, the H.S. could accommodate the Jr. High students! Please read the articles written by Theo Wright in the September 30 issue of the News Argus! Page 4A – my sentiments exactly and well thought out and written – Thank you, and elderly taxpayer.
- Option #4 (Do Nothing) is the only option I see.
- Use what we have and maintain - it is good enough!
- 1) Convert Lewis & Clark because it is near the high school and centrally located. 2) Construct a new middle school as long as it is not located out of city limits. 3) Repair existing Jr. High – location is poor being on Main Street. 4) Something must be done – Lewistown will grow. Putting a Junior High out “in the boonies” doesn’t make sense. School children should be in the city limits & close to siblings and parents.
- This is not the time to ask people to spend more money. Regular maintenance would be best for all concerned!
- Our economy will dictate the feasibility of the options – be realistic.
- We would prefer to let those who understand the facts decide. Thanks.
- It’s a good building. Why would we bus every child in the community – go back to grade level schools in the elementary.
- If we have enough administrators to fill the Junior High – we have too many administrators!
- Upgrades – new thermal windows, acoustics, heat & air, new roof – maintenance will be lower than a new building.
- What about the money spent to repair & upgrade the Junior High? What about the cost of busing to the new school, if built? What about consolidating to one elementary principal?
- Combine the junior high with one of the elementary schools.
- I bought my Lewistown home in 1999 Tax \$950.00. Current taxes over \$2,000 – we need tax relief!
- We do not need to go to the expense of a new building – use what we have!
- Just leave things as they are. This town is not growing. If anything, population is decreasing.
- I completely agree with Theo Wright’s letter to the editor. Our son attended LJHS & location, facility, teachers, etc., were just fine – NO on new building!
- The school is in a perfect location – in the middle of town. Busing is a great increase on our budget.

- Don't do anything to take money away from instructor's salaries & educational opportunities for the children. This is much important than buildings!
- We're on social security and no raise for the next two years. Cannot afford it right now.
- Retired folks have no money for higher taxes.
- There have been many repairs to the Jr. High – use it!
- It's always easy to be philanthropic with someone else's money. Drop grandiose plans and focus on quality instruction – Not Facilities! Will not support construction of a new middle school! Converting Lewis & Clark is a lousy idea! Best long term option is to repair and enhance the existing Junior High Building.
- Build!
- We believe our taxes are high enough!! People are having a hard time right now making ends meet! People act like the stimulus money is magically going to make things okay, but it is going to have to be paid back! We'll all be digging deep in pockets that are already empty to try to pay that back!!!!
- Keep the existing Junior High building and use as administrative and kitchen. Sell the Lincoln building or
- Our wages have been frozen. Cannot afford additional expenses – property taxes.
- We are in a near recession with paychecks & working hours cut. Still your busses are using expensive gas going far & wide – not for education (Sports). Cut back on that and use the savings to repair.
- I completely agree with the opinion of Theo Wright – 9/30/09 Argus opinion. It's the teachers. Education of the children is of utmost importance. Newer buildings are never as good as the old buildings. FHS “new” building is a tin shack. Keep facilities central and walkable for students. I am not opposed to paying my fair share or even having an increase in taxes. I just think the proposals are all wrong! Of course an architect wants to build big so they can get a big commission!! Sounds like a conflict of interest.
- Turn the Lincoln building back into a school! Do something about overcrowding at the Garfield School!
- If vacating existing building, what would happen to it?
- Option 4 – this is not a “do nothing” option. This exhorts pressure on people who want to step back and really think about the scope of what you are suggesting. Regardless of what is done, this is a large investment that requires sound fiscal consideration.
- Take care of and make do with what you have!
- The Jr. High in the middle of town is wonderful. I know it costs a lot to maintain old buildings but the Jr. High is a historic & beautiful building & a great learning environment. Reuse – Don't destroy.
- Construct a new Middle School – Barn and all.
- I don't think the people can afford more taxes at this time.
- Consider we are in a recession, that this is a retirement community. Consider that as a senior citizen we are already strapped for the most part and cannot afford more expenses. We (the majority) are living on fixed incomes and it is not easy.
- Our school system already costs us 2/3 of our taxes! We need relief-not more!

- We are in a recession. May God help us? My evaluation on my home is up double for taxes. No way can I afford more.
- Maintain building before they are in too bad of shape at a reasonable cost.
- Buildings don't make quality education, Teachers do.
- The school district, City of Lewistown, and County need to stop and look at what we have lost the last few years-like transportation etc. and business and what we may lose in the near future-like car dealerships-banks, etc. and then consider what we may or may not need in Lewistown.
- I live in a "condemned building", St. Joseph Hospital. Friends for ours live in a "condemned building", Fergus High School of old. Low income families are about to live in another "condemned building" the nurses building. Give me a break, if they are good enough to sell as ours were, fix it up.
- Many areas need to be updated, not just computers.
- It just seems interesting how this town reacts to things. I can remember when we just HAD to have a new high school building cuz the one we had was in such bad shape. That old building that was so terrible it is now a condominium complex and seems to be holding up just fine.
- Tough to justify this kind of spending with falling enrollment. Maybe we should have been paying better attention to maintaining our facilities and not letting them get so run down.
- CONSERVE-Make improvements by using inventive methods and ideas-Not with increased spending and Taxes.
- We complain about federal spending. The buck should stop here!
- Do nothing-unacceptable. Is this what has been going on? Fire your maintenance crew! Constructing public buildings is not proof of economic health.
- With the large decline in students, you should be able to close one of the school buildings, eliminating many expenses. How can you justify the central office building?
- This could wait until economy is stronger.
- The visioning committee needs to go back to the drawing board. As two taxpayers, we are living within our means. We expect the same from the school district. Just because the school district can borrow money, it doesn't mean they should. Please be realistic. What are the true needs of our school district? Thanks.
- Please maintain our school buildings. They are in fine shape.
- Instead of building a new building. Rent office space in town that already exists. You won't have to pay for maintenance. In this economy you need to think of new ways to do things. Spending taxpayer's money is not the answer.
- Let's go back to the neighborhood schools-so that the children can walk to school-and not have to ride the bus. We'll that safe on fuel and tires? Will that help with Global warming? Will that help with our taxes and you?
- Go to neighborhood schools-No more buses. Reduce the buses for children.
- How many coaches need do we need to travel with the football team. It's high school! You need to stop spending on this stuff and there would be money for textbooks.

- Return to neighborhood schools. Have special needs kids at one school to make the most of the resources.
- Tighten your belts the same way our family has had to do.
- You spend too much money on the administration. You spend too much money on the buses to the schools. Go back to neighborhood schools. They were built to accommodate the children and the parents.
- Stop b----- and live to the budget-all of us have to do this. You believe we can afford this - Forget it.
- It's the economy stupid!
- Please –do not spend our money like this-fix what is broken in our system.
- Please, oh please, we can't afford another tax.
- Quit the Wednesday afternoon schooling for teachers, teach our kids instead. Stop taking so many vacations and get out of school earlier in the spring. That will save money.
- We have declining enrollment, huge rise in property taxes, the economy is bad. We cannot afford any more money to go to the schools.
- How about if you rent all of the space where the administrators work and put Lincoln School back to use as a school.
- In the event no stimulus money is available to us, I would progress very cautiously, upgrading in increments. If stimulus money is available, I would support Option 1.
- Did you get your Tax Notice? I did! Forget about asking for more of my Hard Earned Money!!!
- Stay the course-we have declining enrollment. STOP SPENDING!
- When we had neighborhood schools-we had no money problems. We now have money problems and no neighborhood schools. Go back to the way town was built. Forget grade level schools! It was better when it was built!!
- Lewistown has always had a good school system! Let's keep it that way!
- Stop spending taxpayer money on sports we don't need – like golf, volleyball and the like.
- Just in case you haven't heard these are hard times! The country is broke. It is time to make do with what you have.
- Sixth grade girls do not need to be in the same building with 8th grade boys. These girls will be trying to get the attention of 8th grade boys rather than learning. Why not put 7th, 8th and 9th graders together for a middle school?
- Current economy will defeat a mill levy.
- Is it Taco Bell whose motto is "Think outside the bun"? The School Board needs to explore alternatives. How about using the Lincoln Building for classes? There is overcrowding in some schools. Why not bus some kids to Lincoln? There are existing buildings in Lewistown that can be made into learning centers. What comes to mind is Gehlen's IGA and the former Boy's & Girl's Club. There may be others. The big problem is why do we need to spend big bucks for fewer students? Another thing: How many of the people who are returning these questionnaires are going to remain in

lewistown for the next 20 years? Here's an example: How many superintendents have we had in the last 20 years?

- 1) Maintenance/Repairs should be pre-planned rather than delayed into crisis. 2) Lack of public information & knowledge in my opinion was responsible for low voter turnout & bond failure.
- It does not make sense to spend money we do not have in a depression.
- Fix what we have and operate within your income level as the taxpayers are required to do. Not a good time to be spending another pile of money!!
- None of the above 1, 2, or 3. There is no such thing as free money. It all comes out of taxpayers' pockets.
- To get your funding up, try consolidating with the smaller schools in Fergus County. Start saving funds for the new building.
- Leave the school as it is. Do not spend all the money.
- Taxpayers in Fergus County cannot afford to support this measure per the county's median income.
- Folks are in poor financial condition – community projects should reflect that condition.
- Wait out the existing state admin and when people wake up we can be like Sidney – oil revenues will pay everything in the way most people can even think.
- Keep junior high as a junior high school. Repair and enhance existing grade schools for grade schools.
- Put to vote a mill levy to completely fix the streets (all of them in Lewistown). By fixing them I mean tear them up and start fresh. Then maybe we would consider a mill levy for the school.
- Our country is in a recession. Taxes are rising. Where will the money come from? Please read Theo Wright's letter to the editor. If the school district continues to expect community support, they need to support the community also.
- If a student can't maintain good grades and play, he needs to drop out of sports. Homework still should be assigned 5 days a week.
- I think you people are NUTS they way the economy is.
- Move Lincoln admin to old junior high and sell Lincoln school.
- Save our tax money! Please park the activity buses during in school sessions. Too much play—no school!
- It seems like officials should realize with the recession and all the high prices that many people are having a rough time even paying their bills without supporting a large bond issue.
- The enrollment is declining – make do with what we have.
- Buildings do not make the education – it's what we do in them that makes the difference. Thanks to all those that worked with these solutions.
- Do nothing.
- Move 6-7-8 to HS, build new HS at the fairgrounds (we already own that property). New indoor pool could be incorporated into that and perhaps a new bus barn could be out there also.

- We have good buildings. All that is needed is regular maintenance on the buildings to keep them to code. Lewistown Schools, to me, has the throw away attitude of their buildings. After twenty years just build a new building instead of maintaining the buildings. You must think taxpayers have money to burn. Sorry, we don't. We maintain our homes why don't you maintain the school? Do maintenance each year.
- We don't need new buildings. We have good solid buildings just maintain them. It's a huge debt you want to lay on the taxpayers in the school district. It's uncalled for in my opinion. There is nothing wrong with what we have. Maintain it!
- If you must build a new school why not use the property the school already owns. For example, the Lincoln school building & playground are behind it. The Lincoln school is a good building already set up as a school. The playground area is more than enough too to expand as needed. The school offices can be put in any building. The Jr High football field adjacent to school could be used to expand if needed. Use what you got, don't always have to be a new building.
- Have you considered converting Lewis and Clark to a 4-8 and closing the Jr High? This would eliminate costly administration and maintenance. Does it really make sense to build another building with declining enrollment? There have got to be other options other than 'do nothing.' All of the buildings have issues. We can't afford to sink our bonding capacity into a 6-8 building while ignoring the critical maintenance needs in the district.
- Repair where absolutely needed and no more as our taxes are too high now and most of our property taxes go to schools now. Land owners are the hardest hit.
- Choose #3 as activity-wise so many of 6-7-5 now chooses using the high school; adding to, if needed, would be possible by going up 2 levels at both sites.
- Make them do or do without. Taxpayers have to. I think sports are just out of control. It costs so much for these busses to go the hundreds of miles every week and even out of state. There is nothing conservative with the way our busses are run daily.
- Until you realize that money and fancy buildings do not make good schools, I will always vote no on any school bond.
- It is difficult to consider requests for our 'new' facilities when care and maintenance cannot be performed, either intentionally or unintentionally on what we have.
- We're unable to check your website for additional information, but a thorough analysis of enrollment numbers (past, present, and projected future) is necessary to determine the feasibility of combining some of the grades and the existing facilities in the most efficient manner is required. We definitely feel that the school offices and kitchen should remain where they currently are in the old Lincoln School building. We also do not support construction of a new middle school. Analysis of costs to repair the current junior high building versus costs of renovating one or more of the other school buildings to enable housing of the combined grade configurations that are the most logical also needs to be studied thoroughly before a decision is made. With enrollment numbers down, if projected numbers do not reflect an increase, it may be the most efficient to combine grades K-2 in one building, grades 3-5 in another building and grades 6-8 in a third building and close/sell all remaining buildings. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

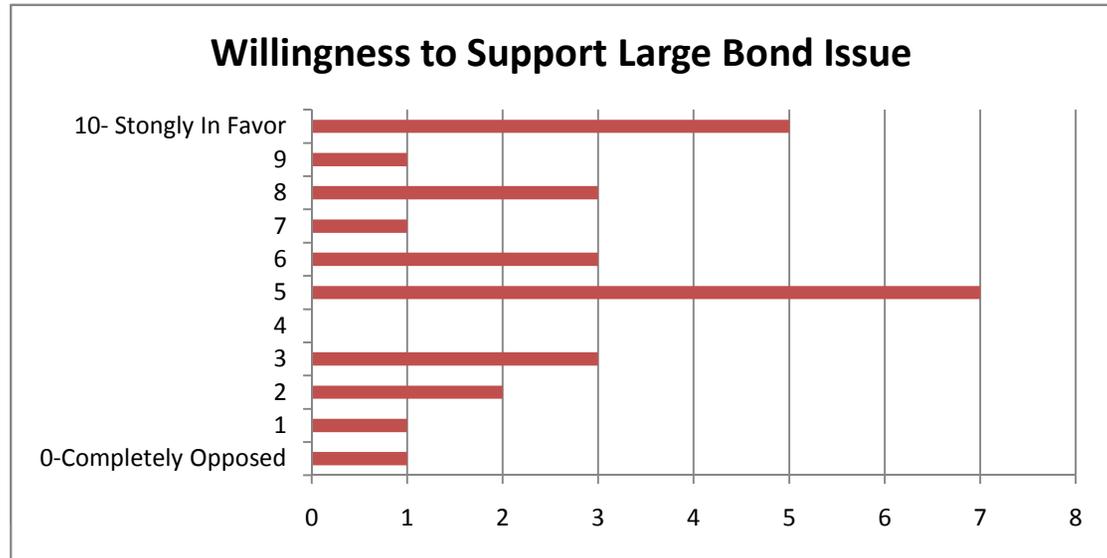
- Please keel old structure for our community.
- Return to neighborhood schools and use Lincoln building for 6th grade. Kids are growing up too fast as it is. Putting 6th grades with Jr high is a bad idea. Getting a government loan forces the job to be Davis Bacon and drives up the costs. Also makes it hard for local contractors to get any of the work.
- Maintain. That means every year – year after year. You let these buildings go and then say “Oh gosh we’ll just build a new one.” Please read and reread the attached (opinion letter from Theo Wright).
- All buildings need regular repair and the bond issue needs to address this as well.
- In Europe, buildings are in service for 100s of years. Take care of what we have. Make it last. New is not always better.
- Keep the Junior High and keep it up to showcase.
- With taxes going up this year and other groups wanting more money, I don’t think a mill levy will pass. Just fix up the buildings-one building each summer.
- I would put up a light in between the Junior High and McDonalds that is activated by a button that the kids push and the light turns yellow and a thing goes down to stop traffic for the kids to cross the street.
- Use the monies left over at the end of the fiscal year for repairs to roofs and other repairs.
- Our taxes are high enough.
- Maybe educators should get out of the school house and try making a living in the real world. Who in their right mind would build a new building on a down economy?
- Do we need a principal at every school? Save \$200,000 and get rid of them. Special needs all at one school. Get rid of all aides and teachers but a few for special needs.
- New is nice. What about the old building? I would like to tour the current Junior High.
- Option 5-Construct a new High School, including all administration offices, Bus Depot, and maintenance headquarters. (One Location)--Relocate the Junior High to the Old High School facility. Use this facility for all school arts programs. (Grades 0-8)—Sell Lincoln Building and the present Junior High.—Re-align all other grade school buildings.
- Preventative Maintenance-Maintenance is always cheaper than building. Take care of what the tax dollars have bought already.
- Convert to a system like Wyoming schools. This would eliminate some position and save \$\$\$.
- The Junior High is in a good location and you have the land there, as you have to buy land, etc.
- If the Lincoln Building is put up for sale, do you have any idea who will want to buy it or will it become another vacant building forever?
- The building (Junior High) is well constructed. Please keep it up to new standards by repair or remodel where needed.
- Try not to spend so much money. Our taxes for schools are high enough.
- Option 1-with admin and bus barn space, sell Lincoln building and sell the Junior High.
- Sell the Junior High to refurbish for Apartments. Sell the Lincoln Building. Build a Mega-school (Admin, Buses, Junior High) at Stonewood or east of Pamida.
- If you combine 6-8, where does 5 go? And 9? I live in a 103 year old home. It is beautiful but, it takes work to get it there and keep it there.
- This building (Junior High) is in a good central location for all. In view of the dwindling enrollment we need to make better use of what we have. We are taxed to death now. Farmers and ranchers and business men maintain what they have. Make do!

- It costs too much money to build and build. It is time to cut the costs and quit raising people's taxes with bond issues. Be satisfied with what we have.
- Get and use qualified teachers. Buildings are merely shelter and community meeting place. My house and shop are old to-like me.
- You need cost estimates if you want an intelligent answer.
- I think it would be a shame to have the current Junior High be another dilapidated building in Lewistown (although a lot of buildings are being renovated). What would happen to the current Junior High if new construction?
- Concentrate on doing your jobs as teachers and not sitting around spending taxpayer's money! Your jobs are to teach, not spend, spend, spend!
- The Berg property would be the best site.
- If this Democratic run government has its way, things will only get worse.
- Put the Junior High on the Historic National Register like the buildings downtown that everyone is so proud of. Perhaps some grant money would become available.
- Repair the Junior High Building and use it as is.

Parent Portal Survey Response

First, please rate your current willingness to support a large bond issue to repair our existing facilities and/or construct a new school building:

0-Completely Opposed	1
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	0
5	7
6	3
7	1
8	3
9	1
10- Strongly In Favor	5



Comments:

I am not necessarily opposed to change and updating. However I am opposed to the costs. I believe that having the 6th grade with the junior high is a BAD idea.

My point about the whole money thing is this: I am an RN for -----, work as sub teacher for ----- and ----- schools. My wages as a state employee were froze for 2 years. Yet the teachers recieved a raise. Where did the money come from for them to receive raises? Maybe that money should have went to remodeling and/or rebuilding than to their salaries. I am not saying they don't deserve it. We deserve it too.

Yes a bus barn is needed. Why not move the bus barn to the back empty lot of the Lincoln Building. Give the Lincoln Builing a new roof. Take the back lot and construct a bus barn; in the process of that add onto the Lincoln School concecting it to the bus barn. ☐

The Junior High front drop off is dangerous. However, have you been in the Junior High? Those kids are well equipped to defend themselves. Yes their gym needs to be redone.

I do think the empty land out at the old Berg Lymber site is a wonderful idea for new building ideas. The land should not cost the tax payers alot of money as the city acquired it for almost nothing. Make that the area for the offices, bus barn, and junior high. I would also suggest a possible swimming pool that could be open year round for the public during nonschool functions and staffed by the city of Lewistown; as say a type of partnership. A money maker for both. I am concerned about the money.

not enough information for me to rate my willingness. Repair what? Build what? Why?

Repair, yes. Construct, strongly no.

Depends on what the bond issue is for and where the new school will be.

Please rank these options in the order you would most prefer (1 = Favorite, 5 = Least Favorite)

Number of Rankings	Ranking					Average Ranking
	1	2	3	4	5	
Option 1 - Construct new Middle School	8	1	2	5	6	3.0
Option 2 - Repair / enhance existing JH	7	8	7	0	0	2.0
Option 3 - Convert LC to Middle School	5	6	8	3	0	2.4
Option 4 - Do Nothing / Maintain	2	3	2	11	4	3.5
Other			1		4	4.6

Comments:

I don't know what is wrong with the current junior high school. It is certainly not overcrowding issues.

The city of Lewistown is seeking repairs/ideas for the swimming pool. I suggest when building that a swimming pool be constructed that is also public accessible. When there are no school functions occuring in the pool then open it up to the public. Go on joint partnernership with the city of Lewistown. Could be a money maker for both entities. There are is not alot for families to do in the winter in Lewistown that is affordable.

If you want a large bond, tell me what you want and why. This Survey is tainted

I am concerned about constructing a new school when enrollments continue to decline. Using what we have and selling the Lincoln Building makes sense to me.

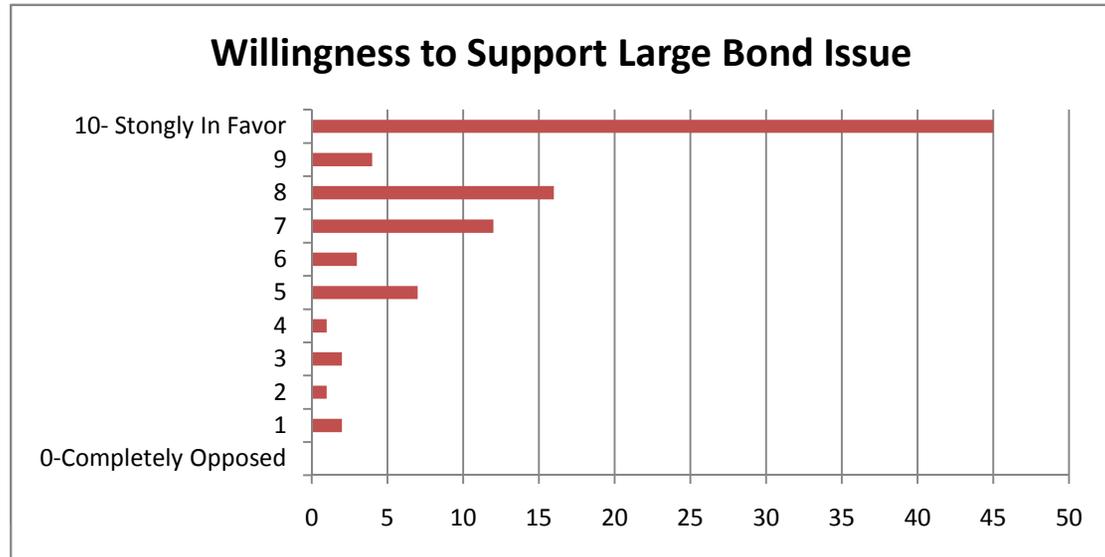
Please consider longterm costs of new buildings and changes as well as initial cost. Location of new junior high school is very important. Current location reduces transportation costs/needs for many students - they can walk to school. Placement of junior high near edge of town would increase traffic conjestion etc. Current location or at Lewis and Clark would reduce these concerns. With decreasing enrollment it may

Convert the Lewis and Clark School into a 5th - 6th - 7th and 8th grade shcool, it is close to the high school, so they can also use their facilities, the adjustment from 6th to Jr. High would not be so tramatic. There is plenty of room to add on a large addition.

Staff Survey Response

First, please rate your current willingness to support a large bond issue to repair our existing facilities and/or construct a new school building:

0-Completely Opposed	0
1	2
2	1
3	2
4	1
5	7
6	3
7	12
8	16
9	4
10- Strongly In Favor	45



Comments:

<i>Building - rate of 9 to 10 Repairing - rate of about 5</i>
<i>Don't really want to increase my taxes, but would like to see the district progress.</i>
<i>I am strongly in favor of this as long as we are truly looking at long term solutions. I think we should look at what Laurel had done. It has been discussed that we could eliminate multiple buildings which I think makes sense.</i>
<i>I believe we should build a new junior high instead of putting expensive 'band-aids' on it every year. The students, as well as fall and winter sports teams could benefit from a new gymnasium. Since the J. H. gym is way past its prime, and not much for a practice facility. I just believe it makes sense to build for the future.</i>
<i>I certainly support the repair and possible construction of a new facility. It worries me some as to how large 'large' really is. It seems like our taxes keep going up and I would like to know what you are looking at as far as an amount.</i>
<i>I feel that with the age of the current buildings we would end up yearly fixing these buildings.</i>
<i>I think Jason and Mike have been doing a good job of getting the word out and if they continue to do so I believe the voters of Lewistown will see the value in this project.</i>

<i>I would like the new buiding to be for students.</i>
<i>I would support a large bond issue if it were for repairs only. Not for building a new school.</i>
<i>It is inevitable that we will need to build a new facility in the future. Let's do it now before the prices on construction go even higher.</i>
<i>It is necessary I feel.</i>
<i>it should have been replaced 30 years ago</i>
<i>It would be good to take advantage of intrest free money if we can</i>
<i>New Middle School!!! Quit pumping money into out-dated buildings like the Jr. High</i>
<i>none at this time</i>
<i>This is a need that will not go away. It doesn't make sense to spend more money on old facilities like the Junior High.</i>
<i>This is has to be voted as a yes now or we lose the money allowed for us to use.</i>
<i>This may seem like a large price tag, but building costs are down and the stimulus opportunity makes building even less. There is a need for a newer structure. I have no doubt that if we don't take advantage of this opportunity we'll end up paying much more for the same facility or the same amount for an inferior facility.</i>
<i>We have to plan for our communities and schools' future. Our school buildings will not last forever and this stimulous money opportunity is one that should not pass us by.</i>
<i>Well designed and utilized educational facilities would make Lewistown an attractive location for small business and families.</i>
<i>With an appropriate sized gym for class and community use.</i>
<i>With the new reappraisals out, our R/E taxes will take a jump of at least \$200, not including what this would cost per year.</i>
<i>You would have to prove to me it is really the best choice.</i>
<i>Our buildings are just getting older and will cost more in the future to maintain and upgrade. The stimulus money currently available for building comes at such a good price that I feel we have to try to take advantage of this opportunity. A new building could be more energy efficient and, in the long run, more economical. I think we really have to be looking to the future.</i>
<i>I am stongly in favor of this as long as we are truely looking at long term solutions. I think we should look at what Laurel had done. It has been discussed that we could eliminate multiple buildings which I think makes sense.</i>

Please rank these options in the order you would most prefer (1 = Favorite, 5 = Least Favorite)

Number of Rankings	Ranking					Average Ranking
	1	2	3	4	5	
Option 1 - Construct new Middle School	66	9	3	4	2	1.4
Option 2 - Repair / enhance existing JH	9	18	32	9	12	3.0
Option 3 - Convert LC to Middle School	6	37	21	8	10	2.7
Option 4 - Do Nothing / Maintain	3	5	9	41	22	3.9
Other	5	1		1	14	3.9

Comments:

<p><i>#1 - Build a new Jr. High #2 - Fix the old Jr. High and house School Food, Central Office & CMLRCC</i></p>
<p><i>A 6-8 should allow the district to more effectively staff all the K-8 buildings. The disparity between the JH class sizes and the lower elementary class sizes should be addressed if this is successful.</i></p>
<p><i>A new Middle School would really benefit kids. 6th graders need to be in a 6-8 building.</i></p>
<p><i>Actually I am only in favor of the first option. None of the others seem like a good use of our taxpayers' dollars.</i></p>
<p><i>Build a building that would house all the pre K. , K, 1st, 2nd, and special needs children central kitchen, and the administration. Also have the bus barn located in the same area. This new building could then be the center point of the educational start of all students in the Lewistown school system. It all the concerns, needs, questions, paperwork, k. screenings etc. could be in one location. The other buildings could then be reshuffled and used to house the older students. Sell the oldest buildings and keep the newest buildings maintained and upgraded as needed.</i></p>
<p><i>Build a New One!!!!!!!!!!!!</i></p>
<p><i>Construct a new middle school and add Lincoln and possible bus barn to one building.</i></p>
<p><i>construct a new middle school and return elementary to neighborhood schools</i></p>
<p><i>hmm, I not sure about ranking #7 I have always thought that Lewistown needs a new Middle School.</i></p>
<p><i>I am curious to where the money went from the last election where we were supposed to get air conditioning in the elementary schools. The voters VOTED for that and it hasn't happened. Where did the money go for that?????AND why hasn't it been done yet?</i></p>
<p><i>I cannot see 8th graders in the Lewis and Clark building without major updates which would mean more money.</i></p>
<p><i>I like the idea of a new 6-8 middle school, combined with an administrative building and a bus barn. then selling the junior high and lincoln building. It's long overdue</i></p>
<p><i>I like the idea of the new school being built west of town up past the hospital. There is easier access, the truck by-pass helps cut down on truck traffic that the east end would have. It is closer to HP, Lewis & Clark and High school and it is a fairly residential area.</i></p>
<p><i>I really like the old JH Building, both it's character and location, updating it and expanding it would be a great option, but a new middle school campus, I believe, would be the best option because I think the old JH still would have space issues even with an upgrade.</i></p>
<p><i>I would like to see the existing Junior High building repaired and then used for the District School offices in place of the Lincoln Bldg. Has anyone thought of constructing or adapting a buiding on the outskirts of the city to house a new Bus Barn and District 1 offices on the same property? The existing Junior High could be sold to be renovated for low income apartments (?) or other district offices or business requiring more space.</i></p>
<p><i>If the plan is to move Lincoln to the Junior High - why not make Lincoln an alternative school?</i></p>
<p><i>I'm in favor of new construction with the interest free money from the stimulus package.</i></p>

<p><i>It seems most reasonable to me to house the bus barn, Lincoln building, as well as middle school all in one. By selling the Lincoln Building and the Junior High school, there is some added income that wasn't figured in the initial projections. Also, the Junior High comes with that open adjacent lot which has to be worth something.</i></p>
<p><i>look at constructing a 5-8 middle school like Laurel.</i></p>
<p><i>school and it should also host a large gym for class use and community use. We can also add on to Lewis and Clark because they have the most room to grow. The jr. high can be useful to our administrators as well as they county. Rent out floors/rooms to appropriate businesses. Be bold, look to the future. Something needs to be done.</i></p>
<p><i>Pray</i></p>
<p><i>The junior high is unsafe for human use.</i></p>
<p><i>The middle school option is the only one listed that addresses the majority of the facilities needs of the district.</i></p>
<p><i>your only option is to persue replacement of the JH</i></p>
<p><i>I think constructing a new middle school would be a very good idea for reasons stated by many people. I have heard some people have ideas like including a bus barn and/or administration building with the new middle school. While I agree that these things need attention as well, I do not favor including them in the plan. I think the job and expense would be so great that it would drive people away. Lets get through step 1 before moving on to step 2.</i></p>
<p><i>Build a building that would house all the pre K. K 1st 2nd and special needs children central kitchen and the administration. Also have the bus barn located in the same area. This new building could then be the center point of the edcational start of all students in the lewistown school system. It all the concerns needs questions paperwork k. screenings etc. could be in one location. The other buildings could then be reshuffled and used to house the older students. Sell the oldest buildings and keep the newest buildings maintained and upgraded as needed.</i></p>

lincoln sold, LHS becomes central office, new 6-8 building to include bus barn and possible future central office