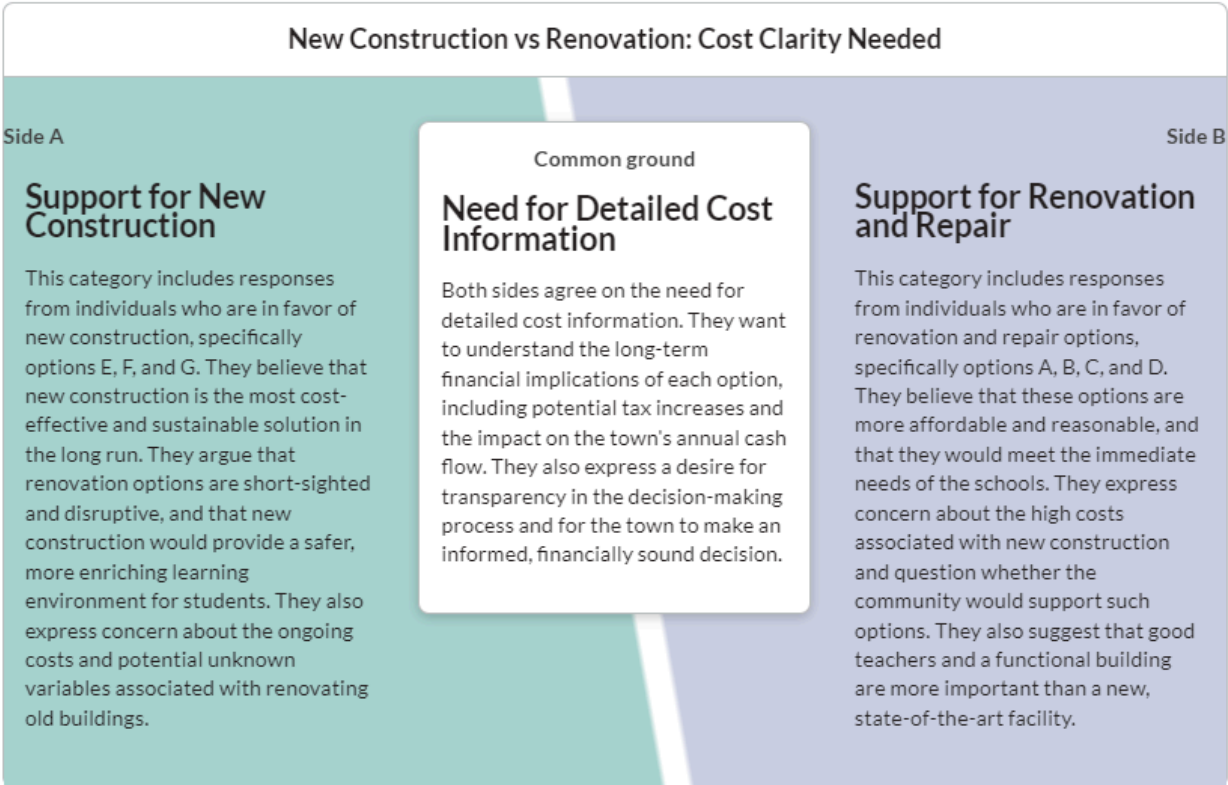


Public Feedback on the Seven Options Summary

February 15, 2024

The responses to the question about the Seven Design Options presented were varied, with a significant number of respondents favoring Option G, which involves building new schools. They cited reasons such as meeting more community priorities, including outdoor learning and play, and the urgency of rising construction costs. Some respondents expressed concerns about the lack of detail in the information provided and questioned the alignment of the new build or renovation with state guidelines. Others preferred Option C, viewing it as a compromise, while some strongly advocated for renovation over new builds. A few respondents supported Options A or B, and some expressed concerns about the financial implications of the options, particularly in relation to tax increases. There were also suggestions for alternative funding mechanisms and calls for more information on the long-term costs of the options.



Top 3 preferred options

Based on the feedback from the survey, the top three preferred options are:

Option G

Summary: Option G, which involves the replacement of both the elementary and middle schools, was the most preferred option among the participants. The participants felt that this option would address most of the issues the schools are currently dealing with, for the longest amount of time. They also felt that it would be the most cost-effective in the long term, despite the higher upfront cost. The participants also appreciated the fact that this option would cause the least disruption to the students.

Quote: "I'm highly in favor of option G. It would take care of most of the issues the schools are currently dealing with, for the longest amount of time. I see no sense in smaller-scale "fixes" that will ultimately end with more money piling up for ongoing repairs."

Option E

Summary: Option E, which involves the replacement of one of the schools, was the second most preferred option. The participants felt that this option would be a good compromise, providing a balance between cost and benefit. They also felt that this option would be less disruptive to the students compared to the renovation options.

Quote: "If there isn't a way for the town to deliver Option G in a reasonably affordable way - which is absolutely worth exploring if this option has a lot of community support - then I would support option E as I believe the middle school is in worse shape than Pond Cove and should be replaced first."

Option C

Summary: Option C, which involves a moderate renovation of the schools, was the third most preferred option. The participants felt that this option would be the best compromise, providing a balance between cost and benefit. They also felt that this option would be less disruptive to the students compared to the renovation options.

Quote: "I like c - seems to be the best compromise."

These preferences reflect the participants' desire for long-term solutions that address the current issues in the schools, while also minimizing disruption to the students. They also highlight the participants' willingness to invest in the future of the schools, despite the higher upfront costs.

Top 5 Concerns

Concern 1: Financial Impact and Affordability

Why it's important: Many respondents expressed concerns about the financial impact of the proposed options, particularly in relation to the potential increase in taxes. This is a significant concern as it directly affects the residents' cost of living and their ability to afford the proposed changes.

Value associated: The value associated with this concern is financial stability and sustainability. The residents value a plan that is not only beneficial for the schools but also financially feasible for the community.

Concern 2: Quality of Education and Staffing

Why it's important: Several respondents emphasized the importance of quality education and staffing over the physical state of the buildings. They believe that the focus should be on hiring more staff and improving their pay rather than investing heavily in new buildings.

Value associated: The value associated with this concern is the quality of education. The respondents believe that the quality of education is primarily determined by the quality of the staff, not the buildings.

Concern 3: Long-term Sustainability and Efficiency

Why it's important: Many respondents expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability and efficiency of the proposed options. They believe that investing in new buildings would be more cost-effective in the long run than continuously repairing the old ones.

Value associated: The value associated with this concern is long-term sustainability and efficiency. The respondents value a plan that is not only beneficial in the short term but also sustainable and efficient in the long run.

Concern 4: Disruption to Students

Why it's important: Several respondents expressed concerns about the potential disruption to students during the construction or renovation process. They believe that the disruption could negatively impact the students' learning experience.

Value associated: The value associated with this concern is the students' learning experience. The respondents value a plan that minimizes disruption to students and ensures a conducive learning environment.

Concern 5: Transparency and Detailed Information

Why it's important: Some respondents expressed a need for more detailed information and transparency in the decision-making process. They want to understand the rationale behind the proposed options and their potential impact on the community.

Value associated: The value associated with this concern is transparency and informed decision-making. The respondents value a process that is transparent and provides them with the necessary information to make informed decisions.