

Chalkboard

By

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If you have been reading the Chalkboard in recent weeks you know I have been promoting a survey the school district's **Gentry Public School District Facilities Ten Year Master Plan Committee** has offered on our district's website. As I have been explaining in those articles, the district is charged with creating and submitting a plan to the *Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation Commission*. The survey had only 22 questions, six of which had places for open-ended responses; i.e., the respondent could not only just select an answer from the provided options but could also type in an opinion.

As promised, I want to share the results, which deal with the facilities issue, of the survey with you. It will take several future *Chalkboards* to do so; so read on to find out more or tune out for a few weeks. I start this week with what many might see as the most pertinent question, Question 18, which asked, "**Should the district's next major building program be to**". In answering this question the respondent could only choose one answer. Two hundred and forty-seven respondents answered this question. The question, the choices, and the percentages of answers are as follow.

Question 18. "**Should the district's next major building program be to:** 5.7% renovate the buildings at the Intermediate School, 27.9% build a new Intermediate School, 13% add classrooms to the Primary School and make a Primary/Intermediate Campus, 2% build a P.E. gymnasium at the Primary Campus, 27.5% build a new high school, 1.6% expand the middle school, 5.7% None of the above, 16.6% What I want....

Forty-one respondents chose "What I want" and typed in a reply. Their unedited opinions are as follow. "1. Add on to the current high school and renovate the intermediate school. 2. a new gymnasium for high school. 3. Renovate the locker rooms so there is no outside access and all students can have a place to put their belongings during PE. 4. I think we should combine K-5th into one school campus like most other school districts do, and eliminate certain positions such as one of the principals to put the state money to better use for our students. 5. I have concerns about the Middle School, [Author's Note: Intermediate School perhaps?] but am not informed enough to say whether we should repair or rebuild. But would say something does need to be done to it first before doing any other projects. 6. Full size gym at the Primary school with minimal bleachers for tournaments and community use. 7. new football facility. 8. Please don't put GPS and GIS in the same building again. It is just too difficult on the staff, students and parents. 9. I definitely think the intermediate needs new facilities possibly over behind the other

3 school and make it all there together. Also, the high school needs upgraded/updated. **10.** More data needs to be provided. What will the cost be for each? How can parents make an educated decision that is best for the students without more data. This survey is only going to reveal emotional decisions not educated decisions. **11.** Build intermed. school or add on to primary school and move admin. to high school campus **12.** covered drop off spot for middle school **13.** some renovation at GIS but build a new GHS. **14.** build a new intermediate school on pioneer lane **15.** need a new gym **16.** We could build a new high school, and move the campuses around. The middle school takes over the h.s. and the intermediate takes over the m.s. It seems like the best move to make. We need to make our campuses appealing but have the space to offer a wide variety of academics. **17.** Add what is needed to each campus **18.** A temporary fix to the Intermediate, and a new High School built. I believe that this would be a logical solution for the growth of the community. The Intermediate school is to open for such young students, anyone can wonder up on the campus. It just does not seem logical to improve this school. **19.** If it's going to take YEARS (3-4) to POSSIBLY get funding for a new intermediate school, why not use what is already there? It may take years to get approval for a new intermediate school especially after building the primary school **20.** new band and choir rooms **21.** make improvements to the current High School facilities **22.** Do not join primary and intermediate school on one campus **23.** Not currently familiar enough with the growth in each individual school to give an appropriate answer. **24.** sports facility for basketball, ect. more gym space **25.** Build a new high school, move the middle school into the high school, and then move the intermediate school into the middle school. **26.** The Intermediate School is the only building that needs work. The Primary should have been built big enough to begin with, instead of worrying about making it look fancy. The High School is fine except the office wasn't put in the front of the school where the staff could over see the coming and going of visitors and staff. One thing that could (should) be done is air conditioning put in the High School Gym. Homecoming and tournaments and games (volleyball, basketball, etc.) are just too hot, people can't breathe, it's just miserable sometimes. **27.** please do not combine primary and intermediate at same location **28.** when you look at expansion we need to look at different locations instead of one campus. **29.** Build and Intermediate School but consider traffic issues **30.** The best long term solution for the condition of the Intermediate School **31.** a new gymnasium complex with 1 or 2 auxiliary gyms attached with one of the auxiliary gyms could double for a Physical Education Gym for the Primary Campus **32.** Build a new high school, move middle into old high school and move intermediate into current middle school **33.** I think the most "long-term" beneficial program would be to build a new high school, move present middle school to high school; intermediate to

present middle school building. I absolutely think that renovating the buildings at the intermediate school would be a HUGE waste of the taxpayers money. The building needs to be condemned!!! **34.** Build a new high school, move GMS into old GHS, Move GIS into old GMS, get all the school buildings together **35.** cheer gym **36.** Consider traffic congestion when Intermediate is built **37.** all of the above would be an improvement, so whichever is most cost effective in the long run based on estimated attendance per age group. **38.** renovate the high school auditorium **39.** Expansion should be dependent on student enrollment **40.** Update sport facilities, update technology program, build where shortages are **41.** build a new high school then move MS to old HS and GIS to old MS.”