



Verbatim Responses

Recorded on worksheets as a result of the small group work activity
Community Engagement Session #5 • November 9, 2022

On November 9, 2022 Unite U-46 held a small-group work session to discuss refining and finalizing the Unite U-46 recommendations. After a presentation on the topic, participants divided themselves among eight in-person tables and three virtual groups to prepare responses to the following activity and tasks:

Activity:

Task #1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

In tonight's presentation, you were presented with the recommendations developed from community suggestions at previous Unite U-46 community engagement sessions and the community survey. We realize there are very few things in life that can be labeled "perfect" and that is also true for any final solution to move our schools forward. Tonight, we have one question for you. Did we get it right? Does the plan presented fulfill the charge provided to us by the Board of Education?

- ☐ Yes! This is a great plan that will move U-46 school forward.
- ☐ Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task #2: Trust and Transparency

Throughout the Unite U-46 process, we have gained unique insight into the operation of our schools. As we move forward, how can our school district continue to increase trust and transparency and enhance open, honest communication?

IN PERSON

Table #12

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1:

1. Bullet points to compare Plan B and C.
2. Show the locations on a map as you discuss them
3. Include timeline for transition to 6-8th middle; more pk in buildings (dates were not on slide).
4. Mention what will happen to IL PK (confusion in our group b/c it was newer).

Task 2:

- Regarding Unite U-46 suggested referendum, please make the info sheet clear for each stakeholder (community member, parents, etc.) that taxes will not go up. Existing rate to improve them gradually.
- How can we have bond debt and also a surplus?

Table #13

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. Small sample size
2. 2K under represented
3. Focus on better perception of U46 to increase and attract populations to U46.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- I/We feel we have been communicated too.
- Via online
- Add middle option - to provide further information to communities under represented.
- Door to Door?

Table #16 (Spanish)

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. Increase security at the school
2. Increase training for staff members

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- Continue using emails and texts to communicate with parents
- We will share the information with our neighbors and friends who also have children at our schools.

Table # 21

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. While good schools are being addressed fully, middle schools are not being addressed at all, so 2 extremes.
2. Pre-school programs require specialized resources (staff, buildings, etc.) which won't be fully met - particularly staffing.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- Regularly report financial status both externally and internally, even before a major initiative arises.
- Tailor communication to stakeholders in the community whose only involvement would be paying taxes.

Table # 22

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. During process what would enrollment and class sizes be
2. Where will students go while rebuilding schools and how long a disruption.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- We need more details for greater transparency. Where does that 10 million come from? How are community members with no kids hearing about this? We had 1st time hearers. Once this is done how will we measure and communicate the equity results.? Re Equity need more between gen eds and dual language classes/very depends on what part of town
- Suggestions:
 - Use neighborhood associations/DNA groups
 - Use city and library newsletter. Do a mailing
 - Door to door

Table # 23

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. Lack of preschool model that is feasible for working parents w/preschool centers w/dedicated age-appropriate facilities and staffing.
2. Buildings need to be built with classrooms that can handle 45 students due to teacher shortage. - Solar power to support energy needs of 1:1 technology. This would also improve community emergency preparedness.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- Need more community engagement and transparency on boundary changes.
- Need for a LONG TERM financial and facilities plan that will ensure we do a major rebuild/remodel/new construction w/existing budget every 2-3 years.
- Need for more details on funding distribution per pupil, per school, how we will staff these facilities, etc.
- Need more transparency on what other financial news the district can expect in the next 10-30 years.
- Have we even finished paying off Illinois Park yet? It was just built in 1999.
- Need to get principal buy-in and get them to promote the plans.

Table # 24

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. Clarify how to update elementaries for preschool and how many per school, per network?. How many and where.
2. Clarify how the rebounding will make space and help on every level as you are stating it..

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- What is going to happen to the schools once this happens and be more clear to the community.

Table # 25

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

1. Renovations Middle School - State of art. Clear Presentation
2. Address Pre-school location and one way transportation only issue.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- Marketing - Increase knowledge of what the district offers.
- Move meetings into the community. Adjust meeting times.

VIRTUAL

Group #1 (SPN)

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

(X) Yes! This is a great plan that will move U-46 school forward.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

Teniendo mas juntas como estas, seguir haciendo encuestas en Linea, se que ya no se usa mucho, pero tambien deberian mandar información por correo regular.

Google Translate Translation:

Having more meetings like these, keep doing online surveys, I know it's not used much anymore, but they should also send information by regular mail.

Group #2

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

- "We think this is a good plan, we're on board with the updates and ideas but we have some concerns that weren't addressed...
- Including 6th graders in middle school - will they be ready for that? what are the benefits and draw backs to including kids this young?
- More people in the schools to provide safety from gun violence or CPR - is there anything in the plan for that?
- What's the timeline and what's the financial breakdown?"
- Have the 6th graders only attend 3 to 4 classes for the day entering middle school. We also wanted to get more clarification on the breakdown on the cost of all of this. Having a police officer station at every school for safety and precautions. Adding gates up at the school and all around the schools for safety. We wanted to know will the 6th graders be ready for this transition.

Task 2: Trust and Transparency

- "Let the parents know what's going on with the school; email and texting about everything.
- Informing the parents right away, instead of waiting until the last minute or having our children tell us. School shooting threat.
- Keep parents informed - over communication is better than nothing or not enough. "
- Keeping the parents informed right away versus waiting until an investigation has took in place or until our children come home and tell us what took place. Send out emails and phone calls right away about any incident that takes place at the school that could affect any of our children.

Group #3

Task 1: Did We Get It Right? - Help Us Cross The Finish Line!

(X) Almost got it, but here are a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations:

- "After the bonds are used towards improvements, how much taxes increase should be expected to continue with improvements?"

- From the financial information shared last time please share how much is going to be covered by bonds and how much is going to transfer towards the community?
- We are 3 to one on moving 6th grader to middle school.
- Are the boundary changes only for elementary and middle school or high school as well?

Task #2

- Continue to promote opportunities to join meeting.