

Presentation of Recommendations December 12, 2022

Unite U-46 Community Chairs

- *Veronica Medrano*
- *Amber Peters*
- *Chanda Schwartz*
- *Dana Wojnarowski*





The Process

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Unite U-46 is a community-led initiative to:

- Learn, review, and understand the challenges and opportunities facing U-46 schools and our school buildings.
- Use the information learned and work together as a community to develop recommendations that build upon these opportunities and overcome the challenges facing our schools.



Participants



Entire Community Encouraged To Participate

- Postcards
- Fliers
- Banners
- Bookmarks
- Facebook and Instagram
- Newspaper articles
- Website
- Email
- Text Messages
- Word of Mouth
- Communication Provided in Spanish and English

Participants

- Four Community Chairs
- 15+ Facilitating Team Members
- Feedback from more than 600 Community Members
- 2,000+ Survey Participants

Engaging the Community

Date	Topic
April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to Unite U-46• Overview of U-46 and Our Buildings
May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Our School Buildings Impact Student Success
May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Whys Behind Preschool and Middle School
September 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How School Building Improvements are Funded• Options for Moving Forward
September - October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Tour• Open Houses• Telephone and Electronic Surveys
November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refinement and Selection of Final Recommendations

Building Tour



Open Houses



Survey

- Strong representation of the community
- September and October
- Online
- Electronic
- More than 2,000 participants





What We Heard

Session #1 Feedback

Topic: Welcome to Unite U-46 and Overview of U-46 and Our Buildings

- **Surprised by:**
 - Age of U-46 buildings
 - U-46 strong financial standing and reserves
 - Need to retire, rebuild, or renovate many district buildings
- **Provided feedback on what should be addressed through the process**



Session #2 Feedback

Topic: How Our School Buildings Impact Student Success



Session #2 Feedback

Topic: How Our School Buildings Impact Student Success

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



Session #3 Feedback

Topic: The Whys Behind Preschool and Middle School

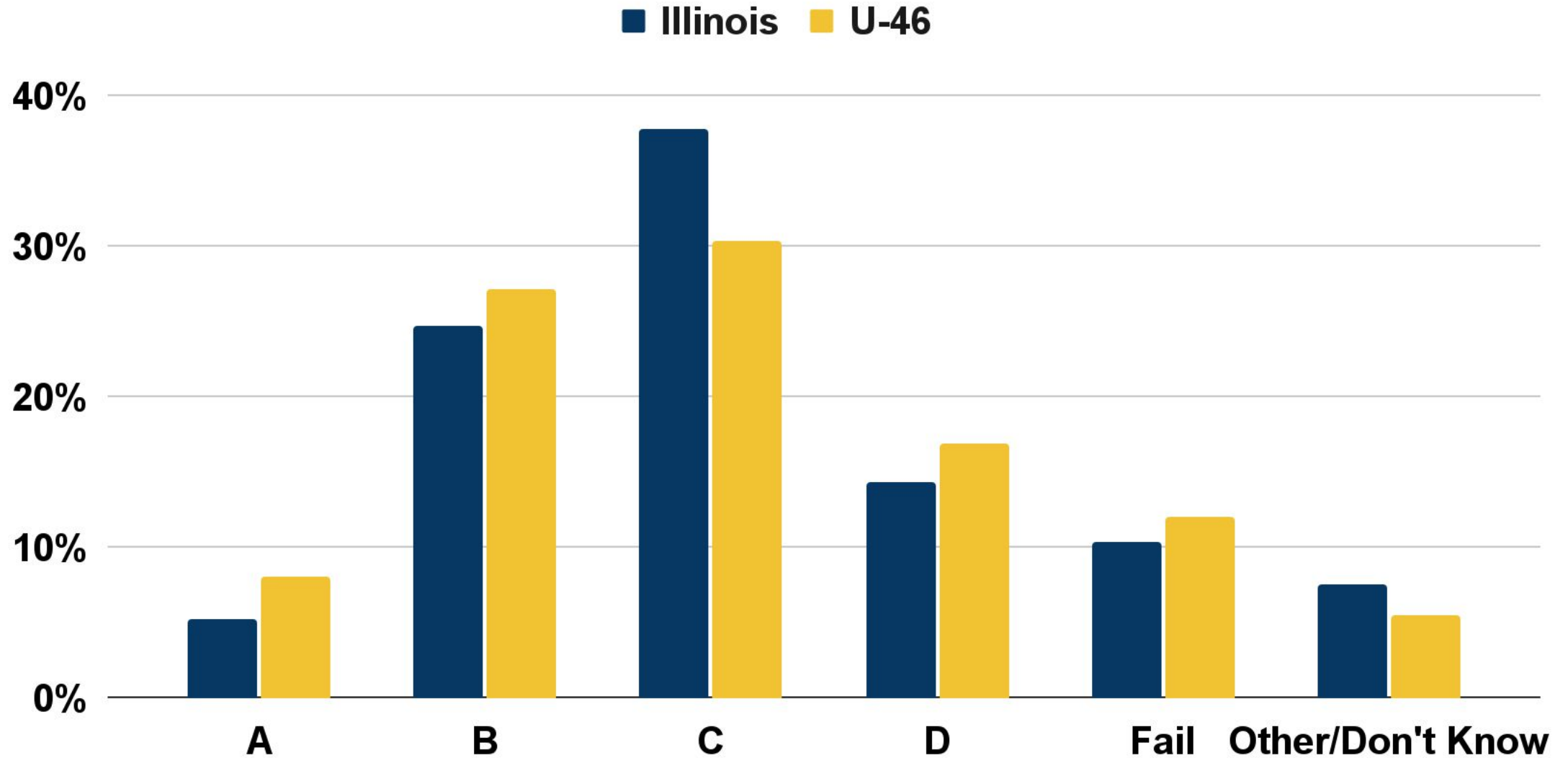


Session #4 Feedback

Topic: How School Building Improvements Are Funded Options for Moving Forward



Survey Feedback

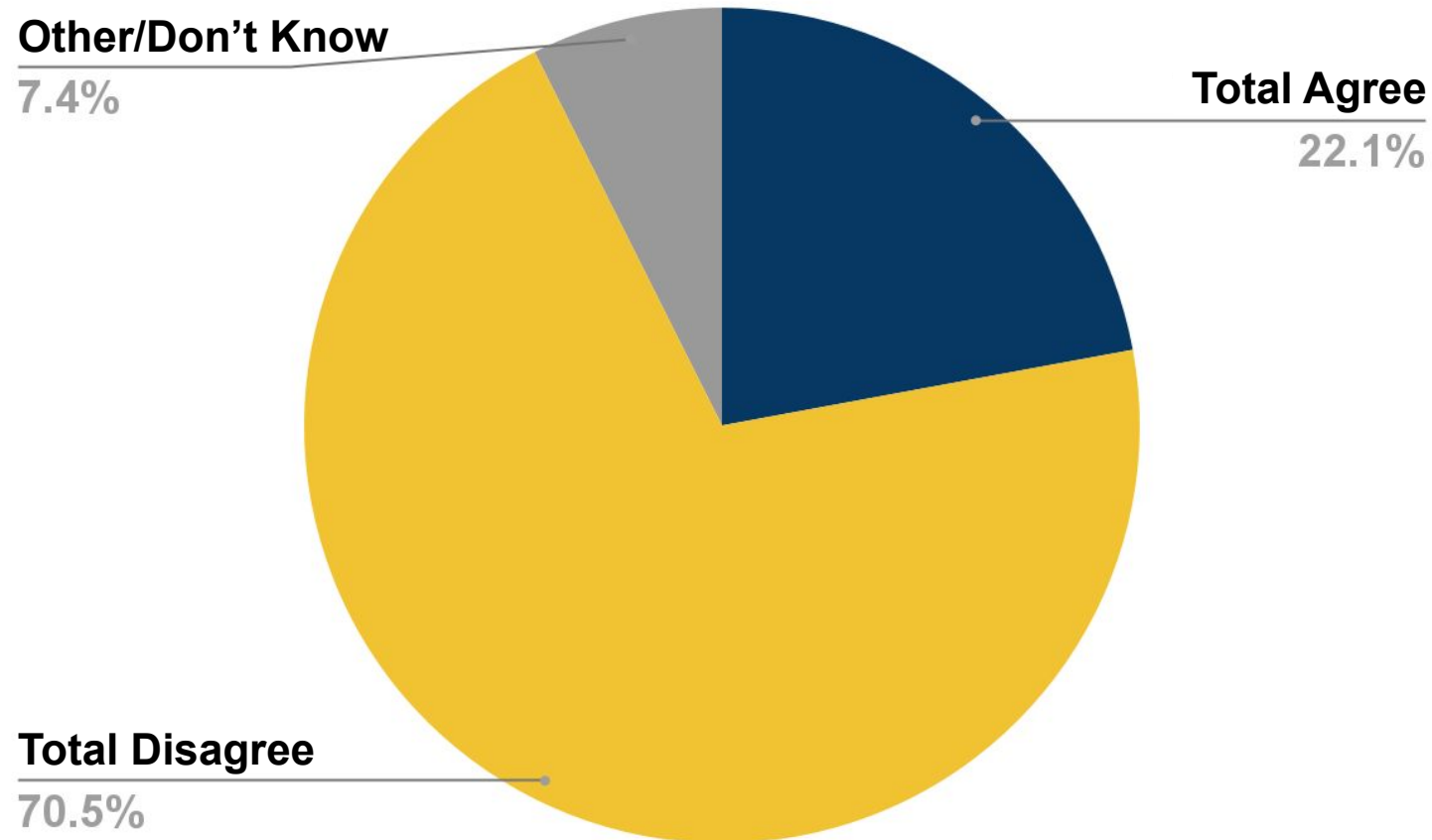


Survey Feedback

Question	Total AGREE	Total DISAGREE
We need to take steps to improve the physical condition of our schools.	72.8%	19.4%
Improving the quality of our schools is the best thing we can do to protect the investment we've made in our home.	72.3%	23.5%
Supporting U-46 is the best thing we can do to protect our property values.	70.6%	24.6%

Survey Feedback

Our school facilities are fine just the way they are. Nothing needs to be done to improve them.



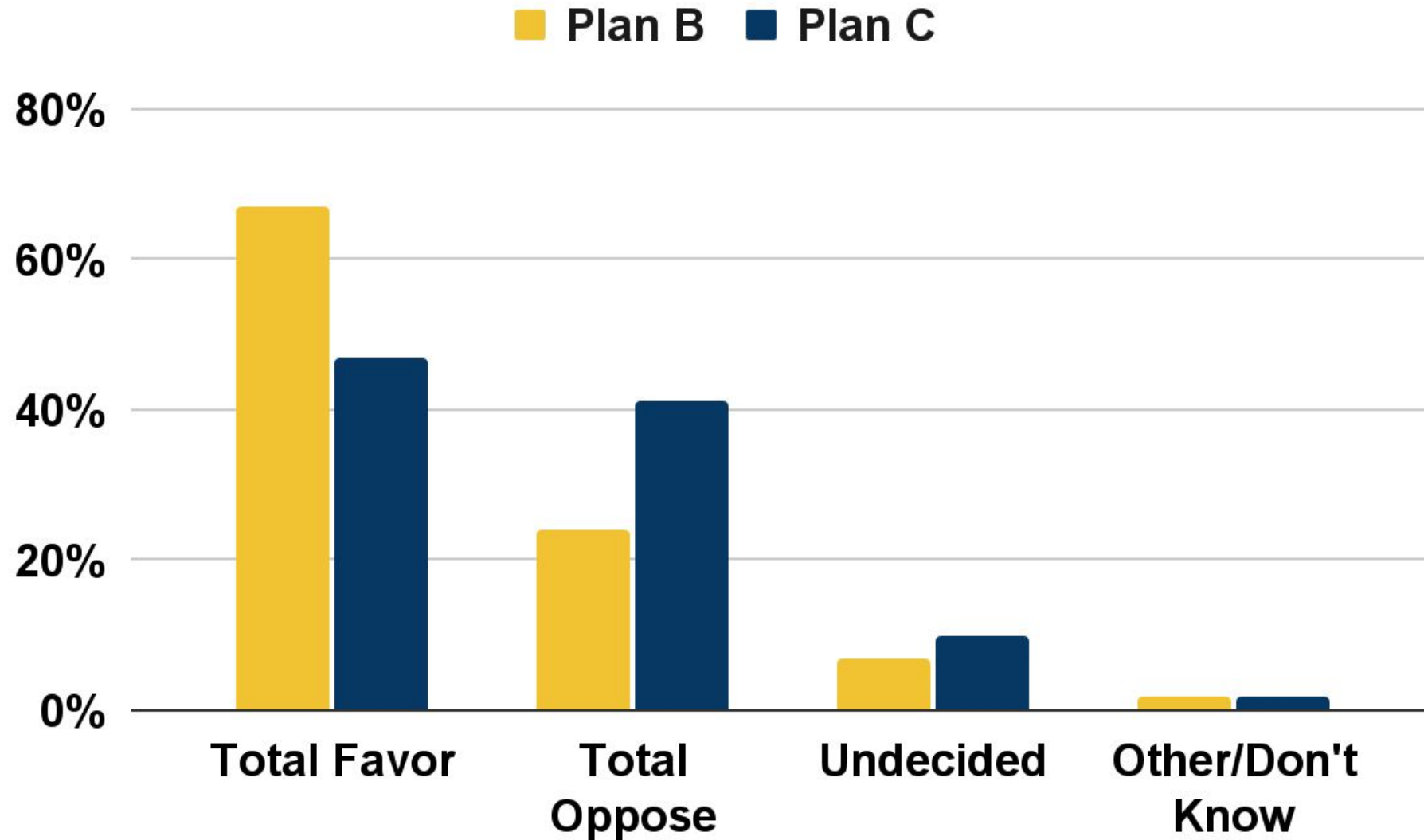
Survey Feedback

Question	High Priority
We need to take steps to improve the physical condition of our schools.	69.7%
For all schools, upgrade and renovate, where needed, building infrastructure — items like roofs, windows, electrical systems, plumbing, and HVAC.	56.8%
Improve accessibility for physically challenged students.	56.4%

Survey Feedback

Question	Strongly/Somewhat Agree
The schools in our community represent an approximately \$1.5 billion dollar investment. We must protect that investment by keeping them up-to-date and in good working condition.	84.2%
With declining enrollment, closing buildings that are old and expensive to operate makes good financial sense.	82.4%
It is important that schools throughout U-46 are equitable in terms of physical condition and educational programs.	81.2%
Investing in improved school buildings now will benefit many future generations of students and homeowners.	80.2%

Survey Feedback





Unite U-46 Recommendations To Move Our Schools Forward

Our Charge

Recommendations rooted in the charge from the Board of Education to:

- **Learn about, review, and understand:**

- Board Vision
- Long-Term Facility Challenges
- Facilities and Learning
- Enrollment
- Educational Facilities Master Plan

- **Work with the community to determine:**

- How best to address long-term facility and enrollment challenges.
- Current and accurate perceptions and priorities regarding the Educational Facility Master Plan.
- Steps to be taken to implement the Educational Facility Master Plan.

Recommendations



- Community developed
- Student focused
- Cost-effective

Key Challenges

- Declining enrollment
- Aging buildings
- Changing needs of students





As U-46 Schools Move Forward

All U-46 Students Should:

Have equitable access to programs and opportunities at school buildings districtwide.



All U-46 Students Should:



Attend schools with similar class sizes, achieved by balancing enrollment districtwide.

All U-46 Students Should:

Be well-supported
by high-quality
teachers and staff
who are well-trained
and certified in their
areas of expertise.



All U-46 Students Should:

Have their educational, social, and emotional needs addressed as they transition to preschool, elementary, middle, and high school levels and to new schools.



All U-46 Students Should:

- **Have the opportunity to learn in schools that are:**
 - Safe and secure.
 - Accessible to all.
 - Proactively maintained and updated as needed.
 - Adaptable to changing technology.
 - Integrated with the outdoors and nature.
 - Updated to include collaborative, flexible spaces that encourage group and self-learning.
 - Replaced when they have reached a point where they are more expensive to repair or renovate than replace.

The U-46 Community Should:



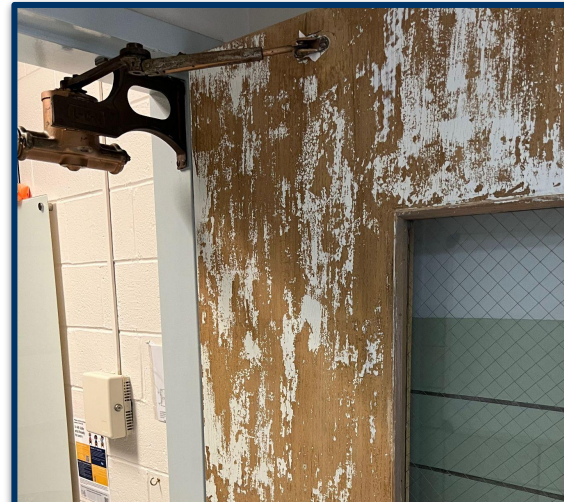
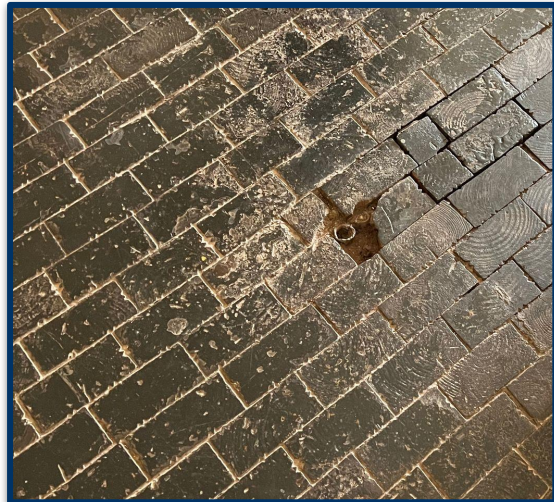
- **Continue to have the opportunity to learn and provide feedback about the future of U-46 schools through Unite U-46.**
- **Continue to be well-informed about district operations, facilities, and finances.**
- **Be well-informed and actively involved in supporting students as these recommendations are implemented and schools are retired, renovated, and rebuilt.**



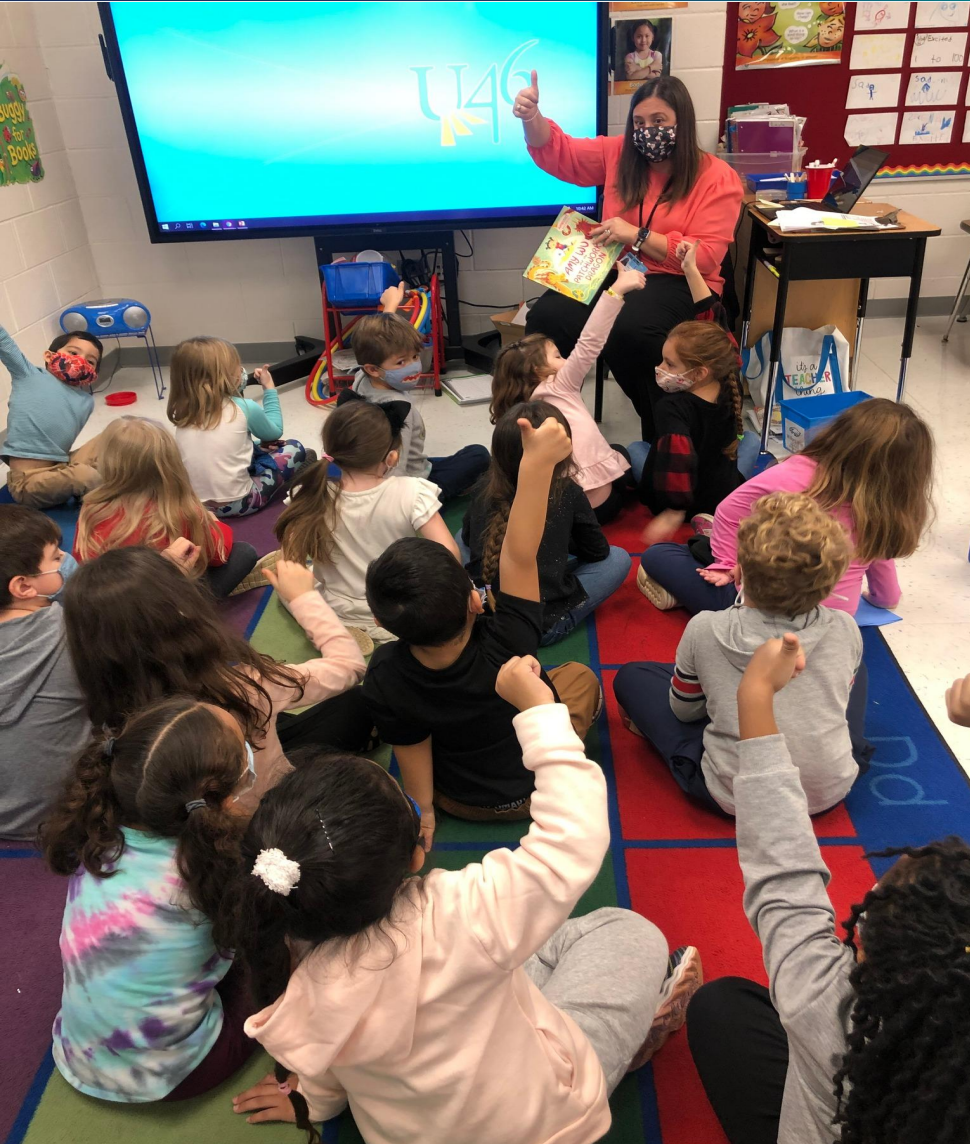
Goals To Accomplish Recommendations

Goals

**Increase
budget for
maintenance
and repair by
\$10 million
per year**



Goals



- **Balance enrollment at buildings throughout district**
- **Improve equitable access to programs at more buildings districtwide**

Goals

Update elementary school buildings to provide additional preschool opportunities



Goals

Implement a true
6th through 8th
grade middle
school model
districtwide.



Goals

Develop an initial timeline for the implementation of the Unite U-46 recommendations and thoroughly communicate this timeline with the community.





Achieving Our Goals

Retire Garfield Elementary

- Transition students to Channing and Huff Elementary Schools, that have room for more students.

In Progress





**Complete
transition of Hawk
Hollow Elementary
to a middle school.**

Happening Now!



Make necessary updates to existing middle schools to implement 6th-8th grade model.



Selectively add preschool classrooms to elementary schools based on:

- Up-to-date enrollment data**
- Available space**
- Grant funding opportunities**

- **Rebuild five Elementary Schools**
 - Lowrie
 - McKinley
 - Glenbrook
 - Century Oaks
 - Parkwood
- **Update Washington Elementary**





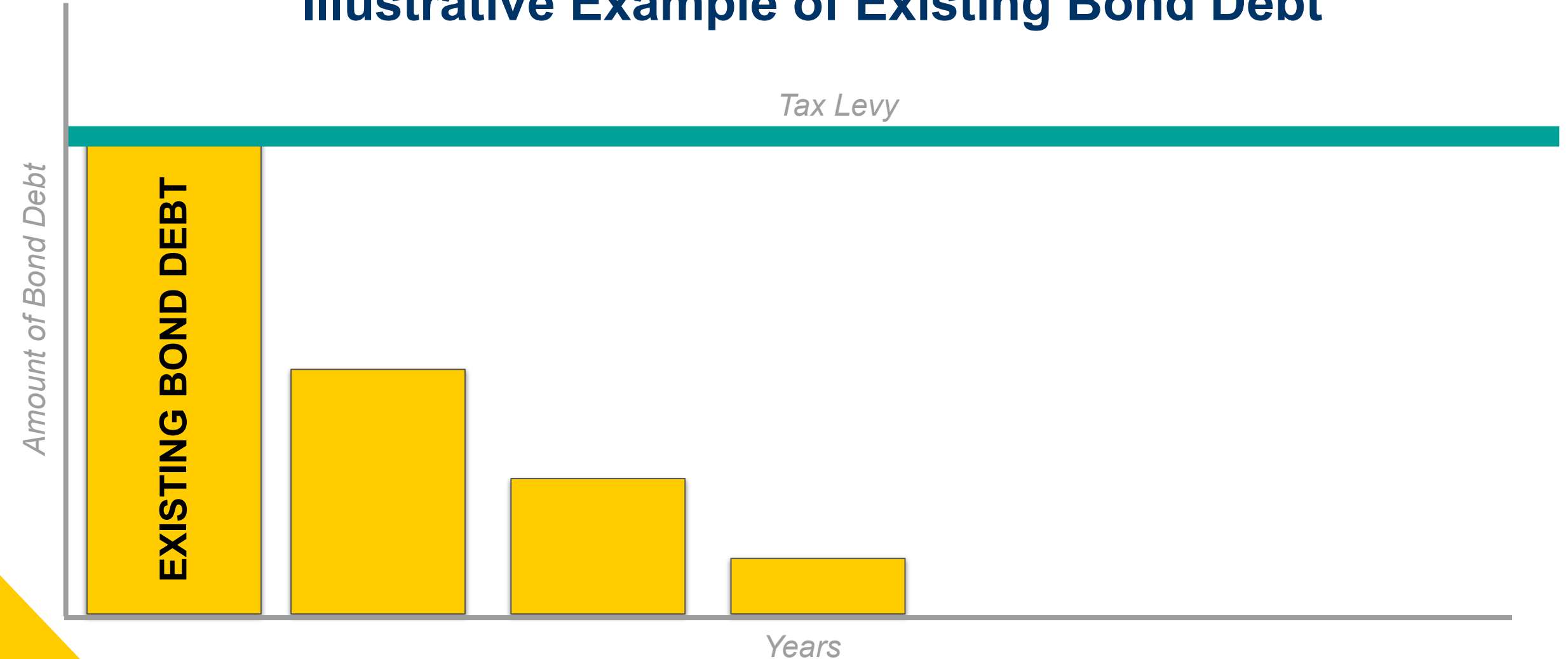
Retire Hanover Countryside Elementary after Glenbrook Elementary updates are complete.

Retire Illinois Park and More at 4 Early Childhood Centers

- Space will eventually no longer be needed with expanded preschool offerings throughout the District.



Illustrative Example of Existing Bond Debt



Example of New Bond Debt The District Can Issue Without Changing The Rate The Community Pays

Tax Levy

Amount of Bond Debt



Years



INVESTMENT \$310-\$380 MILLION

**Proposal Would Result In
Zero Tax Rate Change
For Residents***

**Combination of reserve and bond
financing.**

**Requires a successful referendum in
April 2023 to raise \$179M.**

** Zero impact to the portion of tax rate used
for paying down U-46 debt.*

THANK YOU!

