

# meeting minutes

BRAY PROJECT NUMBER | 3495

<b>Client Name</b>	Mercer County School District
<b>Project Name</b>	District-Wide Master Plan
<b>Project Location</b>	Aledo, IL
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 13, 2021
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Mercer County Intermediate School and Zoom

## Attendees:

### Mercer County School District

Scott Petrie  
Bill Smock  
Mike Bowns  
Don Yates  
Mark Bieri  
Julie Wagner,  
Stacey Day  
Tim Sedam  
Bill Fleurette  
Marcus Bush  
Ryan Koresko

### Bray Architects

John Mahon – Architect  
Mark Miller – Architect

### School Perceptions

Rob DeMeuse

**Reported By:** Bray Architects

**Purpose of Meeting:** Mercer County School District and Bray Architects met to discuss the district wide master plan.

**Overall Summary:** Mercer County School District, Bray Architects and School Perceptions met to review and discuss the results of the community wide survey.

## Meeting Minutes

Item	Description
1.0	Introduction
1.1	Rob provided a brief overview of School Perceptions for attendees of the meeting who are not members of the building committee.
1.2	Rob provided an overview of the process tool used for the survey process.

## 2.0 Survey Overview

- 2.1 There were 791 (277 paper) responses equating to a 20% participation rate.
- 2.1 In the age demographic, most participants fall into the 36-45 and 65-older age groups.
- 2.2 95% of participants live within the school district boundary. 4% of responses were from outside district boundary.
- 2.3 The majority of respondents live in Aledo.
- 2.4 77% of responses are not employees of the district. 23% of responses were employees.
- 2.5 44% of respondents have children in the district. A breakdown of which schools their children attend was reviewed.
- 2.6 A review of information preference was provided. Email and direct mailing are most preferred.
- 2.7 The facility background information was reviewed. The results of specific questions from survey were illustrated. Explanation was provided for the data provided by these results.
- 2.8 Facility planning priority results were reviewed. 50% of responses weighted towards addressing elementary needs first.
- 2.9 Financial background information was reviewed. A majority of respondents indicated support of a referendum, with weighting of each demographic group exceeding 50%. It was noted that approximately 60% would support a referendum which is exceptionally strong support.
- 2.10 Financial range information was reviewed. A majority of respondents would support a \$15M referendum. Once stepping up to \$17M there is not a majority support, therefore the recommendation would be to stay closer to the \$15M option.
- 2.11 Question was raised as to why the non-parent/non-staff category is most used for determining support and recommendation. It was noted that approximately 70-75% of tax supporters are in this category, therefore it would indicate a stronger weighting in considering the data.
- 2.12 It was noted that respondents indicated a strong support and have positive experience with the district.

## 3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 It was noted that the data received from these surveys are greater than 95% successful. The 5% unsuccessful efforts were due to not following the survey results and also due to the 2020 environment.

- 3.2 It was noted that a new tax bill was sent to residents a couple weeks after the close of the survey. The district EAV indicated an increase. Discussion was held as to how to structure use of tax referendum in combination with the EAV of the district. Scott Petrie will discuss further with King Financial to gain better understanding.
- 3.3 Discussion was held as to reviewing all information that has been used for generating a cost opinion to develop a plan that would work within the needed budget.
- 3.4 There is concern from the board that a possible second survey could be beneficial. This statement was made due to low turn-out at community meetings and the level of 'not-sure' results.
- 3.5 Question was raised as to the order of questions in the survey structure. There is question that if the high school being listed third reduced a level of response to that option. It was noted that the participants tend to respond based on where they are most interested or where their children may be now.
- 3.6 It was noted that the level of support being state at \$15M gives the district options for how much they could attribute toward any project. Because there is indication for support of a referendum the board has a starting point for how to move forward.
- 3.7 Next step is for the Bray team to evaluate the information used for costing to determine what can be achieved for a \$15M referendum, and the district members will need to further review the data received from the survey. Next meeting date TBD.

The above information is the interpretation of the meeting activities and comments; and should be reviewed by all attendees. Please comment on any discrepancies and inform the writer as soon as possible of any changes required.

Date issued: Thursday | October 14, 2021

Bray Associates Architects, Inc.



John A. Mahon, AIA, NCARB  
Delivery Team Leader | Architect

Cc: Attendees listed above and all committee members