

Harvest Report

A Community Conversation on Collingswood School District Bond Referendum

Submitted to the Collingswood Board of Education

By Richard Wilson

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Introduction

On September 28th and October 3, 2017, the Collingswood Board of Education (CBOE) sponsored two community conversations to engage the community with the opportunity to examine portions of a proposed bond referendum and to give feedback as the CBOE continues to refine the proposal before bringing it to the voters in a referendum.

The conversations included 103 community members (49 on September 28th and 55 on October 3rd). Seven school board members attended at least one of the conversations, with five school board members attending both nights. The superintendent, school business manager, and several others with knowledge of the proposal served as resource people to answer questions that participants might have had about the project.

It is important to note that, while these conversations yield thoughtful opinions of a group of residents who have given this project some serious thought, since the group is self-selected, it cannot be considered to necessarily reflect a representative sample of the entire community. The school board should use these conversations as just one additional data point in their entire process of determining priorities for the bond project.

Dr. Scott Oswald, superintendent, gave a short presentation at the start of the evening. He outlined the needs that were addressed by the project, and also explained the difference between capital budget items that could be addressed in a bond and ongoing operating costs which cannot be included in a bond referendum.

There was an opportunity for all members to engage in small group discussion and give their thoughts on the referendum in three sections. The three sections included Outdoor Spaces (rebuilding and reconfiguring the football stadium, including the use of artificial turf and the reconstruction of the track), Indoor Areas (18-21 Special Education Transition Program), and New Playgrounds at the elementary schools.

Harvest Overview

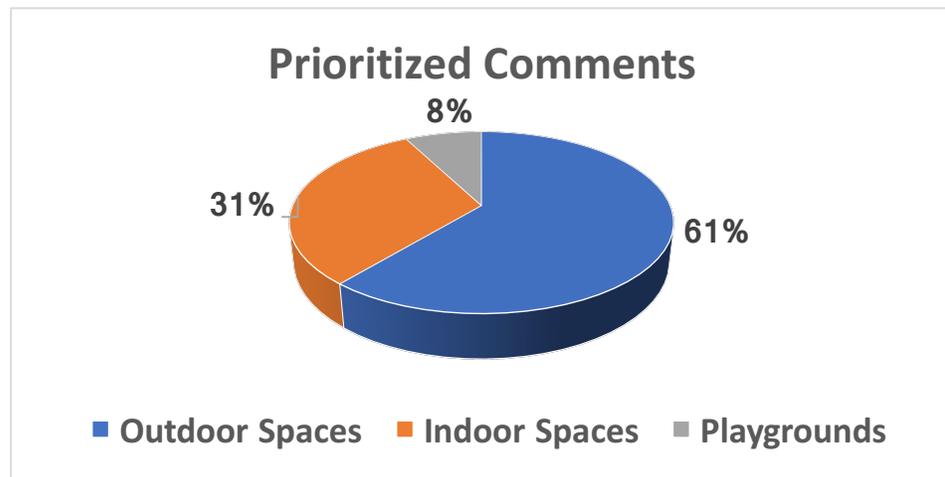
The overall conversation was hosted by community volunteer, Rich Wilson. Each small group was “hosted” by a school board member, school district staff, or a community volunteer. There were six small groups each evening, two for each of the three sections of the bond proposal. Small group hosts recorded comments in four areas: Positive comments, Challenges, Alternative ideas, and Unanswered questions. Over the two nights, 423 comments were recorded. The figures on the following page are word clouds that represent all of the comments recorded each evening. The larger the word

Following the conversations, each evening, every participant received three dot stickers and were invited to use those stickers to indicate the comments that most reflected their own personal priorities. Participants could use the stickers on individual comments, or could “weight” their comments by using more than one sticker to reflect the strength of their concern about any particular item. 101 out of the 423 comments received at least one “vote.” There were a total of 234 “votes” cast across those items.

The comments that received votes were then analyzed for similar themes and several comments were combined to communicate the strength of interest in a particular topic. (for example, if there were several comments that indicated that taxes were too high, but were worded in different ways, they were combined to indicate the strength of that sentiment). Once this was done, there were 68 themes that received at least one vote. Of those, there were 37 themes that received more than 1 vote, and 22 themes that received more than 2 votes. There were also a small number of themes that were repeated across each of the projects.

The total comments, as well as indications of the weighted voting are included in an appendix to this report. While some items were not included in the weighted voting, they include

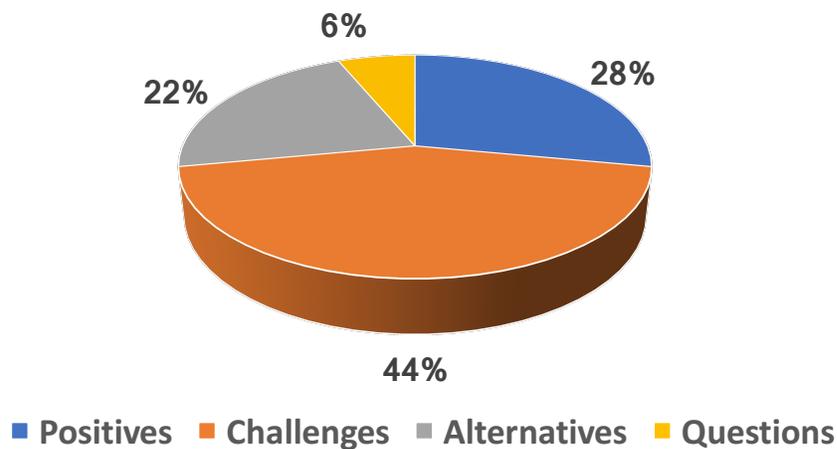
some important insights, alternative ideas, and unanswered questions that might be of value to the CBOE as the move forward with finalizing the proposed referendum.



Outdoor Spaces (Stadium Project)

By far the most concentrated interest in the bond referendum over the two days was around the Stadium project. 143 weighted comments, or 62% of all prioritized comments were in this section of the conversation harvest. 28% of the comments were positive, 44% were challenges of the project, 22% were alternative suggestions, and 6% reflected unanswered questions.

Outdoor Space Prioritized Comments



Half of the positive comments were about the use of artificial turf (14% of the overall comments on the stadium project). These comments centered on the increased performance of players and the leveling of competition as

Collingswood plays other districts using artificial turf. These comments were balanced by 6% of the comments in this area being concerned with the health impact of artificial turf on players.

There were two areas that stood out as challenges to the stadium portion of the project. By far, the largest was that of cost. 21% of the weighted votes in this area were a concern for the tax impact, as well as a few other financial comments about the overall cost of the project, which would raise the percentage of participants naming a concern about the cost of the project at 25% of this section. The second largest concern was the impact of the project on the immediate neighborhood. This included concerns for increased traffic and parking challenges, as well as the impact of light and sound of the reconfigured stadium on the neighbors immediately adjacent to the stadium. These comments made up 11% of the weighted votes in this area.

Positive comments about the project coalesced in smaller numbers around the stadium creating possible revenue, increased opportunities for non-school based athletic programs, and as a future selling point for the community.

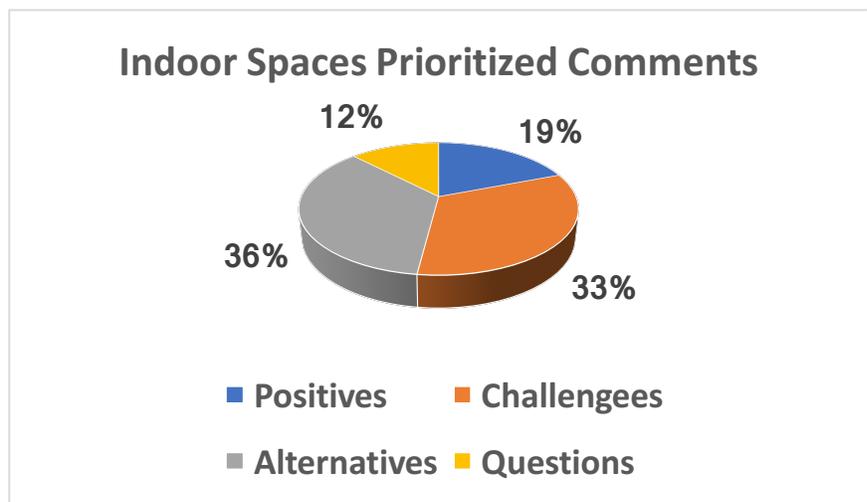
Three alternative ideas that elicited support were, a need for a greater focus on academics (5%), sharing fields with other districts to save costs (4%), and the elimination of sports programs (3%).

Indoor Spaces Project (18-21 Transition Program, STEAM Lab, Administrative Offices)

The indoor spaces project focused on three areas, an 18-21 year old special education transition program, space dedicated to a STEAM lab that could also be used by community groups such as Odyssey of the Mind, and new central administration offices to remove them from the basement of Zane North Elementary School. There were 63 “votes” within the indoor spaces section of the harvest, making up 27% of the total weighted voting.

Of those 63 votes, 19% of them reflected positive comments. More than half of those spoke to the possibility of the 18-21 transition program providing savings from keeping students in district and the potential for revenue from tuition students from other districts. Other positive

comments spoke to nurturing academics through the STEAM lab and having some of the referendum focused on improving academics.



Comments regarding challenges of the indoor spaces made up 33% of the weighted voting in this section. The largest area here was at 12% on comments supporting the idea that not enough of the project deals with academic priorities. 15% focused on the cost of the project, from concerns about taxes and the long term operational costs for the programs in this area.

The section of the Indoor Spaces that elicited the most interest was alternative ideas to achieve the goals of the project. 36% of the weighted voting could be found in looking for alternatives. The largest segment of these, making up 14% of the total weighted voting for the indoor space, was the proposal of finding another setting for the administrative offices. Suggestions ran from finding other space in the district to making use of office space elsewhere in town, including placing the central administrative offices in vacant office space on Haddon Avenue. As in the Outdoor Spaces section, there was some interest in breaking up the referendum into smaller pieces, so that voters could vote on specific parts of the project.

Elementary Playgrounds

The section of the bond project that received least interest when measured by the weighted voting was the Elementary School Playgrounds. This portion only received 19 weighted votes, which accounts for only 5% of the total votes. With such a small sample, it is difficult to see any trends. An examination of the overall harvest shows less concern about the cost and tax impact of the other two sections. Among the positive comments were an appreciation of outdoor space in the neighborhoods that are easily accessible. Within the challenges section, a number of comments were around increased liability issues resulting from the playgrounds being open beyond school hours, and some concerns for the materials being used such as rubber mulch. None of these elicited more than a single weighted vote. There were, however, several votes, and comments in the alternatives and unanswered questions that were around alternative funding sources and grants.

Recommendations

The Board of Education can make use of this harvest in several ways. First, it paints in broad strokes some of the thoughts of a segment of the community on the bond referendum project. The Board can use this input in further refining their priorities for the final bond referendum.

Second, the Board can use the raw harvest, with all 423 comments recorded in the appendix to gain a fuller idea of the ideas that were on the mind of the participants of the conversations. There are some interesting ideas that were not reflected once the participants prioritized that might still be of value to the bond referendum project.

And lastly, there were many unanswered questions over the course of the two nights. They speak to the interest of the community to learn more about the way the project was created and either lack of knowledge or understanding about the district and the bond referendum project. The Board can use these questions in further crafting its information campaign as the bond referendum project moves forward so the community can make an informed decision in moving the district forward.

Themed Prioritized Harvest

() indicate the number of weighted votes

Outdoor Spaces Positives (40)

Turf as positive: autonomy, increased performance of players, flexibility (20)

Could be seen as a selling point for the town especially in the future (6)

Increases opportunities for community sports programs (5)

Do more with less fields (2)

Gives ability to host more competitions (2)

If track is completed, revenue possibility with hosting meets (2)

If replaced, stadium won't be a continual issue (1)

Maximizing space (1)

ADA compliant (1)

Outdoor Spaces Challenges (63)

Tax impact too much (29)

Project, including rotating bleachers will negatively impact neighbors including sound, traffic, and parking (16)

Health concerns for turf (8)

Cost of project (4)

Expense of project vs financial benefit (2)

With expensive project make it difficult to add other non-building related improvements (2)

Three objectives in one referendum (2)

Orientation of the fields, issue with sun (1)

Outdoor Spaces Alternatives (31)

Less focus on stadium and more on academic (7)

Look for other towns to share field space for cost savings (6)

Eliminate sports: no stadium (5)

Break up proposal to smaller chunks (4)

Corporate sponsorships (2)

Natural grass (2)

Keep infrastructure instead of rotating stadium (1)

One turf and one grass field would be ideal (1)

Corporate sponsorships are a negative (1)

Look at other project proposals (1)

Fix existing stands: build separate ADA compliant stands (1)

Outdoor Spaces Unanswered Questions (9)

- How are the neighbors affected? (3)
- What is the frequency of CTE in our students? (3)
- How are we going to accommodate parking? (2)
- Did we use competitive bids?(1)

Indoor Spaces Positive (14)

- 18-21 Program could bring in revenue (9)
- Resale value with new facility (1)
- Separate space a plus for 18-21 keeping students in district encourages community participation for job skills training (1)
- Improved facilities may nurture academics...next generation of STEAM, Odyssey will improve academics (1)
- 18-21 should be a priority (1)
- It's good that the plan includes space dedicated to things other than sports. (1)

Indoor Spaces Challenges (24)

- Money should focus on academics as a priority (9)
- Long term operational costs (5)
- Cost: Taxes too high (4)
- Cost is prohibitive (2)
- Losing parking (2)
- Design seems incoherent...special ed, CBOE, locker rooms don't all belong together (1)
- Already congested complex doesn't seem to be addressed by this plan (1)

Indoor Spaces Alternatives (26)

- Relocate Admin offices into already existing space in town (10)
- Board offices should be out of congested area (5)
- Divide the referendum into phases (4)
- Consider partnering with neighboring communities to create a regional 18-21 program (2)
- Take a more incremental approach... if main focus is sports, let the referendum be about sports, deal with other issues separately (1)

Indoor Spaces Unanswered Questions (9)

- How does this project fit into the plans that borough might have for future projects? (6)
- Are there sponsorships and alternative financing available? Grants? Fundraising? (2)
- What is the expense of the district office space alone? What is the breakdown of costs? (1)
- Is there an opportunity to grow 18-21 program without the cost of the whole project? (1)

Playground Positives (3)

- Beneficial to families and children (1)
- Outside classroom instruction (1)
- Closer space to home for kids to play (1)

Playground Challenges (4)

- Cost: taxes too expensive (1)
- Poured rubber not the healthiest choice (1)
- Financial burden too high (1)
- Cannot afford tax increase (1)

Playground Alternatives (7)

- Sponsors (3)
- Apply for Green NJ funding (2)
- Concerned I may need to move out of Collingswood (1)
- Use Knights Park, fence off Roberts pool playground, Cooper Creek (1)

Playground Unanswered Questions (4)

- Have engineers discussed needs with parents? (2)
- Environmental issues: Turf, runoff, black crumb rubber (1)
- What is the impact on the operating budget? (1)

Appendix

Complete Harvest

() indicates the number of weighted votes

Thursday 9-28

Stadium

Positives (18)

People will come to town to use fields

18-21 program

If replaced, stadium won't be a continual issue (1)

If track is completed, revenue possibility with hosting meets (2)

Multi-use fields are a must or events...rec youth sports... will be eliminated (4)

Sunday use for travel teams on fields (1)

Increased pride, students will be more engaged/ interested/ excited to play in new facilities

Development of our teams at a higher level with turf fields to keep up with our opponents (7)

ADA compliance

Turf gives us autonomy (1)

Turf (6)

ADA compliant

lights : town and more sports

Turf fields remain competitive

Easier maintenance

Turf gives more flexibility and access (1)

Able to use on Sundays

Could be seen as a selling point for the town especially in the future (6)

Challenges (34)

Softball field is the worst : what is the resolution in the referendum?

Rotating bleachers is a detriment to the surrounding houses: noise (3)

Increased cars and buses

Foot traffic increasing with out of town people and no respect for neighborhood properties

Reconfiguring streets: one way

Increased signage and police to deal with issues

People leaving town because of opportunities elsewhere

Parking

Grading of fields to avoid water in neighborhood yards
Money
Time in completing project: where would teams play?
Turf health concerns (1)
Grade of turf to avoid frequent replacement
Going with high quality rather than lowest bidder
Scheduling
Softball fields should have dirt, more natural play but challenge for maintenance
Expense of project vs financial benefit (2)
Turf is not a positive for every sport
Injuries on turf field
Communication: cost of bond referendum vs. teacher salaries
Research products being used
Concern over type of turf
Property values for residents on Everett (4)
Keeping the plan fiscally responsible while meeting the needs of the referendum
Sound and light issues for neighbors (1)
Increase in taxes too high, makes town unaffordable (13)
With expensive project make it difficult to add other non-building related improvements
(2)
Expensive
Caters to one segment of the community
Concerns for neighbors of the stadium (3)
Cost of turf maintenance
Research shows turf is more dangerous (1)
Orientation of the field doesn't make sense for advantage...sun
Haven't addressed traffic coming and going into fields

Alternatives (9)

Keep infrastructure instead of rotating stadium (1)
One turf and one grass field would be ideal (1)
Improve park relations if referendum goes down
Regional stadiums
Buying more properties to expand the number of fields on Everitt side
School district could take over Knight Park
Grass fields instead of turf and don't reorient
Make stadium and fields safe in the least expensive way
Can the borough chip in to defray the cost?

Unanswered Questions (22)

Are there revenue possibilities in hosting other teams?
What is the solution if people decide we aren't going to do this?
Will school have use of park facilities if the project is completed?
Where would turf fields go?
Expense of knocking stadium down alone if referendum goes down? Would we still be able to do any redesign?
What is the impact on neighbors?
Impact of referendum on operating costs
Is it necessary to do all turf?
Why wouldn't Oaklyn and Woodlynne taxpayers contribute?
Why wouldn't the Borough contribute?
Archery program: Having space for them and where?
With the increased use of turf fields, how does that impact the cost and life of the turf?
Parking issues?
Can the fields generate revenue with tournaments or renting out fields?
Would rec/travel team costs go up because of increased costs?
Do we need to do all projects at once?
How are we going to accommodate parking? (2)
Why did we only use one architect?
How are the neighbors affected? (3)
Can grants and corporate sponsors defray the costs?
Are there sound and light issues?

Inside Buildings

Positives (20)

Student Spaces - More room
Safer than current
Resale value with new facility (1)
18-21 Program saves out of district cost, \$64,000 per students (6)
18-21 Programs: Students stay in town with friends
Recruitment for 18-21 brings revenue (1)
Superintendent on HS/MS campus
Students can take pride in the new facility
New locker rooms showers, restrooms
18-21 program gets dedicated space
Improved concession stand and storage for groups such as storage and band
ADA compliance
Not sending students out of district

Central Administrative Offices should be out of Zane basement because it is a safety issues for employees and not ADA compliant for residents

Dedicated STEAM

To be competitive we need these elements

Best to do it all at once

Separate space a plus for 18-21 keeping students in district encourages community participation for job skills training (1)

Improved facilities may nurture academics...next generation of STEAM, Odyssey will improve academics (1)

Challenges (16)

Tax cost - no benefit

Congested, more people and vehicles

Ability to build on

We have limited space

Board office will increase parking issues

Not enough daylight, natural light, windows

Hard to evaluate based on artist's rendition

High price tag, concern over cost and still meet educational needs (1)

Plan does not meet the needs of Odyssey of the Mind

Plan may not be adequate for 18-21

Ongoing costs of operating new buildings will incur additional costs and increased taxes (4)

Increased enrollment may create a need to spend increased funds on academic facilities, teachers, etc. which is a priority over sports

Design considerations: teams clubs, administration and learning space all in the same area

No space to accommodate large groups ...community and large student gatherings

Long term costs may be detrimental to average residents (1)

This issues should not be a priority: improving academic reputation of Collingswood should be main focus (1)

Alternatives (14)

Fix areas that need fixing and make ADA compliant

Office space in Collingswood: use already vacant spaces (1)

Use open vacant space before constructing new

Lot behind the tennis court: build 18-21 building with BOE offices

Build up

Board offices should be out of congested area (5)

Build on Eldridge Ave - close off street to gain space

Purchase an existing property in town for Central Administrative Offices (1)
Implement improvements incrementally, in phases rather than all at once
Consider sending 18-21 off campus may be more beneficial to students than keeping them on an under 18 campus despite tuition
Consider buying local real estate to function as Central Administrative Offices (1)
Consider field and stadium without building to reduce costs
Vacancy created by moving admin employees could be used for “file room” allowing current plan for file room to be used for more efficient learning space
Consider voting on components separately so that the parts of the plan the town supports don't have to be tied to undesirable elements (1)

Unanswered questions (9)

Could there be revenue for using facility for outside communities?
Would this affect parking?
Has flexibility of new facility been considered if the district grows?
For the STEAM program, are there increased yearly operating costs for science supplies, etc.?
Can we reduce the cost of this project via downsizing the full architectural plan?
Would there be enough parking to accommodate new Central Administrative Offices employees now working on MS/HS campus?
Why haven't other architects been consulted?
Why weren't stakeholders such as local neighbors and groups using the space consulted?
Will downsized version of the plan cost money later?

Playground

Positives (20)

Addresses safety issues
Place for children to play; currently lacking, easier to get to
Park areas important for kids' development
ADA compliance
Potential for outdoor classroom
Address a variety of needs: sensory, music, etc....more inclusive
Storm water management
Pollution, getting rid of asphalt; environmental benefits
Rain garden for problem areas
Beneficial to families and children (1)
Enhances neighborhoods
Pride in school

Equality of school facilities
Create opportunities for families
Need
Availability of playgrounds in off hours accessibility
Upgrade of playgrounds
Longevity
Outside classroom instruction (1)
Safety issue

Challenges (16)

Cost: taxes too expensive (1)
Collingswood has a lot of green space already: Cooper River, Newton Creek, Knights Park
Neighbor concern with noise
One school was done without tax money
Poured rubber not the healthiest choice (1)
Not sure people will use them just because they are redone
Space inaccessible after school hours: security
Liability
Design for accessibility
This was added on to increase support: ingenious
How do we maintain facilities?
Financial burden too high (1)
Tax impact
Scale down
Maintained playground
Materials used

Alternatives (12)

Fix only what is required for safety reasons at each school
Make playgrounds ADA compliant
Just open to public no construction
Seek grants to fund projects
Wood mulch surfaces once a year to upkeep/ replace
Use existing budget for projects over time
Include special ed perspective: listen to nurses in design
Add security measures to expand hours

Concerned I may need to move out of Collingswood (1)

Improve green space

Natural landscaping

Outside learning space

Unanswered Questions (14)

Are children unsafe on current playgrounds?

Will school staff and parents have input into construction?

Is poured rubber the best surface?

Why do we have to redo playgrounds and open them to the public?

How long would it take?

What equipment would this include?

Could this be a separate bond for \$625,000

How do we change perspective that people need to move out for improved facilities and opportunities?

Why are PTAs "own tribe" instead of community group

Distribution of funds at k-5 buildings

Environmental issues: Turf, runoff, black crumb rubber (1)

savings/value = or offset original cost

Can outside classroom instruction be included

Increase amount of equipment or replace?

Tuesday, 10-3

Stadium

Positives (13)

Modernizing stadium

Maximizing space (1)

Sports competitiveness

Do more with less fields (2)

Improved lighting

Turf (5)

Lighting

Sound system

Maintenance of fields, reducing cost

ADA compliant (1)

Track and field

Gives ability to host more competitions (2)

Enlarged track

Challenges (18)

Three objectives in one referendum (2)

Taxpayers don't want to commit to 20-30 years (1)

This plan isn't "digestible"

National tax reform/ governor election

Taxes are already too high (4)

Surface won't make us more competitive

Scientific study of turf safety

Sports as priority

Parking at premium

This won't meet all our needs

Cost of project (4)

Turf is a major issues: health and environment; unsafe; concern for kids' health (6)

Orientation of the fields, issue with sun (1)

Concerns about turf maintenance: treatment, spraying

Too expensive/ too much at once (11)

Keep project green in line with town values

Concerns about changing field orientation and effects on sound and parking for neighbors (4)

Opening it more will add traffic (1)

Alternatives (24)

Keep grass to reduce cost/durability

Repair only

Break out info must haves vs. nice to have

Investigate other locations for office space

Separate bond questions

A different orientation than that presented

Rent other fields

Use for other recreation opportunities

Parking is still an issue

Can we qualify as historical to cut costs

Corporate sponsorships (2)

Corporate sponsorships are a negative (1)

Grants

Eliminate sports: no stadium (5)

Look at other project proposals (1)

Hosting band events, Special Olympics events

Charge outside groups
Break up proposal to smaller chunks (4)
Natural grass (2)
Fix existing stands: build separate ADA compliant stands (1)
Less focus on stadium and more on academic (7)
Fix existing stadium and add locker rooms
Upgrade track with the rest
Look for other towns to share field space for cost savings (3)

Unanswered questions (23)

What is turf substance?
Is it harder to get three separate bonds?
Is 1.2 million now saving us \$\$ long term?
What is the frequency of CTE in our students? (3)
Did we use competitive bids?(1)
How safe is the current structure?
Is the amount different than originally reported?
Does the surface matter for success?
Are there going to be separate line items for stadium and turf?
How will reorientation affect players (sun)
Is turf maintenance cost effective?
Are we still paying for MS bond?
Will this make us able to host playoff games?
Why is lacrosse included?
Can we rent someone else's field?
Detailed breakdown of repairs; 1.2 million just to fix?
When is the point of increased cost because of waiting if condemned/ unusable
What happens with cost/project overruns?
What is the plan for removing items from the list? What would go first?
How many neighboring towns have turf fields?
Has there been an environmental or traffic study done?
What is the impact on neighbors?
Could the spray used to treat the turf cause allergies?

Inside Buildings

Positives (14)

Spaces for special needs students
Relocating Central Administrative Offices from Zane North basement
18-21 program will bring revenue from tuition students

Complete project all at once to avoid expense later
Something needs to be done for current Central Administrative Offices
Ability to close off building and not have access to other buildings: secure space
Available space for meetings and civic groups that currently use library
Odyssey of Mind needs space
Odyssey of Mind is a growing program that should not be capped
18-21 will save expenses and raise revenue (2)
18-21 on site promotes inclusiveness instead of excluding by sending out of district
Space for teams is a positive
18-21 should be a priority (1)
It's good that the plan includes space dedicated to things other than sports. (1)

Challenges (25)

Cost: Taxes too high (4)
Making sure that other sports have access: including dance
Parking
Emergency vehicles
Trash
Master scheduler?
Limited number of students involved in sports
Money- cost- keep diversity in community with keeping cost down
Placement of 18-21 in community as opposed to being segregated out
More light in spaces
Buildings storage: relocation with it being removed from existing space design is flawed because it concentrates too much in one space...inefficient..."Kluge"
Design seems incoherent...special ed, Central Administrative Offices, locker rooms don't all belong together (1)
Losing parking (2)
It's not likely that this large amount will pass as a referendum and so the entire project will be lost
Already congested complex doesn't seem to be addressed by this plan (1)
Shows preference to sports over other activities
Cost is prohibitive (1)
New structure will require additional budget increase annually to maintain and operate.
This is really a permanent increase being pushed as a 20 year increase, but these taxes won't be reduced
This is likely to deter people from moving to Collingswood.
Space may not be adequate for 18-21 program
Any savings to operating budget are erased by referendum costs

Odyssey space is not sufficient for needs (configuration and storage)
Cost might deter new residents from moving in
Money should focus on academics as a priority (8)

Alternatives (13)

Relocate Central Administrative Offices to a non-school building to office space in town (1)
Divide the referendum into phases (3)
Share sports facilities with other schools/ towns (3)
Different space for administrative staff in existing space possible (2)
Purchase building to be used as Central Administrative Offices and life skills together (1)
Build addition to HS building for STEAM lab
Consider separating these spaces to places more appropriate to their function
Take a more incremental approach... if main focus is sports, let the referendum be about sports, deal with other issues separately (1)
Consider housing administration in separate building in town (3)
Grant writing and other fundraising methods should be investigated (1)
House 18-21 program in an actual house in town since it is life skills.
Put Central Administrative Offices in an already existing space in town
Consider partnering with neighboring communities to create a regional 18-21 program (2)

Unanswered Questions (21)

How does this project fit into the plans that borough might have for future projects? (6)
Does our projected demographics indicate a need for this space?
How many special needs students are there and would this accommodate all of them?
Why does the Central Administrative Offices need to be in a school building?
What is the increase in special ed population?
How many students can this 18-21 new space accommodate?
How is it determined that extra community space is needed?
What is the environmental impact of the building footprint?
Can we make it as green as possible?
Can there be more in the referendum for existing programs at school...music, arts, etc. making project inclusive of all students?
Are there sponsorships and alternative financing available? ADA Grants? Fundraising? (1)
What is the expense of the district office space alone? What is the breakdown of costs? (1)
Can solar panels be used in the roof? Green roof?

What are the savings and revenue figures on the 18-21 program?
Is there an opportunity to grow 18-21 program without the cost of the whole project? (1)
How will sports be affected during the construction?
How will costs be cut so this is achievable?
What other methods are being employed to fund this project?
Can building/ indoor space project happen separately from athletic construction?
Has 18-21 year old program been planned by those who will implement it and will it be sufficient to last 20 years?
Can we look for space to accommodate these separate items?

Playgrounds

Positives (14)

Good idea
Rubber material
Environmental issues
Important for kids to be outside
Greener surfaces
Safer place to play
Closer space to home for kids to play (1)
Better than mulch
Increased community accessibility
Outdoor learning space for during school day
Neighborhood children have a place to play
Improved perception w community and neighboring communities
Extended community access to play space in neighborhoods
Increased access for children with disabilities

Challenges (18)

Increased \$\$\$ from original estimate
Percentage dedicated to open space too low
Can't ask community to vote on something district can't guarantee
Cost too high for materials used
Take out open space as part of referendum
Liability: accidents on playground
Other open spaces that can be used
Slope at Garfield is dangerous and not being addressed
Worth it if just changing perimeter surfaces?
Cost a low estimate
Some schools recently had upgrades: fiscal responsibility?

Timing: other tax increases
Cost of sustaining the projects
Teenagers using the playground
Cannot afford tax increase (1)
No benefit for many residents
Concerned about space at night/ impact on policing
Insurance may increase due to increased liability

Alternatives (20)

Availability now to make playground accessible
Use Mr. Santo for grant writing for elementary spaces
Include cameras at all locations
Grant writing to make the district equitable
Parental input
Equitable distribution of funds throughout district
Sponsors (3)
Address safety issues
Other surfaces other than rubber: traditional wood mulch, mats on top of concrete
Use of grants, fundraising, naming rights
Just open them longer don't redo them
Open new park at pool to the public...fence off playground
Open on weekends
Focus on academic disparities
Use Knights Park, fence off Roberts pool playground, Cooper Creek (1)
Apply for Green NJ funding (2)
Consider other funding sources
Fundraising with local businesses
Address separately from referendum; look at individual needs of schools
Keep playgrounds open without referendum

Unanswered questions (16)

What is the impact on the operating budget? (1)
What is the environmental impact?
Is Garfield slope being addressed?
Have engineers discussed needs with parents? (2)
Is equipment starting from scratch?
How does open playground work w after school program?
What percentage of Collingswood residents does this affect?
Have we had a lot of accidents on the playgrounds?
What are the repair costs?

Made from recycled tires?

If we raise money for playgrounds, what does that do to the other numbers?

What is the environmental impact?

When were the playgrounds last updated?

What's the life expectancy of the updates?

What is the rate if you break each portion of the referendum apart per household?

Can these be broken into three separate questions?