

# Executive Summary

A result of the small group work activity

**Community Engagement Sessions (CES) #2 • February 24, 2022**

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An estimated 35 participants attended the second ***Building Our Future Together*** community engagement session on February 24, 2022.

The topic for the second ***Building Our Future Together*** community engagement program was “*Financing the Educational Facilities Master Plan.*” Participants heard a presentation by Chief Financial Officer Tony Inglese and Senior Vice President and Managing Director-Public Finance for PMA Financial Group, Bob Lewis. The presentation featured an overview of school finance, including bond structures for public schools, a historical look at Batavia 101’s finances, and how three potential facility options would financially affect the school district and its stakeholders.

To view the presentation, visit [www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement](http://www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement). Following the presentation, participants worked in 10 small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups. Verbatim responses can be found at [www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement](http://www.bps101.net/boft/community-engagement).

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## ***Task #1: Pros and Cons***

*Please come to consensus on three to five pros and cons for each option presented tonight.*

*Option A: No Changes (Operational budget and fund balance)*

*Option B: Maintain Bond and Interest (B & I Levy) (Replaces bond debt, operational budget and fund balance)*

*Option C - Increase B & I Levy (Additional bond debt, operational budget and fund balance)*

## **Option A**

*Pros:*

Two topics were noted by multiple groups related to the pros for Option A. All the small groups listed comments related to tax savings for the district’s constituents while four of the ten groups noted that this option does not displace the students.

*Cons:*

The majority of groups commented on the limited scope of Option A and that it addresses only operational needs versus also addressing the functional needs to support education today. In addition, some groups noted that this option serves as a “band-aid” and could negatively impact home values if schools are not maintained/updated.

**Option B**

*Pros:*

All ten groups noted the tax-neutral impact of Option B. A positive aspect of this option for eight of the ten groups was that some improvements would be made. One group said, “Better than nothing” as a descriptor for Option B. Some groups also noted that they believe this plan would be amenable to the community.

*Cons:*

Seven of the ten groups included comments about the limited scope and/or the deferred timeline to address AGS and JBN as cons. Further, groups mentioned concern over equity issues for the schools that are not included in Phase 1, with one group saying, “Equity challenge with some new schools.” Lastly, some groups noted the inclusion of “sunk costs” with this option.

**Option C**

*Pros:*

Nine of the ten groups listed the comprehensive nature of Option C, with one group noting, “All schools get upgrades/improvements,” and another saying, “For \$30.83 a month (median household) we can have all the schools drastically improved.” Another common pro listed was the shortened timeline for this option.

*Cons:*

Eight of the ten groups believe that the tax impact is a concern and seven of the ten groups commented on the disruption to the students and staff as a concern for Option C. Another concern noted by some groups is the various additional costs such as construction costs and the cost of mobile units.

**Task #2: Additional Information**

*What additional information does your group need to learn to make a final decision on a preferred option for implementing the educational facility master plan?*

There were a variety of questions recorded from groups about the options. Several groups asked questions about what specific components will be included in each option. Some groups also wondered about the long-term financial implications for the school district while others asked about the logistical plan for students if they are displaced due to construction.

**Task #3: Preferred Option**

*With the knowledge that we will be revisiting these options at our future sessions, as of tonight, what option does your group prefer? Please select one option.*

Some groups listed a combination of options and noted they need more information to make a final decision. One group did not list a preferred option.

<b>Option</b>	<b>Number of Groups that Preferred the Option</b>
B	3
C	3
B or C	2
A and B	1
None	1

**CONSENSUS POINTS**

- The following items are key takeaways from CES 2:
  - Option A, which includes minimal improvements, is not preferred.
  - When determining which option to pursue, equity across schools should be considered.
  - More specific information is needed about options B & C for residents to finalize a preferred option.

**For a complete listing of all responses,  
see the CES #2 Verbatim Response Document**