

## Design Impact - Community Responses

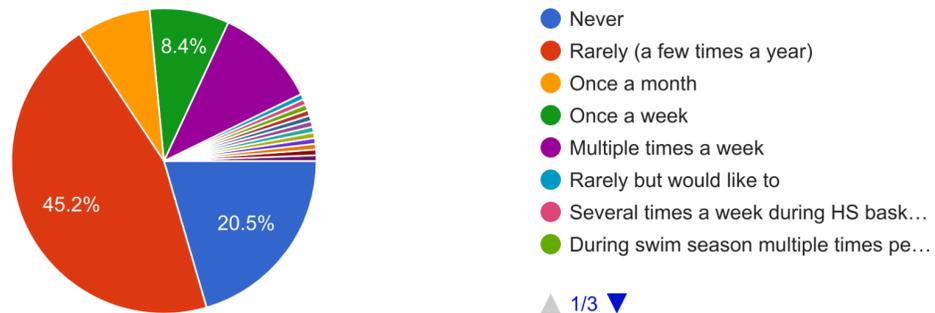
Summary of Community Survey

172 responses as of 3:15pm, 8/24/2022

- 1. Community recreation access:** Majority Rarely; mostly for sports events. 27% are between monthly and multiple times a week.

How often do you access the community recreation portions of the school? (the pool, the auditorium, etc.)

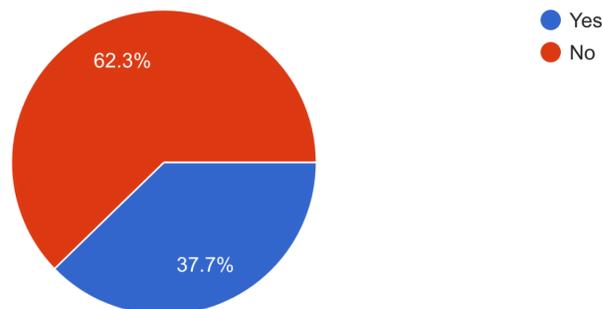
166 responses



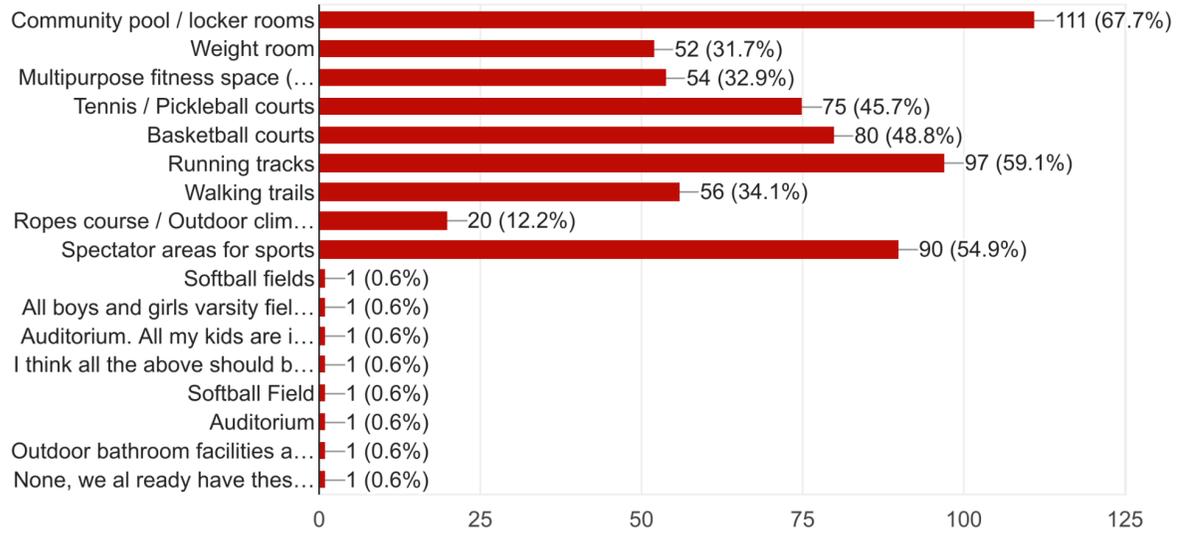
- 2. Gender neutral restrooms:** No.

Would you be comfortable with toilet rooms supporting all genders? (A shared restroom for all genders, but with full height private stalls. See th...rant High School in Portland by Mahlum Architects)

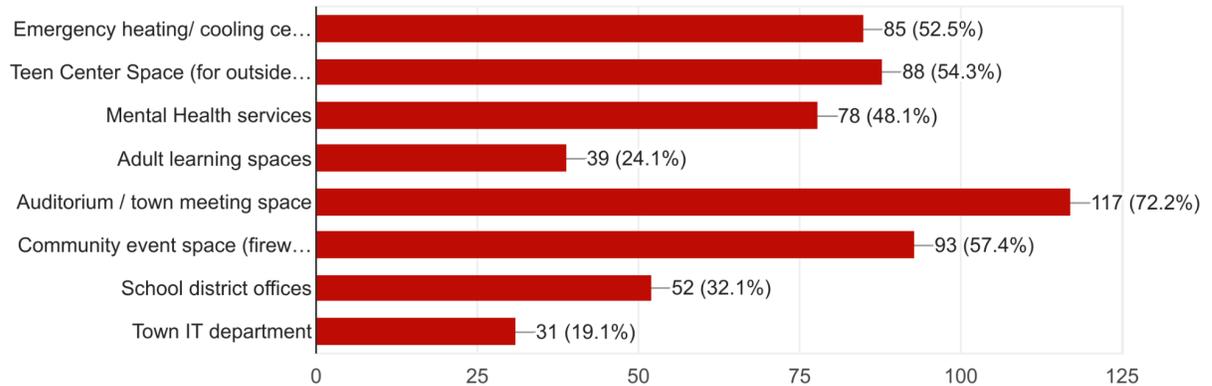
167 responses



- 3. Prioritization of Community recreational / support spaces (not reimbursed by MSBA):** For recreational spaces, Pool, running tracks, sports spectator areas, and basketball courts. For support spaces, auditorium/town meeting space, outdoor community event space, teen center for afterschool, emergency heating and cooling center.



Which of these community support spaces would you prioritize for including in the new high school? (Keeping in mind that the Massachusetts School Bui...oes not fund these sorts of spaces) Pick up to 4.  
162 responses



- 4. What is the effect of student drop off on local traffic?** 65.9% say moderate, 22.6% say severe.
- 5. What do you currently think about the level of security/safety at East Longmeadow High?** (124 responses) Very mixed responses - most comments indicate security could be improved.

*I don't think it's great. The classroom doors do not have a way to lock them quickly from the inside in case of a lockdown. The counseling offices and many classrooms do not have windows so people can see in which is important for student and staff safety on a daily basis.*

*Needs to be improved immediately!! The pool door is always unlocked during swim meets or practice and never have I seen a person monitoring peoples access to the pool or gym.*

*Seems pretty safe - I always have to be buzzed in when I visit*

*Conflicted. With the issues of mental health in this country, we should have higher security for allowing people to enter the buildings. But we also need to have access as a parent.*

*It likely does not meet the current expectations. Admin and security offices should be visible and accessible to front doors. Brighter halls and a more secure system to enter/exit buildings should happen. Automatic locks to every exit should be considered. Wider, brighter hallways and classroom locks should be uniform.*

*I feel like the building is secure but the poor condition of the building makes it unsafe*

*The building is not a healthy nor safe space for our students and staff. The mold, water issues, and lack of proper air conditioning make this space difficult for our children to feel comfortable in.*

*I think security should be a priority in today's climate.*

*It's ok. I wouldn't want them to feel like they are in jail, but we do need more safety procedures that a new building could provide.*

*Outdated building making it an extreme soft target*

- 6. Amenities other schools have you wish to see for ELHS?** Most common comments are in regards to athletic facilities, including bathrooms at spectator areas, updated performance, art, and media spaces, air conditioning, spaces for the practice of trades.

*Include an updated ELCAT studio and performance stages*

*Television studio, recording studio*

*The workout/ weight room at Central High School is amazing and a wonderful training facility for their students and staff.*

*Yes open spaces with chairs or Lounge areas. The classrooms, labs, pools etc are totally outdated when you view Minnechaug or longmeadow high.*

*No however if there needs to be a gender neutral restroom maybe one or two but NOT all.*

*Lounge areas*

*Separate auditorium apart from cafeteria (Birchland has horrendous acoustics for meetings/shows), large multipurpose gymnasium, meeting/working spaces for mid size groups, common spaces for individuals or small groups to work on homework or projects or to meet and hang out.*

*Community spaces/kitchen, elder spaces so school kids can connect with the older generation of residents.*

*Yes. Track around fields. Media/ technology labs*

*Yes; state of the art performing arts center*

*More accessible w technology- more common spaces like LHS. Updated auditorium. Community should be able to use spaces when school is not in session. New pool with hours for open swim.*

*Yes and should be for both community and students.*

*Outdoor amphitheater*

*Study rooms*

*Gym options should include aerobics, treadmills, dance, tai chi or meditation for students who find group sports unappealing. Group sports should be after school at the parents expense. The library space needs to be larger and open to students until 5 as a safe space. The cafeteria should be open for breakfast and lunch with Free meals. Teachers should have access to pleasant private spaces and resources for education. You need a better art room space and arts program. Bring back the spaces for automotive/ electrician/plumber trade or tech industries training. Windows.*

*LINK program*

*Auditorium*

*Keep Male and Female bathrooms separate!!!*

*Enhanced music space with sound proof practice rooms, auditorium with upgrades (Wilbraham, pope Francis)*

*Functional pool and better technology vocational options*

*I would love an IT room with assistance to our senior community.*

*Connections no but have seen from travel sports - shared community spaces at some schools in Boston suburbs. Campus rec space needs to tie together all generations of our community and serve all residents with robust recreation programming / collaboration with ELHS  
Improved technology and science labs, physical spaces that allow for different learning styles to occur.*

*Trade classes inhouse*

*The weight room is horrible and if the basketball court was bigger and had an indoor track like at most schools it would be ideal.*

*I think it's important that we don't lose anything from our current high school that we already have (auditorium, pool, etc) and I think we should make space for growth and add classrooms that support education in subjects outside just typical academics for example (Graphic Arts, Culinary Arts, Construction, and Broadcasting). Our children need to be exposed to other things besides the typical math, science, history and English. In regards to the all gender bathrooms, I think it would be important that they are an open (hallwayish) space as in the drawing so a teacher can monitor them. I can foresee trouble with both genders in an enclosed unmonitored space. Or maybe they are not even enclosed at all. Maybe just single stalls along a wall. Not stalls on both sides??*

*Better athletic fields & spectator areas, bathrooms.*

*Excellent art rooms with all types of equipment—clay wheels, cricut machines, a 'maker space' (check out Mount Holyoke College's Inventor/Makerspace*

*Auditorium is beautiful in Longmeadow, outdoor facilities are amazing in Wilbraham*

*Track above gymnasium*

*More cafeteria space, allows for more social distancing but ensuring no kids sit on the floor*

*More cafeteria space, bigger courtyard*

*Longmeadow high and Minnechaug high are ideal high schools.*

*Air conditioning is a must.*

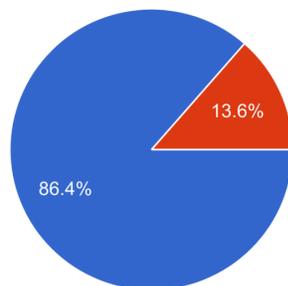
*Indoor track @ Billerica high School*

*I am uncomfortable with large open spaces in the immediate common area of some newer middle schools/high schools.*

## 7. Renovation or New School? New!

Do you have a preference at this time between the option of building a new school or renovating the existing school?

162 responses



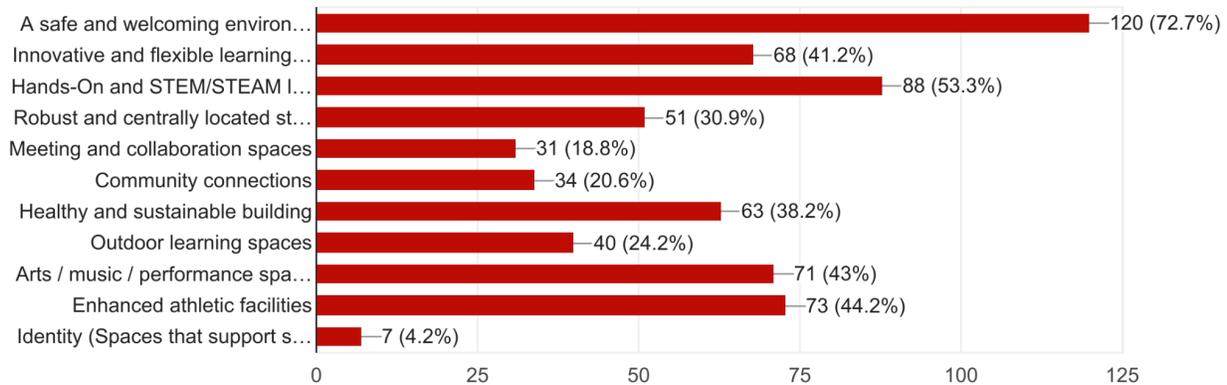
- I prefer the proposal to build a new school behind the existing school.
- I prefer the option of renovating the existing school.

**8. Is sustainability an important factor? Yes.**

**9. Architectural Focus Areas? A safe and welcoming environment, Hands-on STE(A)M Spaces, Enhanced athletic facilities, Arts Music and Performance Spaces.**

Architectural focus areas – what do you see as a priority? Pick up to 4.

165 responses



**10. Do you currently support this project? What would make you support it? What obstacles do you see for the success of this project?** The majority of the people surveyed support the project as a whole. Of the **136** responses to this question, there were less than 5 flat out “no” responses. The largest concern is the tax impact, among those who support and those who do not.

**Questions / Concerns to address:**

- I would like to know if replacing existing mechanical systems with modern heat pumps, LED lighting, etc. would solve the claimed power issue. It seems like it should be more cost effective to replace the mechanicals, roofing, and rearrange the interior spaces vs. Demo & rebuild from scratch, unless the student population is forecast to grow considerably.*
- I do not currently support this project as there has been no mention of the impact on the tax rate. The school enrollment is decreasing, the "new" school building will do nothing to help in the learning process, there has been no mention of bringing the current building up to current standards, no mention of additional classrooms, which are evidently not needed. What percentage will the state contribute to the cost of a new building? Is it feasible to put on a second floor of the current building if in fact there is a need for more learning space?*

3. *I mean im not against a new school but I think that for the past students an future would just like to see improvements made. I don't see what the total point of building a new school is when you have a perfectly good one that could be updated if efforts were worth it? An cost equaled the cost of building a new one.*
4. *I will only support this project if I feel the community concerns are being taken seriously. It has been rumored that the building committee does not care how the community feels in regards to traffic flow and disruption to surrounding neighborhoods. No matter how vocal these neighbors are, the direct quote is that the building committee will "do whatever the hell we want."*
5. *What about including solar panels in parking areas-environmentally friendly and coverage for staff and students... tax benefits?*
6. *I do support this project, ELHS has been in need of a rebuild since bunch encore I attended or even graduated in 2017. Many of these options should be not just left to public opinion, like student support centers and a "safe and welcoming environment". Making people choose between performing arts, athletics, and STEAM/STEM is ridiculous, in my opinion. They should all be included and offered.*
7. *If a new school is built what are the plans for the old one, how is this going to affect taxes.*
8. *I support it if the Norden St. access road is removed- very dangerous for the small neighborhood filled with young children and many seniors all of whom spend considerable time using the roads for walking and playing.*
9. *Yes I support. I would prefer a building exterior design that has a more traditional look with a modern feel. Some of the new schools will look dated in 50 years. Let's get this school built! Oh we need a proper girl locker room Boy locker room and private gender neutral bathroom and changing space also. That proposed non gender will not fly. Who thought that up? No.*
10. *I'm on the fence on this proposal. I'm more interested in seeing how this will improve the education of this town. For example, the new Minnechaug has not led to a higher standard of education. How will this be any different?*