



## Glen Ellyn School District 41 2016 Community Survey Comments Upgrade Elementary Schools

### Segmentation Map

Do you live in District 41? = Yes

### Comments/suggestions/questions:

- Refer to previous comment on other page.
- Churchill already has designated private offices for all of the personnel listed above. Their teachers don't even have a place to eat, I think that is more helpful than a second nurse's office...
- There are no "support" services so why do we need additional rooms? Teacher is responsible for any interventions and there are empty offices not in use.
- Very important!!
- See the previous comment-need more information.
- Are you saying that the school is out of compliance with ADA? Hard to believe.
- #1 and #4 are a joke and not necessary. We do we need to create the Taj Majal of schools here. Seems like some people have a bad case of 'keeping up with the Jones's'.
- "depending if/how full day K is offered" : what is the real question? Are you asking if I support full day K? The wording of this survey makes me distrust D41 even more than I already do.
- Music and art should not be part of the curriculum. As superfluous activities, they should not be taxpayer funded. I also oppose full-day Kindergarten. At that age, "school" is nothing more than glorified babysitting and should also not be taxpayer funded.
- LOWER OUR TAXES!
- Leverage taxes paid to pensions to fund additional spending needs.

- Our schools are overcrowded in many of the CORE spaces. We need to relieve this overcrowding.
- I would be more likely to support funding if it meant that my gifted child could receive instruction more suited to his level of aptitude. He is only leaving his classroom for 45 minutes a day for mathematics and he really needs more to stimulate his appetite for learning. Waiting for 3rd grade before giving him gifted/talented status is FAR too long. You run the risk of him becoming bored with school.
- Having spent extensive time in Lincoln, I think the current space is poorly utilized and these wants listed on this survey page are very clearly NOT needs.
- Once again, our \$28,000 property tax bill goes almost exclusively to the school district in Glen Ellyn. We have a student in school and it is good but not great. The added infrastructure cost at Ben Franklin by removing the Pods and replacing them with Brick was unnecessary and added to the expenses versus lowering them. As our property values have been increasing, I do not see why the school is not getting an incremental lift from property taxes without adding additional ones. I will not support additional spending and will in fact campaign against it unless the district can show what you are doing to reduce waste, cost or overhead in return written and certified by an outside accounting firm. I am not one to complain but this is forcing families to move away from Glen Ellyn after their children graduate which is exactly what we will do. That does not create a sustainable city when the housing market is perpetually turning over and the folks who are part of the fabric of our community chose to leave over tax implications.
- Please ask separate questions about cafeteria and student services spaces. I'm not sure how important it is to expand the student cafeteria, but I believe it is very important to ensure that our social workers, speech, occupational/physical therapists and nurses have adequate space to care for and support our students.
- Camera technology and buzzers already exist at the schools. Upgrade if you want and save about \$2M. The Board and Administration \*really\* screwed up when you built the recent additions before you had a complete plan in place for all portable removal and potential/optional full day kindergarten. E.G. You'd have been better off tearing Lincoln's west wing down and replacing with a two story wing with the bottom (garden level) at the same elevation as the administration offices. You would have gotten rid of the inefficient "telemation" area that has been about 10 different setups over the last 10 years, gotten in all the classrooms and student services space you needed and done it all in the same historic footprint. You failed to consider multi story additions at the other buildings because you were only doing slapdash additions to address about half of your real needs. So one-story "made sense" at the time but you didn't see the forest for the trees. And now you have to double down on single story additions. Goodbye greenspace. Nice job, folks. Needless to say, I have LITTLE to NO confidence that you are going to make smart decisions now.
- Please be more realistic about how the money is allocated. The last time it was done so poorly. Giving equal money to the schools totally ignored the need of each school.
- Full Day Kindergarten is top priority for me. Not only is it a logistical nightmare to have half day kindergarten, the half day doesn't provide nearly enough instructional time at a critical age.
- We need a full day kindergarten program. I would support any referendum to achieving this goal. Has the overall student population grown in the last 5-10 years?

- How can the administration come to the community and ask for more money to try and add on or build a new school when less than 2 years ago additions were put on at each elementary school.
- School safety is of top priority to local parents. That should be number one!
- Not clear if #2 above eliminates the need to improve the current portables. I hope so.
- get rid of the riff-raff then you don't need security!!!
- More space will lead to more personnel costs. I guarantee it.
- Full day kindergarten is a must - certainly be willing to pay for it. big burden on families now. unacceptable not to have a full day kindergarten option.
- I love this community and feel privileged to live here. I will vote yes whenever improvement is needed.
- I have students at both Hadley and Lincoln. The recommendations I see here for Hadley seem more important and more pressing than those listed for the elementary schools. I would prioritize Hadley's updates first.
- Management look internal and manage operation
- Stop raising our taxes with costly projects like these. Collapse the two school districts into one, we do not need two school districts.
- What are things that our money goes to now that could be reverted.
- Isn't ADA a legal requirement. Why are we still out of compliance? Find the money and make it happen.
- low priorities
- are kids standing around eating their lunch or do we need to stagger lunch times to accomodate? Let's think about allocating time more effectively before considering capital improvements.
- Overall, our children's classrooms are SO cramped. They just can't move around very well and all Elementary aged students need space to move. I also find that its completely unacceptable that in 2016 our children are not offered full day kindergarten. Its a major failure of our district to have not been further ahead in dealing with this issue. By aged 5 children need full day schooling. Offering 2.5 to 3 hours of kindergarten is silly. And for families were all parent(s) in the households work or are hoping to return to work, this just increases the burden and expenses on families. We had to pay 20K for our twins to attend full day kindergarten last year at a private school because it just wasn't available in Glen Ellyn. So would I be willing to have a minor tax hike so that other families could avoid that expense, absolutely!
- Safety and security are a non-negotiable. It is of the highest importance that all buildings are safely secured, with a secure entrance. This is not something we can compromise.
- Why didn't you think about these needs before you added the short sighted additions onto Lincoln and Franklin. They are out of space now and these additions, instead of being on

the second floor, and taking up less space, are now costing a ton because your short sighted leadership did not look at the long term. I do not think that I should reward the former boards bad decisions with more money to this administration. Let a new superintendent figure it out. We don't trust you Dr. Gordon. You are not a long-term thinker or planner.

-- SEE PREVIOUS COMMENTS ABOUT STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS...THEY APPLY HERE AS WELL.

-- Please note we're uninclined to support any referendum if full day kindergarten isn't addressed.

-- Money needs to be spent at Hadley. Churchill and Lincoln should focus concentration on properly teaching their students and improving the school ratings. students

-- Other than giving Hadley the space it needs I am not going to vote yes for anything because our taxes are already too high. Cut from somewhere else in the budget

-- Millions and millions of dollars seem like an awful lot for security systems installed and expansion of cafeteria or library renovation.

-- What are the projected student population numbers for the next 10 years at each school?

-- Taxes are too high as is. Figure out a different way to pay for these. Also, send a note to your congressperson advising him of the cost of the ADA--another government mandate we don't need or want.

-- I have a problem with this. All four Elementary Schools just completed HUGE addition projects and Lincoln even had a really big renovation of our Library/ Digital Media Center. Now you want money to do more? You should have had a Referendum originally before you did ANY OF THAT!!! I believe that is what Kurt & Stephanie told the rest of you to do, but you don't ever listen to them, do you? And money to increase security? The cameras and locked doors and buzzers all seem to be working pretty well, what do you need to do? That sounds like unnecessary spending. And I feel that security is very important.

-- Our taxes need to go down, not up.

-- I would not support funding educational support areas that are not tied to demonstrably improving educational outcomes.

-- See my comments re: Hadley. This doesn't seem like that difficult of a decision. There's nothing charming about old, outdated schools. I want my kids to go to the best possible places to attend school and to be taught by the best educators. I would also like Glen Ellyn to continue to be a destination village for young families. I like increasing property values.

-- The multi million dollar figurers here for these items are insane.\$2-3 million for improved bathrooms? Really?

-- Many of these improvements should have been dealt with during the construction that recently occurred at all 4 elementary schools. It seems like very poor planning that this wasn't done while the schools were already involved in major construction projects. This also seems like a more costly method of doing this as opposed to doing it all at one time.

-- I believe the focus should be on making sure that the school's are fit for current enrollment and future enrollment.

-- compliance with ADA requirements is not a real choice, those are required by law if remodeling is done.

-- I will not support any referendum for District 41

-- Has anyone looked into a space planning company. I am sure the space can be better utilized without spending almost \$30M. Adding a second story is often less expensive. The cost for these projects sounds very excessive.

-- All of these items should have been addressed before the last additions were started.

-- I am so disappointed in how the district and the board have approached improving our facilities. Significant money was just spent to upgrade all the elementary schools and within a year you are coming back to the community! Key items could have been addressed in the last facility improvement. For instance, instead of creating a garden at Lincoln on the West side, there could have been two more classrooms! If we were to support a referendum now, why should we believe you won't be back with one in a year? Also, I feel that these questions are being stated as fact when they are clearly opinions? Have inexpensive options been explored? The site plans I saw during conferences were way over the top for what I believe is needed.

-- My daughter attends Forest Glen and my son will start there in a year. Safety and security and adequate space is very important to me. Also, kids love the library and it is so important so I am willing to help renovate that as well.

-- Would be pro any measure or referendum that facilitates full day kindergarten. I know we cannot look in the past, but would like school. Lard to look in the future and not sell schools and school property when land value increases.

-- 1. school security is on families, parents and the police. individuals compromising the sanctity of public school should be dealt with to discourage unsafe acts, which recent leniency has allowed to infiltrate our safe schools 2. explain classroom expansion - more families with kids at all / some schools? student/teacher ratios should be 20:1 or less. 3. I don't recall using school restrooms much, and when I did they were nearly vacant. not sure what the recent demand on facilities is per student population....explain further. ADA compliant is necessary, but not for all facilities. temp facilities are a lot cheaper than rebuilding existing. 4. clarification on budgets for each item proposed is needed to further the discussion before a referendum would be seriously considered. compel the community to help compile info/data to inform the voters to decide based on each schools' needs and expected population fluctuations from current real estate trends.

-- I will only support up to \$20,000,000 in bonds for projects to the schools.

-- Priorities should be - get rid of portables - full day kindergarten - security Everything else would be nice but less of a priority

-- I would support expanding cafeteria but not student services.

-- Would want to have more info on what the expectation is for class sizes going forward. What is the long term need here? Not sure if this is possible, but have we looked at all into utilizing space that is not being used in the district south of Roosevelt? I understand their class sizes are much smaller and they are considering closing a school?

- These upgrades are not essential in my opinion. Our taxes are already way too high.
- See previous comments. This can all be covered with a modest increase (\$66/year on average for Glen Ellyn) in property taxes.
- Perform population study to determine whether the increased enrollment is a near term bubble or long term trend. If it is simply bubble that will pass in five or so years then we should utilize more short term solutions such as portable classrooms rather than expanding schools only to have over capacity in the system long term - as has happened in the past.
- Same as earlier - lots of items on docket. Not all require new funding. ADA probably has to be done - just do it!
- Creating space for full-day Kindergarten is important. I do wonder about the need to evaluate the current district boundaries to determine if there needs to be longer-term solutions for facilities planning. Complying with the ADA should not be an option. As an educational system, we should Steve as the model for inclusion.
- Focus on academics, before spending money on support areas not directly linked to student success
- Why were at some these projects not addressed with the last project improvement?
- I would prefer that they begin improvements at Churchill.
- Cafeterias should be handled with better scheduling and more lunch periods if necessary and maybe less recess or other options that are more efficient and cost effective
- Full day Kindergarten is the most important to me!
- Manage the money you have coming in better.
- I worked to pass the 97 referendum, which provided art & music rooms, space for special ed services & school nurse, etc. Our enrollment has not materially changed, so what happened?
- Schools need to sacrifice and make do just like everyone else. All day Kindergarten - there is no need. You want more schooling, send your child to an after school program instead of having taxpayers foot the bill for baby-sitting your kid!
- In question #2, it states "Classroom renovations and/or additional spaces are needed at each school to accommodate larger classes"... does this mean the size of the classroom space would increase or the size/# of students? I do NOT support increasing # of students.
- For all "Not sure/Undecided" answers above, I would need more information on the need and impact in order to know what I would support.
- I would be much more likely to be on board with improving schools if the funds were managed efficiently!!
- Cut spending. Eliminate waste! Reduce Superintendent wages + benefits.
- No more tax!

- I'd rather spend money to remain in our current schools than build a new one.
- Less money yes to expand cafeterias create expanded space for services. Not to renovate Library.
- The answer to these questions are vague (more likely, less likely, and undecided) do not provide efficient explanation to answer such detail questions. (ex are the children at Churchill in danger with he current security system or does it just need an update? Where as compliance with ADA so children with disabilities can use the restrooms would be priority.
- In favor full day kindergarten !
- Dedicated space for student services is so much more important than increasing space for cafeteria.
- Not sure full-day kindergarten should be a priority. Others above come before FDK.
- How is it possible the school is not in comptiana with ADA ? Isn't there federal funding for ADA ?
- A referendum won't pass if you pack it with 'wish list' items.
- I would not support any referendum. The former superintendent spent the money on teacher bonuses and then left before her contract expired and before the tax payers realized what she had done with their money.
- Again, would need more information about how this work might be phased and how important it is relative to other improvements.
- Full time kindergarten and these items should have been thought about when the last remodeling was performed.
- ADA compliance is not an option.
- Why weren't these addressed in 2014 when the additions were built at each school?
- Would be very inclined to support if full-day kindergarten is offered
- No background info is given as to what student populations are. What are the current coping mechanisms, e.g., are nurses and social workers working out of closets or hallways?
- All elementary buildings need to be expanded and renovated to meet program needs.
- I am very worried that the district is attempting to spend more of the communities' money without having a long term facilities plan in place. Has no one in the administration or school board done the hard work of planning for facilities? This method of surveying the public first to understand what they will support is indicative of poor planning and/or laziness. Are the spaces within our schools being used most efficiently? What are the district's and school board's priorities? what do they cost annually? are these priorities paying off with our kids learning more? why are these types of questions not answered? And why can't school security costs of \$2 to 3 million not be included in annual planning? Is it because you "borrowed" those funds for the portable removals at the elementary schools?

-- The estimated costs are high and I would not support based on those costs. Example \$2 to \$3 million for security updates? Really?

-- Items in #4 are certainly important, but seem less so than previous items in survey.

-- Full day kindergarten is becoming the norm. I do not know what class size limits are for kindergarten right now. However, could the number of students in each kindergarten class be increased and one or two aides placed in each to help teacher? Would this be cost effective?

-- Again need to prioritize since can't pay for everything at the same time.

-- The restrooms and educational space should have been addressed during the last round of additional to each school. Full day Kindergarten is entirely unnecessary for the expense incurred.

-- I think current space is fine, a social worker doesn't need a full classroom space. I teach in another district + use a smaller space and it's fine.

-- It was stated that all elementary bldgs were adding classroom space beyond the scope of portables replaced. Was this not done?

-- Again Glen Ellyn has a fifth grade school (main street school) in park district hands that could take space burden off the other four schools.

-- Full day kindergarten !

-- Against our already high taxes.

-- The safety issue at Churchill and the ADA accessibility issues are non-negotiable deficiencies that must be addressed.

-- The schools are overprogrammed. I want bare bones before increasing taxes.

-- School security and classroom space should be the highest priorities

-- Do I understand correctly that with the most recent elementary school additions, none of these "needs" (restrooms, FDK, etc.) were addressed? I would like to hear the district's reasoning behind not addressing those "needs" in that phase of building. I will not support a school security costs referendum. Glen Ellyn residents didn't move to town for the newest school buildings. So I suppose that the school spaces would not meet the latest specifications for all the non-educational support required, but can teachers teach and kids learn? Is each room set up efficiently? I would suggest no, based upon observations of the "21st century furniture" investment in the smaller classrooms where it is difficult to move in the room. Perhaps all the student services/non-educator functions can become mobile or go into new portable classroom(s). Also, start enforcing sick kids to stay home. If no referendum passes, how will crowded lunchrooms be addressed? Can you start encouraging kids to go home for lunch; can you dedicate outdoor space with picnic tables where kids can eat? I have heard that the lunchrooms are very noisy and smelly. My bottom line is that FDK is not a priority for the costs, especially with the other facilities challenges outlined. To date, the district has not presented a compelling nor well thought out reason for taxpayers to assume this debt.

-- look at the trends in GE...where more than 90% of your tax dollars come from. 44% of

our tax bill is for use by D41. You are getting plenty of \$ from the taxpayers...now ensure we have excellent property values BECAUSE we have excellent schools. It's what people moving into the area look for. Better schools mean increased property values which is where you'll get your \$

-- Keeping neighborhood schools (including full day kindergarten) is important to me and to our community.

-- I do not feel that full-day kindergarten should be the driver of the improvements or expansion for educational support space. As a parent of a kindergarten student, I support the half-day program, which allows the students to have one more year of learning and experiences outside of the classroom. The benefits of full-day have not been proven to the degree that the district should be making building decisions based primarily on the full-day kindergarten decision. For many parents, the desire for full-day seems to come less from a place of benefiting the child but more from the convenience and time it provides to the parents. As a working mom, full-day would be easier on my schedule, but I purposely elected the D41 half-day program (vs. St. Pet's) because I believe the kindergarteners benefit from having an extra year of play time and non-school based activity. On the educational support spaces, the expansions / construction needs should be able to stand on their own merit before consideration is given to funding, regardless of the impact of full-day kindergarten.

-- I defer to our educational leader to prioritize. These initiatives to the money which is available.

-- Bathrooms should have been included when additions were added to schools. Poor planning on school districts part does not result as an emergency on mine. Classroom space is under utilized. Specialist do not need a classroom all day. These rooms should become classrooms, for students use.

-- Adequate space, health codes + security are likely to top priorities for area parents especially.

-- There is no excuse to have inadequate security at any of the school buildings. Security should be upgraded immediately.

-- is the nurse there full time? unless nurse is there full time no need for dedicated space for nurse

-- SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE WHEN ADDITIONS ADDED.

-- Instead of expanding schools with too many children/and or building another, why are we not looking to rezone. Wheaton goes with Wheaton. Glen Ellyn with Glen Ellyn, Carol Stream with Carol Stream, etc... These schools are already too large.

-- Same feedback as prior. I would consider safety concern with a very good plan

-- I'm all for improving student service spaces to help students who need some form of therapy as well as improvements for restrooms and addressing ADA accessibility. However, renovations for nurses offices and library should be much lower on the list. Are there projections available for expected or anticipated school populations in the upcoming years?

-- School security, classroom space and educational support spaces (such as the cafeteria at Churchill) should be the next highest priority after the removal of the Hadley portables and

infrastructure improvements at Hadley. These priorities should come BEFORE all-day kindergarten. We need to bring current facilities up to date before we make a decision on all-day kindergarten.

-- Given the background info, I would support a referendum that does not result in a tax increase. Within that amount of money, the school board should decide which projects are most important.

-- While all of these improvements are valuable, they should not all be tackled at one time. There needs to be some prioritization on this big list. For example, removing the portables at Hadley might be a priority. Why is there no capital improvement budget for the roofing, etc at Hadley? I do think we need to consider all day kindergarten but the previous idea of housing kindergarten at a separate location from the elementary schools is not appealing.

-- Any security issues are related to the personnel at D41 not doing their job. It's not due to facilities. People are opening doors for strangers. No amount of construction will solve that. They need to adhere to protocol. Period. Wow... food, social workers... speech, occupational therapy, PT, administration, nurse, library... so, what's next, grocery store, nail salon, pub? At what point will you stop trying to expand these schools to dominate our lives, and refocus on TEACHING ACADEMICS?

-- You've added on to the elementary schools in recent years. Enough already.

-- 5 year olds don't need to be stuck in public institutions all day long. it's not healthy for them, not good for their development in the long run. They should spend time with family and playing in the yard. I want to know if the district plans to pull another despicable move and back-load the bonds again. This was an obvious ploy last time to convince taxpayers that the impact on taxes would be minimal. So they passed the referendum, and now, I move here and I'm paying for it as the payments have increased. Now, with the elevated payments, you make a comparison to a future bond but it's not apples to apples. We owe the next generation a shot at being able to afford decent schools. We can't give them this chance if we saddle them with debt. In the words of then-Senator Obama, putting this burden on the backs of our children and grandchildren is irresponsible, it's reckless, it's immoral, it's unpatriotic. And don't give me that dribble about it increasing my home value. more facilities and bigger footprint doesn't increase my home's value. Better test scores do. But our test scores are going DOWN, not UP! And my taxes are going up, which is scaring away potential home buyers. I actually tried to sell my home last year but I couldn't because people can't afford to live here. They said there are plenty of other towns with nice neighbors, good schools, access to shopping and highways and trains, etc. They are choosing Lisle, Naperville, Downers Grove, Lombard, Western Springs, LaGrange, etc. If we want to compete with them, we need to deliver more value for less money. Your proposals don't do that.

-- When you increased social work staff several years ago, didn't you plan for the need for space to house them, as well as other support and nursing staff? The buildings should have been ADA compliant quite awhile ago; what happened? Your section on school security is too vague to adequately respond, as is renovating FG's library. What can you do about the traffic tie-ups at Churchill at school start/finish? Do any students take the bus?

-- I am supportive of expanding spaces for student services, however not as supportive of renovating library and administration offices

-- If the sum of all upgrades can be kept under the \$30-40M level (meaning citizens still receive a tax savings), then I would support district updates. Having co-chaired a building

renovation committee at a major Glen Ellyn church, I understand the discipline it takes to keep projects within scope and budget. The district will have to maintain a similar focus to retain trust.

-- I've witnessed taxi services for students being transported to Hadley from other areas. Why are we paying for students out of district to attend our schools? Are we needing additional space for these types of students? If so, I will not support any referendum for additional space at any of our schools. We pay higher taxes to have our children attend D41 schools & it's mind blowing that we allow others to ride on our tax dollars. I believe the district owes the parents of this community an explanation of why we have students living out of our district to attend our schools.

-- Yes to full day kindergarten!

-- Why weren't many of these areas taken care of when the schools were just under construction? It seems highly inefficient to go back into the schools now to do what should have been done just a year ago.

-- district students/staff have managed crowding in the past. At some point, enrollment has to level off, and all this proposed space wont be needed.

-- We don't need any more additions. Reconfigure the current space. The school district needs to make the classrooms and bathrooms ADA accessible whether we pass a referendum or not. Are you saying they're NOT accessible? Should this have been addressed before bringing back a large number of special Ed kids?

-- Again, A choice should be given not supporting any referendum. While some of the items above may have merit these things should be done without coming to us for more money when 45% or more of our taxes already go to support this district. Live within your means or cut some spending and save like the rest of us in order to get what you want.

-- Not sure what ADA improvements are needed at the school? Are they required? If so, why haven't they been done before. Why do we need more small group and collaboration space? Shouldn't classroom space be a priority?

-- Clearly we have a lack of planning in this district. We just had all of our schools under construction a few years ago and we didn't address these issues. This is maddening to me! Even without full-day kindergarten you are telling me we have to tear up our schools again?!? Why wouldn't you address these with the last construction plans? And why wouldn't you made the additions two story? That would have solved a lot of issues it seems.

-- Why weren't these issues addressed when construction was just completed? It was only a year or two ago. Seems short-sighted.

-- Again, these improvements would be an investment in our children & their futures. Providing high quality education is also an investment in the future of our community, making it more attractive to families with school age children. For those residents who do not have school age children, it is important to recognize that home values are often, in part, reflective of the community's school system. An excellent school system will enhance home values.

-- The nurse office at Forest Glen really needs to be expanded.