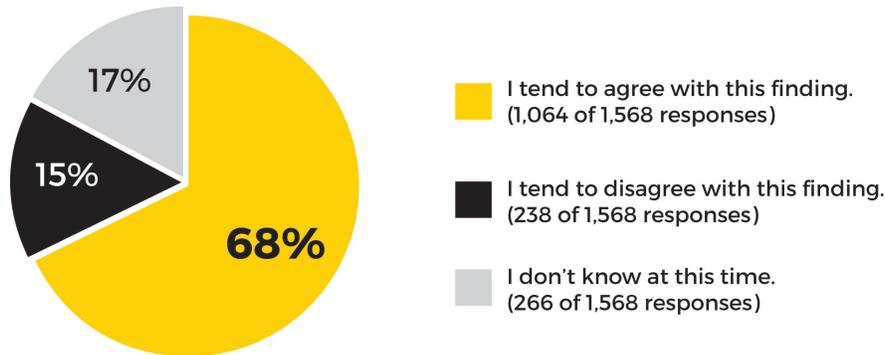


## Community Survey Feedback

### April 5-April 19, 2017

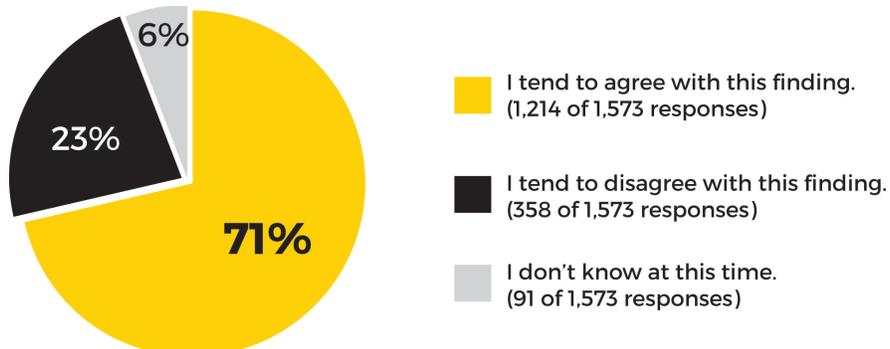
#### Need for an Operating Levy

In its initial findings report, the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) suggested that the Board of Education pursue an operating levy of 3.75 mills, which funds day-to-day expenses and would allow the district to continue current levels of operation. The FAB noted in its report that this would be the district's lowest operating levy request in more than 35 years. The district would not need to return to the ballot to ask voters for additional operating funding for three years. What do you think of the FAB's initial finding for operating millage?



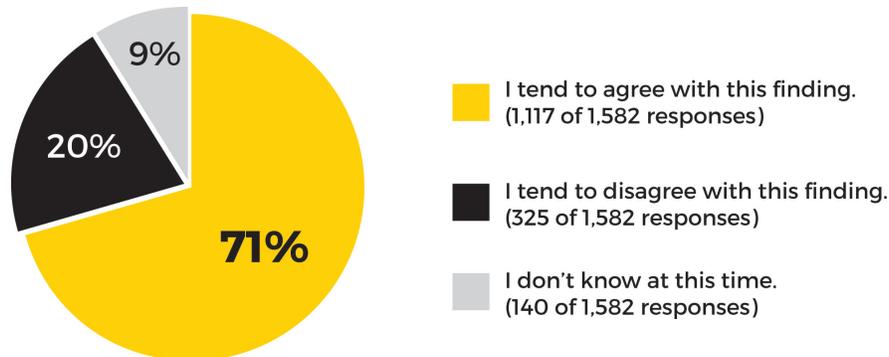
#### Phasing of the Master Plan

In its initial findings report, the Financial Advisory Board recommended a two-phase implementation schedule for the master plan, with the first phase consisting of rebuilding the high school and renovating or rebuilding all five elementary schools. The second phase would include the middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School and would be revisited by the community and the Board of Education in approximately 10 years. The FAB's rationale for including the high school in the first phase is the immediacy of the physical needs of that building. While the physical needs at the elementary schools are approximately five to 10 years out, the FAB feels it is wise to include the elementary schools in the first phase because of rising construction costs and a possible increase in interest rates. The FAB also feels it is wise to pursue a permanent solution for enrollment growth at the elementary schools instead of funding trailers as a temporary remedy during the first phase of the master plan. What do you think of this initial finding to address the high school and the elementary schools first?



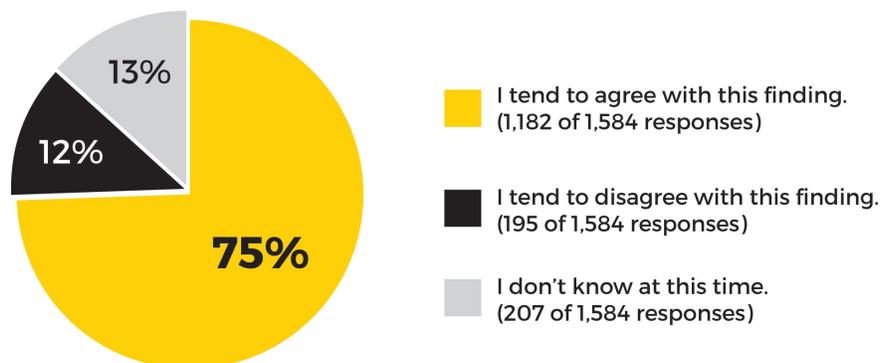
### **Upper Arlington High School Rebuild Options**

In its initial draft findings report, the Financial Advisory Board recommended rebuilding Upper Arlington High School on Zollinger Road with a drop-off lane and rebuilding and relocating Marv Moorehead Stadium within the current site. The FAB favored the Zollinger Road option (with an estimated cost of approximately \$142 million) over the Brandon Road option (approximately \$137 million). The FAB cited the following reasons for favoring the Zollinger Road option: better flow of traffic, easier access for first responders, better overall site layout and a better option for future expansion if needed. (To see illustrations of those options, please see the FAB initial findings report at [www.uaschools.org/facilities](http://www.uaschools.org/facilities).) What do you think of the initial finding supporting the Zollinger Road option for the high school?



### **Private Fundraising for the Master Plan**

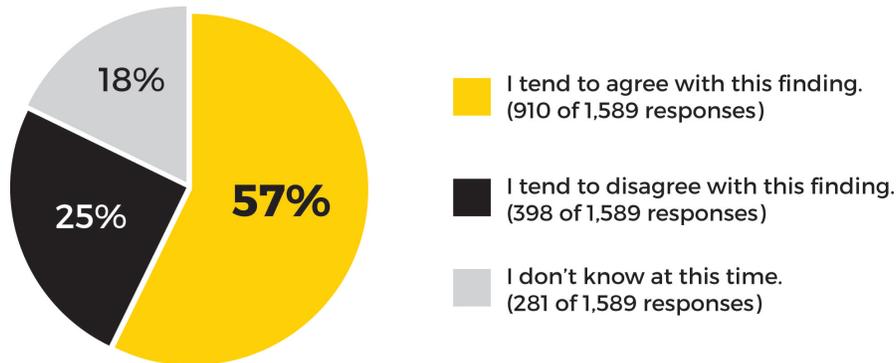
In its initial findings report, the Financial Advisory Board suggested that the district set a minimum private fundraising target of \$5 million. The FAB felt that this was a good option to reduce the overall cost to taxpayers for funding the master plan and felt it illustrated a good-faith effort by the schools to explore an outside funding option that would be unique for a public K-12 school project. What do you think of the FAB's initial finding on a minimum private fundraising target of \$5 million?



### **Transitional Athletic Space**

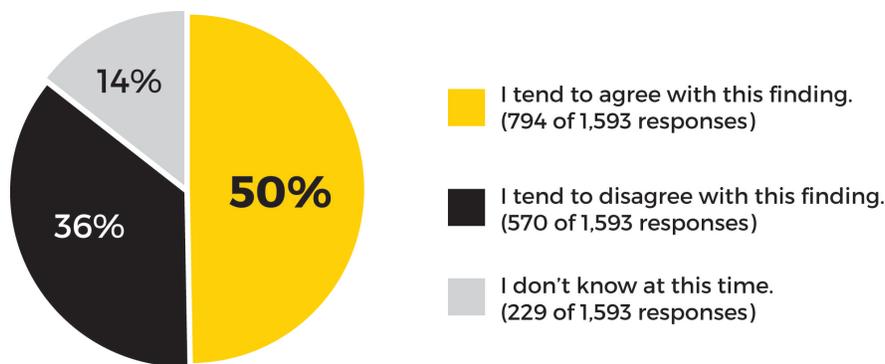
In its initial findings report, the Financial Advisory Board recognized the need to identify transitional athletic spaces to continue to support current programs while school sites are under construction. The FAB *does not* support pursuing turf fields at the middle schools as transitional athletic space as part of the master plan. But the FAB *does* support pursuing a turf field behind Tremont Elementary School for use during and after construction at the high school by student-athletes and the community. The FAB encouraged the district to explore sharing the cost of that turf field with the City of Upper Arlington. What

do you think of the FAB's initial finding encouraging the district to pursue a turf field behind Tremont Elementary?



### **Combined Operating Levy and Bond Issue on the November Ballot**

In its initial findings report, the Financial Advisory Board suggests that the Board of Education pursue a 8.92-mill combined operating levy and bond issue on the November 2017 ballot. Of the 8.92 mills, 3.75 mills would generate operating funding that would allow the district to maintain current levels of operation. The other 5.17 mills would generate the bond funding needed for construction at the high schools and the five elementary schools, totaling approximately \$230 million. The combined operating levy and bond issue would cost the owner of a home with a current market value of \$400,000 (as determined by the county auditor and listed on <http://www.franklincountyauditor.com/>) an additional \$1,249 in property tax each year. Compared with 2017 tax numbers, that would be approximately a 14 percent increase in overall property taxes and a 21 percent increase in school-related property taxes. What do you think of the initial finding suggesting that the Board of Education pursue an 8.92 mill combined operating levy and bond issue for the November 2017 ballot?



### **Additional Comments**

- Would like the FAB to share what a 3-phase implementation schedule looks like. We need to make sure the highschool gets done- absolute top priority. If there's a chance people will vote no- and they may considering the cost here- ditch the elementaries for now. It's not ideal- but we've got to get the HS done!
- An increase of this magnitude is clearly usury. If it is really needed, and I'm not convinced it is, it would seem to indicate the current and previous boards are inept and have failed their duty to operate fiscally responsibly. Regardless, before I can approve or disapprove I need real numbers and evidence that the

buildings as structured are unsafe. Not just contemporaneously "behind the times". I would much rather increase personnel than capital improvements. I look forward to a justification for cost and apology and or resignations from current board members that have long tenure specifically members Comfort and McClellan

- I strongly believe that the district's goal should be to rebuild ONLY the high school at this time. It is currently the only school that needs immediate work. Updating the 5 elementary schools early will only add unnecessary tax burden to residents as it is currently not needed. As a single parent, I will not be able to afford the excessive tax increase for work that is not needed at this time in the elementary schools.
- The whole plan is far beyond a cost this community will ever support.
- What about building the new high school in north side northam park? Lots of space for building and parking. Leave stadium and sports fields and pool and gyms where they are. Make it a sports complex. Or just renovate different parts of the highschool every year. Too hard to build a new one since we are so land locked. Build smaller building on football practice field to us while parts of high school being renovated.
- I can't tell if this is all about new funding on top of current levy/taxes, or continuation of current, or an increase.
- I have a few areas of feedback: first, like everyone, I would rather pay fewer taxes than more. Second, I agree that the facilities are in significant need of enhancement. Their current condition is not acceptable to me as a parent of a 2.5 year old (at Burbank) and a 1st grader (at Wickliffe). Our facilities do not match how kids learn today. Third, it is absolutely clear that while the facilities have been maintained decently over the years, previous Boards and administrations have not addressed longer-term issue that should have been resolved as part of normal aging of the facilities--such as 60+ year old boilers and original electrical panels (for example, it is unacceptable that boilers have rusted holes in them at Wickliffe and are in danger of a sudden failure--they can't be replaced overnight. What do we do if they fail in the middle of winter?). I absolutely will support both levy requests, but I would like to see a commitment from the Board and Administration to ensure that we do a better job 5, 10, 15, 20 years from now of continuously updating the infrastructure that drives our buildings.
- I fully support the FAB's recommendations and think they are a sensible, long-term solution to UA school's infrastructure needs.
- I have many concerns about this plan. 1. private funding of 5 million is a drop in the bucket. 2. Like many seniors, I live on a fixed income and am worried that the new levy and taxes will make it impossible for me to stay in my home of 30 years. 3. Greensview school, not too long ago, added a new wing and new gym...now all that will be demolished and an entirely new building will go up....so our previous tax dollars were wasted?
- In order to have the best chance at passing, I wonder about a 3-Phase Plan that would start with the High School and Operating Levy, then the Elementaries, and then the Middle Schools. With the successful completion of the High School project and responsible use of the operating levy, I would hope that subsequent bond issues and operating levies would pass with relative ease. Once people see and visit a fantastic, new high school, it will generate enthusiasm for updating the rest of the district facilities. I would just hate to see 2 years of effort and due-diligence go to waste with a failed levy attempt that was so big it scared people off. I understand that it will only get more expensive, but this would spread the cost of increased property taxes out over the next 15 years and not hit the people living here now with it all at once. FYI, my family will only (hopefully) see the benefit of this project through increased

property values. We'll live through construction at the high school and graduate before the new building would open.

- They should pursue bond funding outside of using the backs of tax payers and their property taxes.
- I wonder how necessary it is to rebuild and renovate all elementary schools during the first phase when it is the high school that has the immediate needs. 230 million dollars is an enormous amount. 1200+ dollars property tax increase is very challenging. It seems as if Tremont Elementary just had recent improvements so I am curious as to why it would be included in even more improvements.
- In all the years UA Schools has gone to the taxpayers for money, they never set aside money for facilities? Really? But I can sure bet the administrators were giving themselves big fat raises. How am I supposed to afford this huge new levy? I'm not getting any raises, but I'm sure the administrators will give themselves big pay increases. I would only vote for this if the district implements a wage freeze for the next few years.
- I'd also suggest turf at both middle schools and favor sharing the cost with the city as it provides benefit to all residents.
- I feel the FAB did a great job in evaluating all the issues. All the cost is significant, it is VERY necessary and as a resident of Upper Arlington with kids in the schools, I think this decision is LONG overdue. HOWEVER, I feel the school district as a steep UPHILL battle to convince the people in UA that do not have kids in the system, or are not supportive of the hike that a YES vote is necessary to preserve our great school system and preserve the value of homes in UA. It will be necessary to start very soon in bringing in the naysayers to start countering their arguments on why to vote NO on the levy. Not sure if you have been able to do that yet, but it needs to be done soon.
- I don't believe any of this is necessary, students are getting a good education, isn't that what school is about? These kids are very disrespectful, coming out of school yelling the 4 letter word, throwing their lunch trash on the lawns and in the street. Maybe what's needed is classes for the parents to instruct them how to teach their kids to be respectful and considerate of other people and their property.
- I vote "NO"!!!! This tax increase is ridiculous. There is no reason to tear down all of these schools. Plus, construction always costs more than planned. NO, NO, NO. I have always voted "yes" on school levies in the 30 years I have lived here, but not this time. I work for Columbus City Schools, and the new buildings they built are already falling apart. The older ones were built to last. We will be having county re-evaluations soon, and that plus this increase will be punishing. NO!
- I believe a lot of initial thought and effort have gone into this proposal survey. My question is - has any thought gone into those of us that are baby boomers, have no children in school, are on a fixed income, but are not quite ready to move from UA neighborhood houses that much effort and money have gone into to restore. I know for a fact that UA has a high percentage of boomers and would appreciate any thoughts you can provide toward this group. Thank you
- Would vote for an operating levy, but would vote against a combined operating levy and bond issue. Why can't they be pursued separately?? Property tax is already high enough. This would be asking too much from homeowners.
- Increase the owners of homes with current market value over \$1mill by 18% to boost at a much higher rate. So \$400k-\$999k value stays at 14% while \$1mill and higher brings in an extra 4% per household.
- You are asking for too much at this time. scale the plan back!
- I would be interested in learning/seeing how the cost estimates were developed. Before you can ask for funding you need to lay out what we are getting and explain how you got to that number. The cost estimates seem high...for example, Dublin was considering construction of another high school and estimated their cost would be \$90 million - which is \$50 million less than the UA estimates.

- I tend to not want to go forward with ALL of the planned investment at this time. Interest rates may not go up very much since it is within reason to believe the Fed will not create a barrier to economic growth by raising rates "substantially". I could possibly agree with the proposed average tax hike of \$1,249 as long as the property value increase under the reappraisal year (2017) isn't substantial. UA residents will be the recipients of a "double whammy" with new appraised values combined with a levy.
- Are there options to find state/federal support for building new schools to offset some of the costs to residents?
- A 14% property tax increase is a significant burden to ask of Upper Arlington residents. We must be cognizant of our residents that may not be in a position to absorb such a sharp increase in tax. This increase could force out long-time residents and deter UA alumni from choosing to purchase a home here. There is no doubt that our schools need physical improvements and that property taxes will need to increase. We are blessed to have business leaders and executives in our community that can lend their expertise in this matter. However, I believe my concerns speak for many in the community that have apprehensions about a significant increase at one time. I urge you to recognize the impact this will have on the lower and middle income families in Arlington. Go Bears!
- I worry about the potential increase in taxes for our community. I worry about a potential down turn in the economy as well as the the aging population and their unwillingness or inability to pay the increase. However, I know that our school facilities are a mess! Frankly - embarrassing! I don't know of any other option then to rebuild and repair our schools! Our family will be voting - yes!
- In addition to the private fundraising target I think it would be beneficial to have a portion of the bond issuance reserved for or at least offered to the community's residents. It would, quite literally, get them to "buy in" and encourage popular support for any ballot measures or initiatives to repay the bonds in later years.
- Even though there may be cost effective reasons to include replacing/renewing elementary schools with the high school, it's hard to justify replacing/renewing some of the elementaries that have newer additions. I would support a combined operating levy and bond issue for high school replacement only at this time.
- I have lived in UA for 34 years and have seen my property taxes increase 520% which far exceeds my salary increase over the same time ( or anyone else I know of). The UA schools to my knowledge collect comparable taxes to other similar school districts in our area, high property values and similar total millage costs. UA schools being in a boxed community have not had to build a single new school since I moved here. Student body expansion represents a significant cost to districts in general as they add to the system building size. One of your questions mentions private funding. UA schools might look to find some of the funding they are requesting by reducing internal operating expenses. They seem to have managed to incur high operating costs over the years above that done in surrounding school districts with their required expansion in additional school structures. You can't keep expecting school funding to exceed normal inflationary costs year after year. UA schools need to adjust the goals to required expenditures versus. Operating and Capital expenses are not separate items.
- I'm almost retired. Property taxes may cause me to move from UA because I cannot afford to live here any longer :(
- It would be nice to have an option to support the new high school separately with the operation levy.
- Obviously, the schools need repair. However, the extra \$1,249 (or?) a year would be a major blow to many seniors on a fixed income. This is way too much of an increase for many of us and is likely to result in many long term older residents leaving the area. It might be time to for the board to think about

all UA residents, not just a subset. Suggestion: Less expenditure on athletic fields and facilities; concentrate on renovation/repair of existing buildings over the next 20 years (rather than 10).

- Personally, we are in a position to afford the total increase in taxes. However, mindful that many families may not be in a similar financial position, it may seem advisable at this time to request funds only for the high school.
- The Jones combined gymnasium/auditorium is a space that serves no one well. In addition, the auditorium had water pouring through light fixtures at a December concert. It's disappointing that a space that is utilized by EVERY student at Jones, will be ignored for at least another decade. Do we really need an entirely new Greensview, which is not that old at the expense of a new gym and renovated auditorium at Jones?? As a teacher, parent, and taxpayer, I am struggling with supporting a levy of this amount while knowing such a big issue at Jones is ignored. While I understand the situation we're in now in regards to our facilities is the result of previous administrations not dealing with it, aren't we just pushing something else down the road to be dealt with later? Why is it all for 6 buildings and nothing for 3?
- Still don't agree with the decision to build a new high school. I think it would be significantly cheaper and more efficient to renovate.
- We support their findings and transparency of the entire process to date. The expected tax increase fell in-line with our personal thought process which furthers our support
- Does the increase in millage rate account for the county wide reappraisal taking place in 2017? Upper Arlington values are likely to increase greatly based on what the real estate market would indicate.
- As a UA resident and a parent of two not-yet-school-aged children, I strongly believe that investing in our schools is critical to maintaining UA's position as one of Ohio's most desired communities. Further, the additional investment in property tax dollars will likely yield a nice return over the long run for homeowners in the form of higher home values, regardless of if they have children attending UA schools or not. Whatever demand/population growth projections you are relying upon, I encourage you to consider that they may be understated; as the Central Ohio region grows and becomes more expensive/congested/etc, the relative appeal of UA is only going to increase.
- An operating and building levy should not be combined. I also believe the rebuild of the elementary schools should not be included in Phase 1. The district should consider 3 phases since my guess is the renovation of the middle schools and Burbank is likely to never happen. I also do not support the addition of a turf field at Northam Park/behind Tremont. The city cannot decide how to utilize Northam Park, so I see this as an overall waste or one where the city and school district and community cannot come to consensus. I so appreciate the districts transparency in discussing and informing the community about their plans. This is one reason this district is so fantastic!
- I would like the district to consider an SDIT For operating funds.
- Why do we need a turf field for transition space? What is wrong with grass?
- Too many nonessential items have been included such as rebuilding high school stadium and Jones tennis courts/parking garage. Operating and bond levy should be separated.
- The proposed rates are just non-starters. A 21% increase for the fully-loaded operating and bond levy speaks to a lack of planning. NO ONE outside of the bureaucratic world of public education has wages going up at the rates that are proposed with these tax increases. A dose of reality, a staged approach to any new building and some common sense is sorely needed. Barrington recently enclosed pods, built a new library and built a new gym, so that seems fine. Jones was remodeled with new windows in the last 10-ish years and seems fine. Tremont has been added on to with their new building. Maybe the high school could be spruced up, but can you do a more modest "remodeling" approach rather than a

complete teardown? At some point, being one of the highest tax areas is counter productive to attracting young families into UA. I'm yet to hear of anything being changed as an offset for the proposed incremental building costs. Could you do "shared services" with any number of other school districts among the administrative staff to save money? Other than risking self preservation of jobs, that sort of creative thinking would save the district money that could help reduce overhead. Do more with less and be fiscally prudent. It's taxpayers money. It's not an entitlement.

- I do not agree with rebuilding UAHS and moving the current stadium. You are suggesting that \$5 million will come from private funds. My concern is that by tearing down the existing buildings, you will also tearing down relationships from private donors. Over \$100,000 was spent on the media center in the summer of 2016. How do you justify throwing that project in the wind? Private funds have been spent throughout the district (ie Wrestling Room revovation, Marv Morehead Stadium, Media Center, Front Walks, Playgrounds) and all of that will be lost if you rebuild. Donors will stop giving if you continue to build and then destroy what was built. One major concern I have is the lack of maintenance that occurs in our schools today. I gasp every time I enter the front door of the high school. The dead plants, leaves and weeds are not welcoming. A hose has been on the ground for most of the winter and people have to walk around it to enter the building. The first impression we give to visitors to our schools is not good. How hard is it to maintain the landscaping around our buildings? Will this change with a new building? UAHS started the school year with the door falling off and caution tape in the girls restroom. You had the summer to repair the bathroom, yet that did not happen for the first day of school. Decades ago the benches were removed at Jones Middle School stadium and never replaced. Today you sit on the concrete pad if you go to that stadium. The toilet is broken in the Jones locker room. Why is there a pattern of not repairing items? It appears that maintenance has never been a priority. Will new buildings be cared for in a better manner? What changes are being made to ensure that the funds will be there for future maintenance? How will you guarantee that the building materials used will be of equal quality to the materials in the existing buildings? If you look around at new buildings in other districts, it does not appear that those buildings are holding up to the test of time. Will our new buildings need to be torn down due to poor building materials? How do you justify what it will do to our environment to tear down buildings? Fill the landfills-- not reuse, reduce, recycle. This is sending a mixed message to the students of Upper Arlington.
- Ask most people why they live in Upper Arlington and the response will be because of the excellent schools. While this is true for the education their children receive, the actual buildings are in need of upgrading or replacing. While most people are not in favor of higher taxes, this is an investment in the future for our children and community.
- As a senior citizen who wants to remain in UA, and who sees the need for these building updates, is there any kind of plan that might make the tax bite a bit less for seniors?
- good idea to have a FAB - it will be crucial when it comes time to vote - get solid testimonials from both sides and figure out how to really INVOLVE us or levy will likely fail. I have well-heeled neighbors who are very, very concerned - they need to be carefully led to the conclusion that it's a wise move. We're the best located neighborhood for anyone working downtown and that beats the awful commutes from New Albany and Dublin, by a lot. Unless we blow it, real estate values will continue to reflect the advantage of schools and location. Let's get the schools back to the top, and look into how New Albany's controlling teacher compensation. The numbers are getting kinda big.
- I think that many of our residents can't afford a \$1200 hike in property taxes. We'll push senior citizens and some struggling families out of UA. How about ditching the technology provision for our elementary students completely - saves money AND it's way better for the kids since technology does

not equal education . ALSO how about swapping Acer laptops for the Mac laptops we currently give the upper grades? Acers come at a fraction of the cost and since the students do everything on Google (which is supported by the Acer computers) there is no loss. Also - I understand that there may currently be an attempt to oust some of our higher paid teachers through investigations. But we should want to keep the excellent educators that have experience in the system as we also hire new innovative teachers at the same time. Pursuing private funding is a great idea. But 5 million isn't enough. I think our buildings are a mess and new ones would be great. However, we don't want to shove families out of our district by raising taxes at this level. You may be trying to do too much too quickly. Lastly, at your large meetings, please allow citizens to speak freely and ask questions in a timely way. Currently, the district presents, but questions are put off till the end (when many have already left) and you lose the benefit of their ideas, and the community loses the benefit of open public dialogue. I understand that questions are allowed at the small meetings, where not many hear. Keep working on it! Thank you

- I previously submitted questions which once answered will allow me to answer the questions above that I wasn't initially able to do. Thanks.
- I have some concerns about private money funding part of this effort because I don't want to see the district become beholden to any particular citizens, organizations, or businesses. I would like to know more about how this effort to find private monies will be handled, what parts of the buildings will be funded this way (will we have a named theatre or gymnasium or field, etc.?), and what future implications this public-private venture might hold for UA schools. People or businesses who give lots of money and then find their sphere of influence not to their liking can become vicious adversaries of what they once supported; likewise, they can hold great sway (maybe too much) over the institutions they fund. I urge caution and much more transparency here.
- I would separate the operation levy from the bond issue because I am extremely concerned that the bond issue will fail given the price tag for both. I would support both levies, but I would prefer that operations not fail because of the price for building.
- I am excited for all these facility improvements. Great school are a big part of what makes UA great, so I'm glad we're investing in our schools for the long term.
- I really appreciate the work of the FAB. One overall concern I have is a perception that the school district has not effectively managed our properties over the last 50 years. Many of the buildings look dirty with even cheap update options like a new coat of paint not performed. Additionally landscaping at most schools is pathetic. If we give the district money to build new schools will they be managed in the same way? Maintenance, cleaning & update standards need to be raised. I am not eager to give the district a lot of new money if they are not going to effectively care for the new assets.
- It is extremely hard to agree or disagree as I have yet to see any plans of what exactly will be built and what improvements will be made.
- Great job! Thank you SO much for your time and care for our students.
- No need to rebuild Burbank because this is not used as a school. Do not build High School on current football field. Many 'boosters' paid for the improvements to the field.
- I'd like more information on school growth, current enrollment and capacity at the elementary schools published or sent out.
- I will vote AGAINST anything that results in my 7th grade daughter being taught in trailers during the rebuild/renovation!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Find a solution that doesn't impact the current and future students or (hopefully) it will fail.
- I'm sure you are well aware that the "resistance" movement is very strongg around Northam Park and Tremont fields. I suspect the turf athletic fields will be a big hurdle.

- Awfully long time to address middle schools and burbank.
- It's too expensive. Should be phased in over 20+ years.
- This seems to be a hefty tax increase. I agree with the need to improve the schools. However, is it necessary to have this amount of an increase to the home owner? Maybe the answer is yes. But seems like a lot.
- We will support the school levy requests. However, the cost per month per household is quite high, you are asking us to make significant financial sacrifices. Not everyone has expendible income in this range. I think you will need to prove to voters you have done everything imaginable to keep costs down, especially when neighboring schools are building and expanding at much lower costs.
- I think it is a ridiculous waste of funds to pursue any option for the high school that includes a tear-down and rebuild of the football stadium, when there are perfectly good options that do not require that additional expense.
- What does the 3.75 operating levy cover? "Maintain current levels of operations" is very vague statement. Is this to fund increases in teachers, with the increase in students expected. Or is this to increase the current salaries of already existing staff?
- I truly appreciate the time and effort the FAB put into these recommendations. I think our community, especially our children - need these changes to happen.
- Has anyone included better cafeterias in the new schools?
- \*\*I appreciate the survey. I feel UA is doing a great job getting feed back on school spending. PLEASE have the City planners follow similar approach. \*\*Question 5 (regarding turf) needs a bit more information- what are the cost impacts of turf at the middle schools vs Tremont? It was tough answering the question without understanding pros/cons. I answered assuming Tremont is cost neutral or positive (lower cost option). \*\*I believe there should be urgent action towards the high school- all focus should be on this first phase since all kids are impacted (higher return on our \$)
- UA schools are the reason we relocated from Worthington! I would rather see our taxes be used for the future of all of UA children & our community!
- I would like to know if after the high school is rebuilt will there be enough lunch space for all students to eat in the school? Also, how many years would the additional amount of \$1250 be in effect . Will there be room to grow for the academic areas at the new high school? Is the amount of parking staying the same or will there be an increase/decrease? How will student/faculty parking be addressed during the rebuilding? Any chance for off site parking with a shuttle to help with traffic flow?
- this is very large increase in the taxes. I'd suggest starting with the high school, where is the immediate need for renovation, but leave elementary schools for 5-10 years, after the high school renovation is done. i do not see reason to spend almost 8 mil more to have different entrance to the high school. I'll vote against the proposal in it current edition in November. The tax rise should not exceed 8-10%.
- Need to find more sources of private funding to offset the costs - naming rights on the stadium? Other ideas? Also, tennis courts need to be addressed as HS re-build occurs....what will be used as alternative?
- I strongly support the pursuit of private funding. As a Professor at OSU, it is obviously quite common for donors to have buildings, fields, programs, etc. named after them in recognition of a contribution. I don't see why this couldn't happen in a public K-12 district just like it does at a public University. There are obviously people with money in this community who might be quite happy to see it go toward such a cause.
- I would be in favor of collaboration for turf fields and/or other athletic facilities between the city of UA and UA schools, though I am not sure of how the proposed turf field by Tremont would fit in with the proposed Northam Park renovations.

- Thank you for your outstanding work. We look forward to seeing the plan unfold over the coming years.
- My child is in this school system right now, but I am honestly tired of the year after year of the construction and trying to avoid it. I am also not sure I think we need quite this level of work done at the high school level and do NOT like the restructuring of the drop off to the much busier Zollinger road. I think this is what the superintendent and the like want, not what the community needs.
- I'm not sure the operating levy should be combined with the bond funding. The high school layout is ok but I think there things that could be done to cut costs like keeping the football stadium where it is. Overall, I think the building recommendations are good.
- Best luck!
- This is a very expensive and ambitious plan...let's decide what really needs to be taken care of with the school buildings instead of just wanting and wanting more!
- Private funding should be AT LEAST \$5 million - preferable more to help defray the cost of the construction. Unclear whether the operating levy continues current property tax funding or is an increase. I support the construction bond funding but want to know more about the operating levy.
- Why must we rebuild the HS rather than rehab/modify?! Seems UA going for an extremely expensive option - I would guess to "keep up with the other burbs." Don't think "keeping up with the Joneses" is worth a 21% increase in school-related prop tax and an 14% overall increase - an additional \$1250/yr in prop tax on a \$400K home is ludicrous
- I'm thankful for the time and energy put into this project to benefit the schools.
- It is unclear from reviewing the video of the information meeting what the duration of the levy is going to be. It would seem that the operating levy will need a renewal of somewhat equivalent expense but would it be fair to assume the bond funding portion of the operating levy is a one-time event?
- As a windermere family, it would be interesting to hear the logistics surrounding the two schools on the Wickliffe site. Example, drop off and pick up would be staggered (Wickliffe starting 15 minutes earlier than Windermere), I've seen this in other districts. Other logistics would be recess, festivals and school events.
- Figure out pension and health care costs and decrease the need for these constant operating levy increases.
- I love the idea of attempting a private fundraising drive as there are a lot of UA residents who I believe may have their heart in this project and it could then potentially lower the bonds needed or the total overall costs of the project. It would certainly be worth the effort to try.
- I feel this is a good time & good decision by the school board to pursue this aggressive plan. This is a much needed improvement of the infrastructure of our schools & will help position UA schools well into the future. UA home prices have been steadily rising these last few years & if we want to keep that trend moving in the right direction we must invest on in our outdated deteriorating schools' infrastructure.
- I think they did a great job laying out options and providing the best recommendation for our schools
- I appreciate the tremendous effort at public outreach to make sure residents are informed about the needs of our schools and options for the future.
- I feel the bond and operating should be separate. You do not need the operating to do the bond issue.
- lets get it done!
- School infrastructure quality and academic excellence improve the health and reputation of the community as a whole
- Reconstruction is the most expensive of all the options, yet it was chosen for half the schools. My house is 65 years old too and also needs a lot of work. Less expensive options should be chosen for the

elementaries. Reopen Burbank as an elementary if needed. Most residents don't have a spare \$1300 a year for extravagant school buildings.

- It seems like other districts can build new schools for much less money. I'm not sure why it's costing this district so much.
- I completely support rebuilding the high school. I do not think it should be bundled with the 5 elementary schools (and I am a parent of 3 elementary school children). I have discussed this with a lot of parents and I firmly believe the levy will fail due to the addition of the elementary school rebuilds. \*Please\* do the high school by itself!
- SIMPLIFY and CLARIFY requests: 1) Separate operating levy from construction levy, 2) Keep stadium in current location and add smaller access lane/entrance on Zollinger for drop-offs and emergencies, 3) Separate and deal with elementary school construction funding when needed. Raising property taxes \$1,500-\$4,500 in one year per household is EXCESSIVE. You may have beautiful schools, but fewer homeowners willing to pay EXCESSIVE property taxes to live in INFERIOR homes than could be purchased in Dublin, New Albany, Westerville, Olentangy, and Hilliard. Housing costs will decline as buyers choose/relocate to other districts with newer homes even if the school district is considered slightly inferior! How will all the beautiful schools be paid for then? By raising property taxes again?
- Has the city or school board had a reserve replacement fund each year? I am a commercial real estate consultant. Sometimes we have buildings very old that are renovated. In Europe schools in buildings over 100 years old no problem. So how about put in new hvac, roof or what is needed or are we trying to keep up with the "jones" none of my neighbors want to pay a dime more in taxes as we feel the city did a poor job bringing in new tax revenue. No retiree wants it. As a parent with a 13 year old he may be gone almost when this is done so I am undecided. I can't stand though that we never had enough indoor basketball courts and had to go to Wellington to practice late at night. If we can't get 4-5 more gyms after asking 10 years or a community center for all why should we vote for this levy?
- Although the costs seem high, we cannot let our schools fall into disrepair and must take the steps necessary to rebuild and renovate as needed.
- By combining the Operating Levy and the Bond Issue on the ballot, you are forcing the Bond Issue through - sneaky trick!!! And I totally disagree with rebuilding so many of the elementary schools. Greensview had a brand new addition about 8 years ago - and that's not good enough!?
- I think you will be wise to split the funding request or I think you will find yourself without an operating levy as I am not sure the community will be willing to support a new high school and all the other work.
- UA already has exceptionally high property taxes. A 14% increase on top of what we are currently paying is crazy! I am 100% behind our schools and the need to rebuild/renovate. I am willing to pay for this!!!! BUT I am super confused where all of our exorbitant tax money goes? The city doesn't even cover our trash collection! My worry is that this is going to discourage people from moving here. I already know two families moving this summer solely because they want to "get out" before the tax hike. The district has done a fantastic job of exploring the needs of our schools and communicating options and accepting feedback on designs. I haven't seen the same effort in exploring options for how to PAY for these options. More fundraising, private donations, etc should be explored rather than simply increasing our property taxes another 14% (ack!) and raising only 5mil. separately. I will really have a hard time voting for that.
- I believe the High School needs addressed first and then in a few years reapproach the needs of the elementary rebuilds. Although inflation plays a key role a 6-7 year window is enough time to present a second levy.
- The operating levy and bond funding should be pursued separately.

- First, I don't agree with phasing the hs and 5 gradeschools together. Do the hs now by itself and the middle schools and the gradeschools as phase 2 to help defer cost. Second, if we are going to invest in turf fields why not do them at the middle schools? Third, I do not see why we need to rebuild the hs football stadium at this stage.
- I would rather see the money used for maintaining what we have and not disrupting and building. The property taxes are high enough for the services rendered in UA
- While I agree with the need I and will vote for it think you are going to have a hard time selling an extra 1200 dollars a year.
- I recommend we build turf fields as both middle schools in addition to the Tremont. I think it would help relieve the pains of construction and address future long term needs. In addition to that, we need to have alternative space for the basketball, swimming and other indoor sports. A well placed plan is important.
- Based on the dollars involved, I would like to see an initial focus on the High School rebuild with the Zollinger Road option. Based on the FAB's findings, the elementary schools should be delayed the 5-10 years suggested based on need, cost and timing. I would like to see the cost of just focusing on the High School rebuild from a property tax perspective along with the normal operating levy. Keep in mind, property taxes will also be going up at least 10% due to the 2017 Auditor reappraisal process. This combined with the bond issue and operating levy could be very painful to swallow all at the same time. Thus my suggestion on just focusing on the pressing need right now which is the high school. I believe this would also greatly improve the chances of the levy/bond passing in November.
- What is the feasibility of private fundraising? Would there be value in postponing the work at the elementary schools to spread the costs over a longer period of time?
- Is the increase in property taxes of 14% comparable to other districts with these repair/rebuild or building needs? This seems like a stark jump at one time. I understand building the money up for the projects to come but can this be spread out i.e. 7% increase this fall then another 7% jump in years to come?
- I agree that the high school does need rebuilding but not the elementary schools. This is too much at once and too much to ask of tax payers. With rising property values, taxes have already increased which should mean more revenue for the schools. Our property taxes are out of control high!
- That amount of a tax increase will push us and many we know out of UA. It seems that the board and those advising them are extremely out of touch with the middle and working class of Upper Arlington. I'd urge them to reconsider the hardship that they are placing on families that are already very tightly budgeted.
- While I agree with the need for the high school rebuild, I have concerns with the need for elementary rebuilds if enrollment grown does not require them for five to ten years. This cost can be spread out. Also I see no need to put money into the early childhood building unless the plan is to put it back as an elementary school - this is a huge waste of resources that can and should be used for its original purpose. Also I have concerns about the operating levy. Inflation has been very low for quite some time; if costs are up significantly this issue needs to be addressed before simply asking for a tax increase. Considering that the schools portion of my current property tax bill is approaching \$10,000 per year, it is very difficult for me to imagine a need to increase this by 20%, even knowing the infrastructure needs at the high school.
- With the way our City Government has mismanaged financial resources over the past few years, for the first time in the 20+ years I've lived here I will not support the levy. The City and School Board should have been looking forward at more pressing needs than Northam Park for instance before coming to voters asking for a tax levy. Complete stupidity.

- I think the amount you're pursuing is still way too high. You can do things cheaper. The increase in taxes will be devastating for many homeowners. I also don't agree with the rebuilding versus repairing conclusions. In addition, Burbank should not be the responsibility of the tax payer. It's a tuition based program. Find another way to fix it or tear it down. Use some of the other available space (like the old firehouse) for office space. Get creative. It seems all you want to do is build the fanciest, most expensive schools. We are land locked. How much can enrollment really grow? Our property values already very high and out of reach for many young families. Increasing our taxes by the entire amounts you are seeking will turn away the exact family you're trying to attract.
- Good schools are important to most residents of UA. However, there are several very good school district choices in central Franklin County. Very few choose New Albany, Worthington, or Dublin because of their new school buildings, and few reject UA because of its older school buildings. It is the central location of UA that sets it apart from other suburban communities (close proximity to OSU & downtown). I am in favor of maintaining, renovating, and in some cases replacing our school facilities. However, trying to do too much too quickly will create an undue financial burden on many residents, and will prevent some from purchasing homes in UA. Stretching the timeframe for renovation & replacement is fiscally responsible, and would not be damaging in anyway to our children's education or our community's standing. Respectfully, (name redacted)
- Way too much of a tax increase for residents. It's a shame that all the schools need to be done at the same time. Also didn't UA give lots of tax abatements to big businesses ( hotel, medical building) that could have been used toward schools? Bad planning- now they will have to find a way to pay for all this.
- Perhaps you should separate the operating levy and the bond issue. It would be a shame to lose the operating money if there isn't enough support for the construction plan. And it kind of feels like you are trying to trap people into passing the bond by combining them. And maybe look at two options for the bond with a slower phasing. I have two kids and want to support all of this. But that's a big jump in taxes at one time.
- Elementary school expansion is part of the need for capital investments. Burbank was built to be an elementary school. Why can't Burbank be used for its originally intended purpose? Is nothing at the high school complex able to be salvaged? The baseball team just spent money for batting cages. The auditorium seems completely functional and usable. It's rented out on a regular basis.
- This is simply too high of a tax increase and I am dismayed that the school board has not been saving for the eventual construction since the day that original buildings were built. It was not a surprise that they would age, and it was simple mismanagement that they have not been working towards this all along. Also, our teachers are extremely well paid and supported by the parents in the community, who spend thousands of hours volunteering, and are constantly asked to donate additional funds for activities, provide daily snacks and buy all sorts of extra items (as asked by the PTO.) Our school district is great because of these things, but we do not need to continue to throw more and more money at a great district, when our neighboring districts are in such dire condition. A tax increase of this kind could force people out of our community at a time that we are trying to foster diversity, and could force non-working parents to go back to work, which would have an impact on the above mentioned volunteer hours. Further, I am concerned about the projections that the population of our schools is raising, when MORPC (at the UA Futures event a few months ago) stated that UA and Central Ohio as a whole is slated to have one in five households as a single person home in the next ten years, due to the rise in the elderly and millennials. I do not see how that many single person homes equate with a rise in school age children. I do appreciate all of the thought that you have put into this plan, but it is too big of a financial burden to ask of your citizens, and I would suggest only doing a few schools at a time, while at the same

time planning for the future of our schools, so that you will not ask citizens to bare this burden all at once again.

- just finance the high school at this time.
- You should just put the bond issue on the ballot rather than combine it with an operating Levy It would have better success of passing.
- The only thing that bothers me is the use of the space behind Tremont for the transitional sports field. In the master plan to renovate Northam park, thec potential field could disrupt the potential redesign (unless it will be incorporated responsibly). I support the plans to rebuild and renovate many of the schools, and support renovating Northam park, so I'd like to see the city keep both a priority. I've been very impressed with the communication and community engagement with this whole process.
- Thank you for all this work! We support you!
- We are in full support of this; however, by bundling the elementary schools in with the high school, that tax increase is very large for a lot of homeowners. Would be curious what the numbers would be if the initial levy was for operating and the new construction of the high school.
- I think the middle school should have turf fields; there fields are horrible, especially Jone's field.
- Hasings Middle School is in desperate need of air conditioning for fall sports (volleyball). I'm not sure where or if that fits into this planning, but the heat takes a toll on the girls, while Jones girls enjoy air conditioned gyms. If that could be alleviated quickly and not in 10 years, that would be great.
- Can elementary schools be combined? Do they all need rebuilt? It seems that the increases in taxes are to significant for this to pass.
- When do the tax abatements for Kingsdale expire? I asked that question earlier in the process, online, and last I looked it was not answered, but that was a while ago.
- I would like the Board to share during which school years the construction of the high school will take place and also share how the the marching band and athletic teams will be affected during the construction.
- Let's keep property taxes down! Double digit percentage increase is too much!
- UA School funding increases, but education quality & responsibility decrease.
- I am not familiar with FAB's rationale to set private funding at "only" 5 million. Could it be higher? Will an extra \$1200 in real estate tax be a hardship for some? Will the city demographic be affected?
- I support the boards efforts with respect to high school replacement and funding related to that. That building is long in the tooth and clearly needs replacement. However, to the extent that the board recommends rebuilding/replacing grade schools I am suspicious of the motivation behind such ideas. For example, I have heard that greensview is a school that would be replaced. If this is true, then I lose confidence in ALL of the boards recommendations. If the boards packaging of the high school rebuild includes bootstrapping the replacement of grade schools, such as Greensview, into an "all or nothing" proposal, then I, regrettably, would choose nothing. Does "8.92" sound like a reasonable number? A 14%jump is unacceptably high. Do not make the mistake of assuming that all of UA is an affluent suburb from corner to corner. Many of us live here by the slimmest of financial margins, for all the right reasons, the schools being one of them. A more thoughtful approach, and one which would reflect respect of the board for the citizens, would be to parse this project into smaller parts over time rather ramming a huge levy down the voters' throats in a "we know what's best for you people" manner, an all too familiar technique that the city has used repeatedly. Start with replacement of the high school, a big enough project on its own and one which virtually everybody can get behind because of its obvious need to be replaced. I caution you to rethink this. It could be that I am out of touch with reality and that the

UA electorate will gladly pass the levy you're suggesting. But I for one would vote against it as an overbroad and unnecessary overreaching by the board. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

- Our taxes have more than doubled since 2003. The school board should set up a fund for all of the citizens who want to pass a levy. Instead of voting for the levy, all of those pro-levy citizens should take out their checkbooks and fill the fund by making donations on behalf of their anti-levy fellow citizens.
- Why cant and dont we use whats in our reserve accounts to help maintain the upkeep of our schools?
- I don't think you will gain support for knocking down 4 schools. I think you should revisit renovating all elementary schools. I support the schools and have young kids who will benefit from it, but I don't believe you will get the buy-in necessary for this plan. It's going to be seen as excessive.
- I would think the &5 million in private funding is low. I am sure this has been investigated but I'd want to insure that all avenues have been explored with the city and OSU for instance as well as other organizations. I am aware of collaborative projects in New Albany, Gahanna, and Reynoldsburg that included City, Civic, business and Arts organizations.
- Will the new high school have a cafeteria to accommodate all the students and eliminate the need for open lunch? Have you researched how the other schools operate their closed lunches?
- The sports field needs to be a community asset and not part of the school system. Have been pushed off fields by high school coaches, I am against any field on public park space that would force community and school athletes to compete for field time or space, even knowing my kids will one day use it. Due to limited park space, I think the schools should maintain separate athletic facilities. This raises a concern as well that this part of this plan will stir more community opposition as the "save Northam park" group gears up to fight any use of the park.
- I am certain all FA Board members are well intended. I also believe that our UA school system is a key reason folks settle in the community. Some of the he facilities are indeed older, but they have been maintained over the years with a continuous stream tax payer dollars. You all have a built in revenue increase with the school levies currently in-place as property values increase so does revenue. It is also my experience that when asking for public funds, the pencil is never gets very sharp. Why not work with a young upstart general construction firm ready to take the next step? I am not satisfied that cost containment efforts were sufficient and as a result cannot support the levy 8.92 mil levy/bond issue.
- Got my vote, for the sake of the kids hope this passes.
- I think putting turf fields at Northam Park is a bad idea. I would rather see them at the middle schools where they would be utilized more in the future. The middle schools already have a track and space for spectators. I think redesigning field space at Northam is important and relocating the tennis courts would help maximize space for all sports. Putting synthetic fields in the middle of a park used for other things like fireworks, festivals, dogs off leash, etc. limits usage of certain areas.
- The extra \$1249 per year in taxes will definitely be a financial hit to us. Our budget is already tight and I feel our voice is small in this process. I agree that the high school should be rebuilt and I understand the arguments for working on the elementary schools but can't deny the financial impact this will have on our family, on a budget that has little flex at the moment.
- Private fundraising goal should be more than \$5million.
- its too bad you had to spend all that money on the Tremont "do over" - now you are left with a mess. This should all have been considered before you spent all that road money. I do not have a bottomless pit from where you can get the money you need and the amount of bond issues is horrifying. Maybe you all could just handle the cost yourselves as you seem VERY happy to spend everyone else's money. Try rethinking all of this. Very upsetting!

- While we support the building needs, as Senior Citizens on a fixed income, we have concerns about the large increase in the tax burden.
- I do agree with the improvement of facilities in our community; furthermore I do not mind paying taxes for the schools. The problem with this entire process is that educated people have been making educated decisions based on inaccurate information. The problem is at every meeting the term "estimate" keeps getting thrown around. There are no A/E drawings, no bid packages, no written scopes of work and no GC/subcontractor quotes. Just decisions based on numbers pulled out of the sky by Turner. An example is the 2 different options of \$137m and \$142m. That's only a 3% difference that they have determined between huge numbers without even a A/E floor plan? It impossible to make that determination There made up numbers pulled out of the sky. Most construction budgets of that size struggle to get within +/- 10%. The other red flag is that for 2 years decisions were made based on over inflated numbers. H.S repair & renovation numbers claimed to be estimates larger than brand new school projects around the state with equivalent square footage. Check the OFCC past history. There hasn't been a previous H.S. project anywhere even close to your number. Olentangy Berlin is a \$61m project for a new school from a green field without even 1 site utility in place. . We were getting numbers of \$75m to repair and \$132m to renovate? Really! The foundations, concrete floors, parking lots, walls, roof structure, building utilities, and site utilities are already in place and a new berlin is lower than half that cost? Our H.S. is projected to be well over double that cost for new. \$81m more? Now I understand it will be better than Berlin and I am for that. but it cant be close to that much. The problem is you are basing your levy on that amount of money. When you actually get estimates the numbers will be way less and I know we will on be taxed on what we spend. . So after it passes I will be watching to see the actual bids/project cost and I will see if my \$400,000 house really warrants a \$1249 a year increase. If the bids are lower it should be less. We will see.
- Although I tend to agree with all of the findings and the need to pump money back into our school facilities, I do have some concern on our ability to run such a large construction project on budget and on time. In addition, the initial estimates seem to be much higher than what other school districts have allocated to build net new buildings. The group needs to do a better job in educating folks on the reasons for that and how they will ensure it stays on budget. There is a growing feeling in the community that this will be the first of many requests for additional money. Either way, I do intend to support the levy.
- I think private funding should be the primary resource for athletic-type expenses. Athletics, while important, tends to receive a LOT of money when arts does not. We need to work towards de-emphasizing "state championships" and emphasizing the only value of athletics and that's competition, exercise and growth. That's it. State championships do NOT increase the value of the school AT ALL and have no value to > 90% of the students.
- Way too much money to spend - cannot raise taxes this much - other things need to be cut before this plan moves forward.
- I don't understand the issue of "pursuing turf fields" behind Tremont. The fields already exist, I believe the city owns them and there should be no additional expense (unless they are owned by St. Agatha's and they will charge us?) I think clarification is needed in future communications about this issue. The \$5M in private funding is probably a low number, but I support it as a minimum. There is a lot of money in this town and naming rights, etc. would bring individuals, families and corporations into the fold.
- I support the renovation and upgrades of the schools, but the options presented have little support available to substantiate the costs presented. I will not support a full levy without further information provided (renderings, square footage details, finishes etc.). Several high schools in Columbus have been

built recently and significantly lower costs. What can justify almost a 100% increase compared to these projects.

- Thank you
- It seems like UA High School football games could easily be played at Jones Middle School because the bleachers are ideal for the number of people that would want to go to the games. Perhaps other sports could use the Tremont fields.
- Thanks for leading this effort. Here's my #1 suggestion: You need to do more private fundraising and less taxpayer money. Everyone agrees the school buildings are in need of repair and future upgrades but your formulary on where to find the best and fastest funding is off -- big time. 14% increase in property tax by this November (less than 9 months) is too much, too soon. Frontload the project with individual philanthropy (which this community can easily do) and THEN come to taxpayers 18-24 months down the road with smaller burden and request. This will work -- have faith! People would be proud to support this project (and put their name on a hall). Use the tool UA is always known for having in its rich history and heritage -- prideful residents with big egos -- to your advantage. Remember that just like you, a resident of UA's greatest asset is not their physical space or home size (and thus property tax income) -- it's their heart, passion and pride in their community (most importantly school district). Tap those feelings on a personal level with a robust fundraising campaign and I promise you, UA alums, parents/grandparents will be clamoring to one-up their neighbor in giving to the schools (but not at the ballot box and certainly not this November if you don't raise way more than a measly \$5M on your own first!). You can do this!
- Having turf fields at the middle schools will improve playing conditions at both sites as the fields are uneven and the grass tends to wear (I used to be an athlete at HMS, so I speak from experience). Going forward the fields would be a good asset to the school system as well as youth athletics for the city. The UAHS site idea with the school facing Zollinger I like, and I support having premium quality building materials and equipment (higher upfront cost) provided that it saves money and/or headaches in the long term.
- The bond issue is just too high. Are there lower cost alternatives?
- There are implications that would be very difficult to address in full on a survey like this; however, many come up as the questions are posed. These implications meant an "I don't know at this time" answer for several questions. For example, what are the implications for Northam Park as a whole if turf fields are to be added?
- I am extremely concerned about the cost burden on UA residents. \$1249 is a huge increase and I am not in favor of an increase of this size. Is there not some way to reduce the costs. Could this not be spread out over a longer period of time - both costs and construction? The current plan is not reasonable.
- Would prioritize high school over elementaries if funds were limited and wanted to do a lesser millage ask
- This whole process has been a sham. Options have all been designed with minimal differences and with no real minimal expenditure/value option. The info. and "facts" communicated have been very slanted to try and support the desired - by the board and administration - option vs. providing unbiased data. I don't have kids, but I recognize the strong influence of schools on property values. Buildings don't make a great school district; people do - faculty, students, parents, and citizens. The tremendous increase in property taxes will likely not lead to wise spending. A MORE slowly phased plan to address real near-term needs and fewer "wants" should be developed and given adequate consideration. That has not been done to date.
- UA is a desirable community in large part because of its schools. For obvious reasons, that benefits us all, whether we have kids in school or not. Although it's unfortunate our schools are in the current state,

we are where we are, and now it's our responsibility to shoulder the cost to bring our schools in line with other Central Ohio communities. I laud the thoroughness of the process and believe it represents the best course forward. I plan to support the ballot initiatives.

- The 8.92 mil increase seems very steep. For many families this might be untenable. Is there no good working increase below this level!?
- Wondering if there is a possibility of a primary levy for just the high school. Then in the future another levy for other schools in the district. This is a very expensive endeavor. If the school board asks for too much the chance of the levy not passing is great.
- Our home values continue to increase which means our taxes also continue to increase which means the school revenue should also be increasing. An operating Levy should not be needed if the money is being handled correctly.
- I believe the HS has the most important needs and should be rebuilt; however, spending taxpayer dollars to rebuild elementary schools that in the last 10 years have had major additions/renovations is excessive. The Board should learn a lesson similar to a lesson we try to teach our children at home, there is a difference between need and want I also think changing the entrance to the High School to Zollinger is the gateway to opening up the Zollinger Road Connector the City tried to pursue earlier; leave the entrance where it is. It's sad when the "wants" of a few can rock the level of trust in the local government and school board, it's so easy to spend the money of faceless others. The wisest approach, I think, would be the split the levies. Ask for levy on operating cost, which is usually loaded with wants vs. needs anyway, and a separate levy for the HS re-build. Property owners cannot continue to support the double tap of increase; we pay the tax increase due to the re-assessment in property values AND are also expected to pay for the tax increase due to wants/needs of our schools. Priorities and the difference between wants/needs are skewed.
- This is an outrageous request for a tax increase in a district that already has a significant tax burden on homeowners. I will not support this measure in any way based on the proposals that have been put forth at this time.
- I don't know the disadvantages of having 3 lunch periods, but I would lean towards using that process to reduce the cost/space needs for cafeterias. I would think that staggered and smaller lunch groups would benefit the students. I would encourage, if you haven't already, the analysis of using a "turf" field at the middle schools, if it's feasible to move the turf back to the high school upon completion of the high school rebuild. I don't know if it's physically, or financially, possible. In the one table you say that you can "save" \$3.9 million without impacting the quality of the project. I don't know exactly what you're referring to, but it seems like that type of savings would already be implemented in your plan. I think that you need to leverage your private funding sources throughout the community. Identify specific pieces of the plan that could be targeted to individual service clubs, organizations, common groups of people or individuals. There are many service clubs, affinity groups and individuals looking for good opportunities to donate their time and money. You can find evidence of this as you go around the county with the OSU golf facility and Riverside Hospital being the recipients of UA citizen's large donations.
- I have followed the progress of the facilities planning process and compliment the school district for its thoughtfulness and attempts to seek community input. I don't think enough explanation has been given regarding the decision to rebuild the high school. Several months ago, I took the group tour of the high school led by the principal. He pointed out 2 major deficiencies--the heating and air conditioning systems, and the inadequate cafeteria. Except for these inadequacies, he did not explain how the present building would be unable to accommodate anticipated future educational needs. I think I and the voters need more information as to why a rebuild is necessary for the high school to achieve future educational

goals. The proposed tax increase is very substantial, particularly for older homeowners who live on a fixed income and who may not itemize on their income tax returns, thus not being able to take advantage of the income tax deduction for property taxes.

- Spend enough money to do it right so the results will last a long time; I am a senior citizen on a limited income but have always supported school bond issues and levies. We want a superior educational system in UA, even tho we are non-parents.
- Rebuilding of high school and some elementary schools is long overdue. They are antiquated in design and function.
- I think you need to word the price increase as something like "For an average UA home, the increase in taxes averages out to \$100 per month" because it seems less intense!
- Sounds like we need a practice field while the stadium gets rebuilt. Where are the games? or is there a future hope of having a second stadium at Tremont, and not just a field? I like the idea either way. I understand the traffic flow reasoning for HS option F (zollinger entrance), however option E provides better parking to the south end sports fields and the 4 story academic buildings are not directly across the street from Zollinger home owners. (which I am not one of) Plus saving \$5M dollars, and provides the best layout for students, which after all is why we are doing this, for the students.
- NO MORE TAXES,,,,,,,,,,,,,
- I have been a resident of Upper Arlington for 25 years and have been very supportive of our excellent schools. I am shocked at the overall price and scale of this project. I don't understand why the current high school needs to be completely rebuilt at such a high cost. I am worried that this is an unreasonable ask for tax payers.
- The funding amount required for the UA Schools Master Plan is absolutely ridiculous especially when expecting the community to fund the rebuilding of all the school buildings at the same time. Serious consideration should be given to phasing the construction over a much longer period of time (perhaps 7-10 years while the Elementary Schools are still in good shape), which would allow the funding to be spread out. An increase of 21% in overall property taxes is a significant burden to expect UA residents to pay, while continuing to maintain existing buildings.
- The school district needs to move ahead with a financially conservative and fiscally responsible plan for the renovations, remodels, and rebuilding of the schools. Voters will look more favorably on this which will increase the chances of successfully passing the levy & bond issues. \$5 million may seem like a jar of pickles with the difference between the two high school plans but every penny adds up for tax payers. Our household of UAHS alumni, students, and staff likes Rebuild Option E. If the average UA home is \$400K then that is asking tax payers to commit to increasing their monthly property tax payments by more than \$200/month. We think this is going to be a tough sell to all types of residents, at all income levels, when they dissect their UA property taxes. The schools that have already had extensive renovations in recent history (Jones, Barrington, and Tremont) should be left off of this round because a lot of money has already been spent to revitalize those buildings. To be honest, it's very alarming to see that a newer portion of Tremont Elementary school is being slated for a rebuild under the new plan. That begs the question if we're even going to get quality construction with this major bond issue. Will we have major facility issues again in 25 years after we begin this new bond phase for the district? The schools that have had limited improvements (like the high school and some of the elementary schools) should be the only ones on this bond issue. This could save almost a third of the planned spending. If the concern is trying to reach all households and persuade them to vote "yes" regardless of where they are in the district then I would start with just the high school. Every student will attend the high school if they remain in our school district throughout their K-12 career. Residents live in this community because of

the schools, city services, its location, and our libraries. Residents like to remodel, rebuild, and renovate their own homes but they must prioritize and sometimes wait for years before they can do it all. We're skeptical that the majority of the community will support this massive bond issue. We will vote for the bond/levy regardless and make the necessary sacrifices because we believe in UA and the power of our education system. We must remember that innovation doesn't have to take place within a specific type of space. We have a lot of residents who send their children to private schools and regardless of the new facilities that probably won't change AND they may see no value or merit in increasing their property taxes.

- While I don't disagree with the 8.92 mill combined levy analysis, with the combination of elderly on fixed incomes and the very vocal say no to everything tea party segment that defeated one school levy and library levy a couple of years ago, you know they will be out in force to defeat this levy and will probably succeed
- I worry about the impact of raising taxes on the many senior citizens of Upper Arlington. I am younger, but I see my elderly neighbors already spending a great deal on health care and prescriptions. Fourteen percent is a significant jump for people on a fixed income.
- The high school should be priority one. Leave the others for a later date. Brick buildings should not need to be razed (Greensview; Windermere). Rebuild the high school and renovate the others.
- I don't think all elementaries need rebuilt or remodeled. I know the high school desperately needs to be rebuilt. Is there a building fund that we are tapping into of funds collected over time? Is there a building fund budget for future projects?
- Find a way to lower these costs! I'm among the ones who want to move due to these costs. This is like the Tremont Road & Library parking lot projects where I'm disgusted by the city spending. I believe the crazy cost of the Tremont Road project will lead to levy failure because it sent the clear message that the city does not spend money wisely. AWFUL AWFUL leadership! I'm voting against anything but operating costs unless these plans are revised. Combine the rebuild (as high as it stands now) with the operating and I'm voting the package down. I've lived here over 25 years and never seen this waste as Tremont Road/Library and have no trust in city's choices right now.
- I think that the overall amount is very (too) high. By way of background I have one child graduated from UAHS and one child at the UAHS at this time. Both children went through the UA schools exclusively. The elementary schools are in good enough shape as they are. My home was built in 1922 and I am not re-building it. Perhaps the Middle School needs work in addition to the High School, but not the elementary schools. Also, by combining the levy, you will risk neither passing but I think that this is part of the strategy perhaps. Folks may not decline to support the operating levy so will be forced to vote for the bond issue?
- The cost of rebuilding is too much and not necessary. Other options need to be pursued with the present HS building. Although it is dated compared to what other districts may have, it is functional. We don't have to have the prettiest building to improve student performance...look at Olentangy Local which continues to beat UA in their student performance at a much lower cost per student. Also the premise that interest rates will be higher for borrowing in the future as a reason to include the elementary schools in the present formula is not what the economic market is indicating at this point. There is a fundamental difference in what is needed vs what is desired. Rethink this entire proposal because I for one will not vote to increase taxes for this excessive expenditure.
- Property tax is extremely high in upper Arlington. If you think diversity is important in the current educational system, stop raising taxes!
- □

- Although I agree with the amounts of the operating levy and bond issue, I disagree with combining the operating levy and bond issue. I would like to see it separated into 2 different issues/votes.
- We concur with the reasoning to choose the Zollinger Road option for the high school, that traffic flow would be better. We liked the preliminary layout in Option E where the theater is well separated from the gym. The current high school shares a lobby between the gym and theater, and does not work well for simultaneous events. If the theater and gym have separate lobbies in Option F and are isolated acoustically, then that will work.
- I'm really not sure about the private fundraising. Are there other districts that have pursued this successfully? What does private fundraising actually mean? Would you be selling naming rights for the school or athletic facilities as part of this? Would there be fees paid to an outside organization to pursue the fundraising efforts?
- Very well thought out, and we appreciate the efforts of the FAB.
- 1) FAB report shows planning related to paying off the tremendous that UA Schools will incur upon the adoption of this plan. As I read it, the bond debt will double across this project. If this aspect is not a part of this report where can one find these plans? 2) This FAB report shows no maintenance planning for future major equipment such as boilers, other HVAC major equipment, and the like. Where would one go to find out this information. 3) The initial Private Funding element of the report, to me is not a good idea. Private Funding would open the FAB and the School Board itself and other US Schools entities to lobbying instincts that have incapacitated other governmental entities across the state and beyond. Besides \$5,000,000 is a mere pittance of the overall total of some \$400,000,000 in total indebtedness. Indeed is somewhere around 0.0125%. But it is enough for someone to get their name on a building. Hmmmmmm! Not a good idea in my mind. Sincerely, (name redacted)
- Some of the questions were 2 part or more in decisions/answers and the options for answers didn't always allow for a proper response.
- For people who are only paying attention to this discussion now that the tax implications have been outlined, it might be useful to reiterate in very simple terms why this is the best plan. The message about the transparency of the process is coming through clearly, but the justifications aren't. I am \*not\* suggesting a thorough rehashing of all the arguments for and against, but a simple summary of the fundamental argument (e.g., rebuilding is expected to be less expensive than repairing over ten years; the costs, though high, are consistent with costs of other school construction projects in the state and/or country; etc.) For those who want more detail, it might be useful to provide summary justifications for the other aspects of the project, too. Why, for example, is the district taking on five major construction projects simultaneously? Presumably the answer is that we've put this off as long as possible, and now we have to act quickly to avoid more serious problems.
- I think the printed information and the video are helpful. It also would be useful to have some discussion about the cost of doing nothing and the cost of doing less. I expect that most people believe that doing nothing is not an option. Once you decide that there likely is a base cost of doing the bare minimum. That likely is pretty high. The incremental cost of doing the bare minimum, the cost of the recommended plan and the cost of the "premium" plan may help the recommended plan show well. Presenting the incremental cost of the bare minimum and the recommended plan could help sell the recommendation.
- I would like to see the minutes of the financial advisory board discussion I believe an income tax should be considered and would like to know if FAB considered it and what the reasons are for recommending property tax over income tax. I wonder if it would have better chance of passage if it was made an income tax. I also wonder how choice of property vs. income tax might influence the relative contributions of

the wealthy/less wealthy residents and if this was considered. Has the potential for the Ackerman to Zollinger connector figured into the discussions for location of HS? Will connector make HS less safe for students and will having the front door and parking on Zollinger be less safe than parking/front door away from Zollinger? Has Superintendent or Board discussed this with the City Council? How likely is there to be a connector some day? Will there be a chance for public questions and answers?

- We have a house that is older than then schools and we maintained it as it needed. Why didn't UA?
- How could schools be in such bad shape to need rebuilding!
- I believe the costs for repairs are significantly overestimated and the renovation/replacement costs are likely underestimated. Rebuilding all UA schools on the backs of residential real estate taxes is not a viable option. Reinvestment in aging assets is required but must be phased over a longer period and must be done without such a heavy burden to the taxpayer. Repair, don't replace. This problem is 50 years in the making; it can't be fixed, or funded, overnight.
- Why have a combined level rather than two separate ones?
- While I share the findings results that UA needs to update its buildings, I would encourage the board to consider the scale of these tax levies. A \$1,200 increase on a \$400k home is nearly the equivalent of an extra mortgage payment annually. UA already has some of the highest tax rates locally and nationally they are very high. This measure creates a community that cannot be afforded by many the public school system is seeking to help.
- We don't need our taxes increased any more. They are increased enough. =:)