



Donovan Group
School Communications

**West Bend
School District**

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES
SURVEY REPORT
May 2024**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past year, the West Bend School District has been evaluating its facility needs and investigating possible solutions as the next step in a long-range facility plan. A series of Community Conversations that engaged community residents were held in February and April.

To continue their community engagement efforts, the Board of Education and district administration requested a survey be conducted to help residents learn more about the district's needs, consider preliminary solutions, and contribute feedback to guide the next steps. The Donovan Group conducted the survey. Input from community members will be used to evaluate solutions that meet the community's needs, are financially responsible, and move the district and community forward.

Should the district decide to place a referendum question on the November 2024 ballot, information collected from this survey will help the Board of Education decide about these projects and set priorities.

It is worth noting that the preferences expressed by survey takers were highly clear and consistent for most of the survey questions. Therefore, it is unlikely that more responses would have significantly changed the survey's results.

This report summarizes survey responses and an analysis from the Donovan Group team.

PROCESS & METHODOLOGY

The survey was administered using the Donovan Group's survey engine. Efforts were made to ensure that all eligible respondents had the opportunity to take the survey but that no respondents took it multiple times. In accordance with best practices in online research and to protect the security of the survey, internet protocol (IP) addresses were logged, and each response was time-stamped.

While we do not detail our survey security protocols, if we have reason to believe that anyone has taken the survey more than once or that there is any fraud, those responses are removed. We set aside 11 completed surveys (0.068 percent) due to duplicate responses and other factors.

To encourage residents to take the survey, the school district sent a postcard to all households with information about how to access it. The district also used its multiple communication tools to remind stakeholders to complete it while it was open. The survey was open from May 10 to 26, 2024.

Finally, it is worth noting that, by design, this data is not based on a scientific sample. Therefore, it should be treated as qualitative data similar to data from a large number of focus groups. Because we used a convenience sample, it would be methodologically inappropriate to conduct a regression analysis or attempt to calculate error. Our response pool to date is a solid one that provides sound data to the board.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 1,609 community members completed the survey. The vast majority of the respondents who completed the survey did so online. To complete the survey, respondents must have clicked "submit" at the end of the online survey. Paper copies were available for anyone who preferred that method, but fewer than five completed paper surveys were submitted.

Below are the questions and their corresponding responses. For some of the questions or statements later in the survey, there are three columns of data. The first column reflects the responses of all completed surveys. The second column indicates responses from a comparison group of district residents who are

not current parents of preschool or school-aged students, employees, or students. The comparison group does include parents of former district students.

The third column of data provides a weighted average of those affiliated with the district and the comparison group. In most districts, about 65-75 percent of eligible voters do not have an affiliation with the district. There were nearly 40,000 votes cast in the November 2020 election in the school district, and we can safely assume, based on enrollment and staffing numbers, that between 8,000 and 10,000 votes came from those individuals directly affiliated with the district. Due to those factors, those who weren't affiliated with the district were given a 0.75 weight, while those who are affiliated with the district received a 0.25 weight.

We typically find the comparison group to be a more accurate representation of the general population than all respondents. There were 330 completed results in the comparison group, representing about 30 percent of the total respondents. This is a little higher than we see in most community surveys, and it is encouraging because it means we are hearing from many who don't have a direct connection to the District. The responses of this comparison group differed significantly from the overall response pool for some questions, as noted in the analysis of those questions.

Below are the questions and their corresponding responses. Under each question and results is a brief analysis from the Donovan Group team. Questions and statements with an asterisk were required.

1) What is your age? *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
18-25	0.99%	1.52%
26-34	9.32%	4.24%
35-44	41.02%	4.85%
45-54	25.92%	12.42%
55-64	12.43%	29.70%
65 or older	10.32%	47.27%

***Analysis:** Generally, we find that those 65 and older tend to be under-represented in school district surveys. We are pleased that the all-respondent group included more than 48 percent of those 45 and older. It is also typical for the comparison group to skew older than the larger group of respondents, which is the case here; nearly 77 percent of the comparison group was 55 or older. Overall, the survey received a healthy balance of respondents across age groups 26 and older, although we certainly would have liked to see more participation from those ages 25 and younger.*

2) Where do you reside? *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
City of West Bend	55.87%	55.45%
Village of Jackson	14.37%	16.67%
Village of Newburg	1.24%	1.82%
Town of Addison	0.25%	0.30%
Town of Barton	4.35%	5.45%

Town of Jackson	3.23%	3.33%
Town of Polk	0.93%	1.21%
Town of Trenton	7.02%	8.48%
Town of West Bend	5.90%	6.36%
Other	6.46%	0.91%

Analysis: *It is our understanding that this distribution largely mirrors the population of the district and, therefore, represents a good respondent pool. It should be noted that nearly 46 percent of the total votes cast in the November 2020 election were in the City of West Bend, with 11.4 percent in the Village of Jackson. None of the other municipalities within the school district's boundaries comprised more than 8.6 percent of the total votes cast in November 2020.*

There were 104 respondents who selected Other, with the areas indicated the most being the Village of Kewaskum (10), the Town of Farmington (7), the Village of Grafton (5), and the Village of Slinger (5). The vast majority of respondents who selected Other were staff members.

3) How long have you lived in the West Bend School District? *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
Less than 2 years	2.55%	2.83%
Between 2-5 years	8.58%	3.94%
Between 5-10 years	14.85%	7.27%
Between 10-20 years	27.16%	9.70%
Between 20-30 years	15.29%	20.00%
More than 30 years	25.05%	55.15%
I do not live in the district	6.53%	1.21%

Analysis: *We often find that newer residents and those who have lived for a long time in the school district tend to differ significantly in their perceptions and opinions. While we would have liked to see a few more responses from those who lived in the district for five years or fewer, this pool provides a solid representation of the overall district community.*

The group of all respondents likely skews older, as more than 69 percent of all respondents have lived in the District for at least 10 years, while more than 75 percent of the comparison group have lived in the District for at least 20 years. It is also apparent that once residents move into the West Bend school community, they tend to stay for a long time.

4) Please select all the following that apply to you. *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
I have school-aged children	60.78%	0.00%
I have preschool-aged children (4+)	11.75%	0.00%
I have children who are younger than preschool age (0-3)	10.07%	0.00%
I have children who currently attend West Bend School District school	55.00%	0.00%

I have children who have attended a West Bend School District school	29.77%	51.52%
I have grandchildren who currently attend or have attended a West Bend School District school	5.28%	22.42%
I have attended a West Bend School District school	25.36%	30.30%
I am a community member who has never had children attending a West Bend School District school	7.40%	20.30%
I am currently a student at a West Bend School District school	0.19%	0.00%
My children are home-schooled	0.87%	0.61%
My children attend a private or parochial school	6.03%	3.33%
My children open enroll out of the West Bend School District	1.03%	0.30%
I do not have children	4.47%	16.06%
I am currently employed by the West Bend School District	20.94%	0.00%
Other	2.11%	7.27%

Analysis: *There are no surprises here. The all-respondent pool is meaningfully diverse regarding participants and connections to the school district. Note that nearly 61 percent of all respondents have school-aged children, including 55 percent who currently have a child in a district school. Meanwhile, over one-fourth of all respondents have attended a West Bend school. Also, more than 51 percent of the comparison group have a child who has attended a district school, while more than 30 percent attended a West Bend school.*

You will notice that the percentages add up to more than 100 percent here. We believe it is important to take the number of choices participants selected to this statement and divide by all respondents or the comparison group. In all, 3,888 submissions were made to this statement.

5) You indicated you have a child who currently attends a West Bend School District school. Which school(s) do your child(ren) attend? (Please select all that apply) *

Answer	Responses
Early Learning Program	5.78%
Decorah Elementary School	6.34%
Fair Park Elementary School	5.90%
Green Tree Elementary School	4.16%
Jackson Elementary School	6.77%
McLane Elementary School	5.28%
Silverbrook Intermediate School	12.80%
Badger Middle School	13.42%
West Bend East High School	10.81%
West Bend West High School	12.00%
West Bend Virtual Academy	0.56%

Analysis: *It is our understanding that this distribution largely mirrors the student numbers at each of the*

district's schools. However, it is important that we had a good cross-section of participation from families with children at each of the five current elementary schools, along with the intermediate and middle schools and two high schools. In all, 1,349 options were selected for the question.

**6) Where do you receive your information about the West Bend School District?
(Please select all that apply) ***

Answer	Responses	Comparison
Newsletters and emails from the school district	80.05%	39.70%
District and/or school websites	45.74%	29.09%
School board meetings	15.72%	10.91%
School newsletters (email)	48.48%	6.97%
Teachers and staff	42.70%	16.67%
Parent/Guardian organizations	11.62%	3.94%
Friends and neighbors	28.78%	39.09%
My children and their friends	21.75%	6.97%
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (print or online)	5.28%	16.06%
Washington County Daily News (print or online)	23.00%	50.30%
Local television	4.54%	10.30%
Local radio	4.47%	9.09%
Facebook	35.86%	30.30%
Other	3.17%	10.91%

Analysis: *You will notice that the percentages add up to more than 100 percent here. We believe it is important to take the number of choices participants selected to this statement and divide by all respondents or the comparison group.*

What stands out here is how many ways respondents get information about the District. Normally, we see 3-4 options that receive 30 percent or more. In this case, there were five with more than 30 percent and another three with 20 percent or more. It is obvious newsletters and emails from the District are the clear No. 1 way all respondents receive their information.

Even the comparison group had five options that received at least 20 percent, with the Washington County Daily News being the clear No. 1. We would encourage the district to use this data to determine the best communication tools for reaching specific audiences going forward. In all, 5,972 options were selected for this question.

7) Why do you visit the district’s website? (Please select all that apply) *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
Access staff contact information	29.27%	9.39%
Calendars/upcoming events	64.57%	32.12%
Canvas (student class information)	19.95%	1.82%
Classroom websites	7.83%	0.91%

District policies, handbooks, etc.	21.07%	8.48%
E-funds online payments	36.17%	2.12%
Lunch menus	25.30%	1.52%
Parent/Guardian update	19.08%	2.73%
School board agenda/minutes	19.39%	18.18%
Skyward Family Access (check grades, student schedules, etc.)	52.45%	2.73%
I don't visit the district website	17.46%	51.82%
Other	3.67%	4.85%

Analysis: You will notice that the percentages add up to more than 100 percent here. We believe it is important to take the number of choices participants selected to this statement and divide by all respondents or the comparison group.

What stands out here is the many reasons why all respondents visit the District website. Normally, we see 2-3 options that receive 20 percent or more. In this case, there were six with more than 20 percent, although upcoming events/calendar and visiting Skyward Family Access were the clear top two reasons among all respondents. Meanwhile, nearly 52 percent of the comparison group don't visit the District website. This would suggest that information on the website should be tailored to staff, students, and District families rather than other residents. In all, 5,972 options were selected for this option.

8) I am satisfied with the West Bend School District. *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
Strongly agree	14.54%	6.06%
Agree	56.68%	47.27%
Disagree	15.48%	23.94%
Strongly disagree	5.59%	7.27%
No opinion	7.71%	15.45%

Analysis: More than 71 percent of all respondents and more than 53 percent of the comparison group are satisfied with the district. A no opinion option was included, and had it been removed, the percentages would have likely increased by 3-5 points among all respondents and 7-10 percentage points among the comparison group.

These numbers align with what we see for most public school districts in Wisconsin. Additional engagement efforts over the next year would be one way to raise the percentage of those who strongly agree or agree with this statement and also have a positive impact on any referendum efforts.

9) How would you describe the district to someone who is not familiar with it?

Summary: More than 850 responses were provided. Respondents used this open-ended question to leave a variety of responses regarding the school district as it looks to address facility needs. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into several overall categories:

- **Diverse perspectives on district quality:** There's a wide range of opinions on the district's

quality, from positive views emphasizing opportunities and dedicated teachers to negative perceptions regarding discipline issues, declining test scores, and administrative shortcomings. This suggests a mixed reputation and varying experiences among community members.

- **Community engagement and support:** Some respondents appreciate the district's efforts to engage with families and provide a variety of extracurricular activities and academic programs. However, others express concerns about communication gaps, particularly regarding major decisions like facility maintenance and referendum planning. This indicates a need for improved communication and transparency.
- **Concerns about discipline and safety:** Several comments highlight concerns about discipline issues, violence, and drug problems at the middle and high schools, suggesting a need for greater focus on student safety and behavior management strategies.
- **Desire for improvement and accountability:** While there are positive aspects noted, such as dedicated teachers and opportunities for students, there's a prevailing sentiment that the district has room for improvement, particularly in areas like curriculum consistency, fiscal responsibility, and leadership accountability. This indicates a collective desire for positive change and a commitment to holding the district accountable for addressing identified shortcomings.
- **Facility maintenance and infrastructure:** There are recurring mentions of outdated and neglected school buildings, particularly in areas like Jackson, where the need for upgrades and replacements is emphasized. This reflects a perception that the district has failed to adequately invest in maintaining its infrastructure.
- **Community engagement and funding challenges:** Comments touch on the challenges of garnering community support, passing referendums for necessary improvements, and addressing budget shortfalls due to declining enrollment. There's a sense of frustration regarding the district's inability to communicate its needs effectively and secure funding for essential initiatives.

10) How familiar are you with the West Bend School District’s facility needs? *

Answer	Responses	Comparison
I am very familiar with the district’s facility needs	36.54%	27.27%
I am somewhat familiar with the district’s facility needs	52.64%	56.67%
I have no familiarity with the district’s facility needs	10.81%	16.06%

Analysis: More than 89 percent of all respondents and nearly 84 percent of the comparison group indicated they were well-informed or had some familiarity with the District’s facility needs. This indicates the District has done a very good job of educating the community about its facility challenges. However, it also presents an opportunity as nearly 11 percent of all respondents and more than 16 percent of the comparison group have no familiarity with the process. The District should continue to engage stakeholders in the coming months as more information will help residents with their decision.

11) I believe the district’s most urgent facility needs must be addressed now. *

Answer	Responses	Comparison	Weighted
Strongly agree	45.25%	32.12%	36.36%
Agree	40.77%	44.24%	43.19%
Disagree	10.01%	16.36%	14.23%
Strongly disagree	3.98%	7.27%	6.21%

Analysis: In most cases, the percentage of respondents who strongly agree or agree with addressing urgent facility needs now tends to be higher than the support for specific solutions after a referendum date is announced or once dollar amounts and tax impacts are provided. This statement often sets the ceiling for support for specific solutions.

Notably, more than 86 percent of all respondents and more than 76 percent of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that the district’s facility urgent facility needs must be addressed now. More than 69 percent of the weighted group strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. This bodes well for the district if the right option and tax impact are determined, although it should also be noted some may have supported this statement but likely want the District to address the needs within its current budget.

12) Given the information above, how likely are you to support a capital facility referendum focused on the district’s most urgent facility needs on the November 2024 ballot? *

Answer	Responses	Comparison	Weighted
I would definitely support it	43.75%	30.00%	34.30%
I would probably support it	34.18%	33.64%	33.83%
I would probably not support it	12.24%	19.39%	17.27%
I would definitely not support it	9.82%	16.97%	14.61%

Analysis: In most cases, the percentage of respondents who strongly agree or agree with a statement where a referendum date is included tends to be higher than support for specific solutions or once a dollar amount or tax impact is provided. Again, this statement often sets another ceiling for support for specific solutions.

Notably, nearly 78 percent of all respondents and more than 63 percent of the comparison group definitely or probably would support a capital facility referendum question on the November 2024 ballot. Meanwhile, 68 percent of the weighted group strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. Again, these are encouraging results.

13) I would vote “yes” on a referendum question to implement Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facilities Plan as described above in the West Bend School District. *

Answer	Responses	Comparison	Weighted
Strongly agree	38.22%	24.55%	29.27%
Agree	35.61%	38.48%	37.17%
Disagree	14.98%	20.30%	18.68%
Strongly disagree	11.19%	16.67%	14.88%

Analysis: This statement gives the District an idea of whether residents support the facilities plan. A respondent could have indicated they support addressing urgent facility needs previously but not support what is included in Phase 1 or have other ideas about what should be done.

Notably, nearly 74 percent of all respondents and nearly 63 percent of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that they would vote “yes” on a referendum question to implement Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facilities Plan for the West Bend School District. More than 66 percent of the weighted group strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. This bodes well for the district if the right option and tax impact are determined.

14) OPTION #1: I would vote “yes” on a \$100 million capital referendum question that would complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facility Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing the highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, and Rolfs Education Center. This would have an estimated tax impact of \$95 per year for each \$100,000 of fair market home value. *

Answer	Overall	Comparison	Weighted
I would definitely support it	39.96%	26.67%	31.07%
I would probably support it	32.32%	29.39%	30.22%
I would probably not support it	14.98%	22.42%	20.14%
I would definitely not support it	12.74%	21.52%	18.57%

Analysis: More than 72 percent of all respondents and more than 56 percent of the comparison group would support a \$100 million capital referendum question that complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facilities Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing the highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, and Rolfs Education Center. More than 61 percent of the weighted group would support this referendum question.

15) OPTION #2: I would vote “yes” on a \$125 million capital referendum question that would complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facility Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, and Rolfs Education Center. It would also address additional highest-priority capital maintenance needs, close the Educational Service Service, and renovate some areas of the high school. This would have an estimated tax impact of \$120 per year for each \$100,000 of fair market home value. *

Answer	Overall	Comparison	Weighted
I would definitely support it	31.39%	18.79%	23.12%
I would probably support it	33.87%	30.61%	31.52%
I would probably not support it	18.96%	23.94%	22.35%
I would definitely not support it	15.79%	26.67%	23.03%

Analysis: More than 65 percent of all respondents and more than 49 percent of the comparison group would support a \$125 million capital referendum question that would complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facility Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, and Rolfs Education Center. It would also address additional highest-priority capital maintenance needs, close the Educational Service Service, and renovate some areas of the high school. Meanwhile, more than 54 percent of the weighted group would support this referendum question.

Support dropped about 7 percent for each group from the previous statement. It also is clear that while a large majority of District families are supportive of this option, there was a drop-off in support among other residents in the school community.

16) OPTION #3: I would vote “yes” on a \$150 million capital referendum question that would complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facility Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, Rolfs Education Center, and Educational Service Center. It would also address more district-wide capital maintenance needs and/or high school building renovations. This would have an estimated tax impact of \$145 per year for each \$100,000 of fair market home value. *

Answer	Overall	Comparison	Weighted
I would definitely support it	27.66%	13.33%	17.88%
I would probably support it	27.47%	22.12%	24.12%
I would probably not support it	25.17%	28.79%	27.51%
I would definitely not support it	19.70%	35.76%	30.48%

Analysis: More than 55 percent of all respondents and more than 35 percent of the comparison group would support a \$150 million capital referendum question that would complete Phase 1 of the Long-Range Facility Plan by adding secure entrances at Green Tree, McLane and the high schools, addressing highest-priority capital maintenance needs, replacing Jackson, and rightsizing the district by closing Fair Park, Decorah, Rolfs Education Center, and Educational Service Center. It would also address more district-wide capital maintenance needs and/or high school building renovations. Meanwhile, 42 percent of the weighted group would support this referendum question.

Support dropped from 10-14 percent, depending on the group from the previous statement. It is clear that residents with a direct affiliation with the school district believe \$150 million is warranted, but the rest of the community believes the cost is too great to support.

17) Please identify the reasons why you selected probably not or definitely not to the previous three statements. *

Answer	Overall	Comparison	Weighted
The cost of the projects is too high	16.77%	19.87%	18.53%
The tax impact of each option is too great	16.53%	19.54%	17.79%
Oppose replacing Jackson Elementary School	9.45%	10.10%	10.00%
Oppose closing any elementary schools	17.83%	8.79%	13.24%
I don't understand the plan being proposed	1.30%	1.30%	1.49%
I don't understand why funds are needed when enrollment is declining	9.92%	14.01%	12.22%
Regardless of the dollar amount, I won't support any referendum	6.14%	6.84%	6.24%
I don't have enough information	4.84%	5.21%	5.12%
Other	17.24%	14.33%	15.39%

Analysis: This statement was provided for anyone who selected probably not or definitely not for each of the three previous statements showing project costs and tax impact. About 450 respondents saw this statement, and 847 options were selected.

It is encouraging that none of the nine options reached the 20-percent threshold. The cost of the projects is too high, and the tax impact of each option is too great, and had similar scores from all respondents

and the comparison group. Unsurprisingly, a significantly higher percentage of the comparison group compared to all respondents indicated they don't understand why funds are needed when enrollment is declining. It also was to be expected that all respondents were twice as likely to oppose closing any elementary schools than the comparison group.

The District should use the information gathered from this statement to determine talking points for presentations and informational sessions to better educate the community about needs, process, and the solution the School Board determines to move forward with.

The most common theme among those who selected Other was a preference to keep Silverbrook as an intermediate school for grades 5-6 and Badger as a middle school for grades 7-8. There were also concerns that Jackson students' experience would be different from the rest of the district. Some also don't understand why schools would be closed while also proposing building a new school. Finally, there were suggestions that cuts should occur, especially among administrators, or more funds should be allocated to teachers rather than spending on facilities.

18) We would also like to learn more about residents' feelings about replacing Jackson Elementary School as either a Kindergarten-8th grade or Kindergarten-5th grade building. Please select one of the following: *

Answer	Overall	Comparison	Weighted
I would vote "yes" to replacing Jackson as a K-5 school for \$50M to maintain consistent education programming for the District and accelerate right-sizing. A K-5 option at Jackson means Badger Middle School would be over optimal capacity until the 2029-2030 school year, based on enrollment projections.	21.75%	24.55%	23.14%
I would vote "yes" to replacing Jackson as a K-8 school for \$70M to be responsive to student enrollment growth in Jackson, reduce one transition between schools for students attending Jackson, and maintain optimal capacity at Badger Middle School.	59.11%	43.33%	49.24%
I would vote no to replacing Jackson	19.14%	32.12%	27.63%

Analysis: More than 59 percent of all respondents and more than 43 percent of the comparison group would vote yes to replacing Jackson as a K-8 school for \$70 million, while more than 49 percent of the weighted group would support this option. More than 27 percent of the weighted group voted not to replace Jackson, while more than 23 percent would vote yes to replacing Jackson as a K-5 school for \$50 million.

This statement was included to determine if a less expensive option would be preferred by residents to bring down the cost of Phase 1 or to determine if residents prefer WBSD schools all have similar grade configurations. As for those who voted not to replace Jackson, it is safe to assume those opposed to any of the three options would probably fall into this category, while anecdotally, based on qualitative comments, there was also support to see any new school built in West Bend instead of Jackson.

19) Please use the space below to provide additional information to the District and school board as it considers next steps to address the district's long-range facility needs.

Summary: Approximately 430 responses were provided. Respondents used this open-ended question to leave a variety of responses regarding the school district as it looks to address facility needs. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into several overall categories:

- **Support to replace Jackson Elementary:** There is a strong belief that Jackson Elementary needs replacement due to safety concerns, including issues with accessibility, water leaks, poor ventilation, and possibly mold. The school's condition is seen as an embarrassment to the students and taxpayers, with repeated calls for immediate action to address these issues.
- **Concerns about K-8 configuration:** While there is support for replacing Jackson Elementary, there are concerns about its proposed configuration as a K-8 school. Some community members worry about mixing older and younger students, particularly regarding behavior and educational opportunities. There's a preference for maintaining traditional grade structures or ensuring that Jackson students can integrate with other district students at the middle school level.
- **Logistical challenges and preferences:** Concerns are raised about the logistical challenges of implementing a K-8 model, including potential impacts on staffing and educational opportunities. Some express a preference for maintaining separate elementary and middle schools.
- **Impact on neighborhood schools:** The proposed plans to close other Fair Park and Decorah elementary schools raise concerns about the loss of neighborhood schools, longer bus rides for students, and potential increases in class sizes. Many express attachment to their local schools and worry about disruptions to community cohesion and student well-being.
- **Desire for transparency and accountability:** There were many comments requesting transparency in decision-making, particularly regarding the allocation of funds, the handling of maintenance issues, and the potential sale or repurposing of closed buildings. Community members want clear information about projected impacts, including busing changes and educational outcomes. Stakeholders also expressed a desire to be involved in decision-making, especially if schools are closed.
- **Diverse perspectives on funding and priorities:** There are various opinions on funding priorities, tax implications, and the most effective use of resources. Some advocate for comprehensive solutions that address all infrastructure needs, while others emphasize the importance of maintaining existing schools or investing in sustainable practices like solar panels. There's debate about prioritizing short-term cost savings or long-term educational quality and community well-being.
- **Financial considerations and community support:** There are mixed opinions about financial support for the proposed changes, with some advocating for increased taxes to fund improvements, while others express concerns about the economic impact on taxpayers and prioritize spending on other community needs. Additionally, there are calls for greater involvement and financial support from the Jackson community itself, allowing the community to form its own school district or considering a hybrid system.

Appendix 1

All responses to Question #9: How would you describe the district to someone who is not familiar with it?

How would you describe the district to someone who is not familiar with it?

Solid school district with some aging facilities requiring updates. Dislike the intermediate/middle school 2 year set-up as the extra transitions are hard on kids and make transporting multiple kids within a family difficult.

A large district with a great amount of programming for those who excel and need advanced courses to those who struggle and need an IEP or other alternative resources.

Every district has issues. Visit the school and principal. There will be haters.

All of my interactions within the district have been positive

Offers availability for all interests and scholastic levels. District is more concerned about costs than what is best for the students.

From my experience a lot of the teachers don't teach. They have too much group work and want the kids to figure it out on their own or have parents help teach them. Not acceptable

I feel the WBSD is a district that has the best interest of students, staff, families and the community. The curriculum had a wide variety of offerings, especially the high school which is needed for career readiness.

Declining enrollment, the twin high school concept is odd, and in reality, seems more like one high school.

We have some of the top schools for education.

Great teachers, facilities need help. Discipline needs improvement but that is a problem in all districts

Wide range of students and teachers with different backgrounds. Lots of low income families, where home structure is not good. Kids are not disciplined hard enough.

Highly ranked in top 50 schools

It is a great school district that continually improves. They care about the children and do a good job preparing the children for the future.

Tries to find value with little dollar. That shows in the facilities. There's a vibe of "good enough"

In need of some updates, and in need of support from the community.

Too much bullying. Principals are not open with the community about problems, arrests, etc.

I would describe it as a district with really good ideas, but just doesn't seem to be able to get to the goal...mostly because of lack of funds available.

Go somewhere else.

Poor communication from leaders, especially the principal.

too many students are not able to read at their grade level.

Caring teachers and staff with an administration that is trying very hard to improve where needed.

Decent school district but has room for improvements. Has been in the news lately because of poor choices of students.

Strong staff, multiple (quality) educational and extra curricular opportunities, but aging/outdated facilities

Overall strong staff and many opportunities but the buildings could use an upgrade.

The district has some very dedicated educators that prepared my children well for college. The district seems to have issues with retaining administration, the turnover rate has been high! Some of the issues for 'attention' are redundant. For example, why a new school in Jackson has been on referendums for 30+ years, yet a new school has never been built despite the Village of Jackson growing 4 times its size. All focus is on schools in the City of West Bend.

-great neighborhood schools

-very supportive PTOs who work closely with the schools to organize fun family activities

Our schools and district get a bad rap from other districts and/or people within the community, but our children have had amazing teachers, lots of opportunities academically, socially and through extra curricular activities and we would recommend the district to others.

Very political in the classrooms. Results that have waned over time as the focus has shifted from education to buildings. Continuing to hold on to past (Jackson Elementary and two High Schools) for emotional reasons. Unwilling to listen to other viewpoints or ideas.

The district is good for the most part. There are things that need to be worked on. Communication being one of them, follow through another, listening to the concerns of the student's and parents are another. They do try and offer a variety of options for student's to learn or tools for learning.

Very family friendly. A lot of options for child care all thru the city. A lot of different schools to fit everyone.

Great teachers. Many diverse extra curricular activities, good general education, great special needs program. LACKING in good education for gifted students,,

There is a lot of chaos with students that isn't being handled properly by the administrators. Fighting, bullying and all that kind of thing. Kids these days need to be held accountable for their actions!

Fiscally responsible and wanting to do what's right for the kids

its pretty normal

Little school spirit because we have two schools in one building who compete against each other instead of bringing the whole school/communities together.

Education is decent, depending on the teachers. Some are awesome, some are bad at picking their battles or helping kids on the fringes.

Good foundation but struggling with student behaviors and staff morale

I am not as involved as I used to be when my children were attending. From what I understand from my friends who have children attending school, the students are still the priority.

Over all a good public system, but not top tier.

Disorganized, little follow through, irresponsible

It is a district with lots of choices, both in the classroom and in athletics at the MS and HS levels. It has caring teachers who are probably over worked. The facilities are clean and in need of many updates. A small minority of conservative parents want everything to be in their best interest (book banning, support groups and what is taught in the classroom) rather than agreeing to compromises that can make everyone happy. The district tends to let them win too often.

An asylum the inmates run

I feel West Bend had great schools. Many very good teachers, smaller class room size than other districts. Abundant classes to choose from at the High School level including AP classes. And competitive sports teams.

It's a good school District but not all teachers are good ones.

Still relatively solid, compared to other southeast WI districts, though concerned with increasing reports of violence, disruptions, and wandering further from teaching subjects, skills and knowledge.

Strong preoccupation with making things "fun" when there are times that the tougher road of bucking down and hard work just needs to be done. Suspect this need for fun exists as much on the part of teachers as the students, thereby not instilling strong work ethic for what their "job" is at this stage in life -- being good students.

Good but declining

Good. Like the teachers. Decent effort put into children with special needs.

A large well funded district that has been generally fiscally responsible over the years but has been willing to accept minority societal positions that cater to a small sliver of students to the detriment of the student body as a whole.

The facilities in Jackson haven't been improved since we have been here. Our child went there and there was sewage going into one of the classrooms years ago. The health of our students and staff at Jackson and the other schools needs to be addressed. I have many teacher friends in WBSD and the lack of climate control and roof / ceilings in many of their classrooms isn't healthy.

Our child seems to be excelling at Decorah, and we have had nothing but great experiences with the Teachers and Staff there. I would happily recommend WBSD based on what we have seen so far.

Don't come here

Teachers work very hard, but don't always get the resources they need.

Wonderful teachers

WBSD has excellent teachers. There are many activities and extracurriculars for middle and high schoolers.

Our schools at all levels are really good. We have programs and opportunities from 3k. /12th gr. Title I, Headstart programs help our students be 5K ready. World languages offer study abroad opportunities to practice their languages n be more accepting of people. AP courses advance our student achievement to be college ready be it a four year or tech school. Hard working staff give up their time to be it academics, athletics, music or many clubs to spark a student's interest leading to future career choices.

Seems to be more bad behavior incidents than surrounding schools...not sure if that is true or not or just hearsay though. Seems like parents are wanting to open enroll to surrounding school districts... an average suburban district

I have loved our experience thus far with WBSD. All the teachers we have encountered have been wonderful. Jackson Elementary was a wonderful Elementary school as well.

Fine

Great schools and inclusive to all students even special needs students.

The school district is lacking when it comes to discipline measures. Children with severe behavioral and learning disabilities should not be in the standard classroom. This is disruptive to learning and I feel the test scores for the district are reflective of this.

Positive learning experience with hands on, engaging lessons.

Good schools, but buildings are very large and class sizes have increased quite a bit over the years. Very capable teaching staff. Great opportunities for students in many areas of interest.

I would say that the amount of kids in the high schools together seems to be ALOT! We are very happy with Jackson Elementary! It's seems to be community involved and teachers are all stars!!

-Wonderful teachers at Decorah

-Too many kids/teacher ratio

-Some kids with disconnected parents or no involvement in child's education

-children with behavioral issues within classroom

More fights than I would expect. Not transparent on how students are dealt with afterwards.

A lot of nice teachers.

Great teachers and education opportunities

slinger is better

My kids attended just the high schools. I thought they got a decent to good education.

WestBend has good schools & staff. There are areas in all the schools that need updating though.
Unique - two high schools in one building. Though seemingly could be one. A number of sports teams co-op and I've been told classes are mixed.

The teachers I've met seem very invested in the students.

Referendums haven't seen as much support as necessary. More funding is needed for schools.

It's not the same as when I went to school

Facilities need improvement

Provided a very strong academic education during my children's school years in the district. 1990's to early 2000's. Seems to have regressed in the years since. Believe this is due to conflicts in beliefs of board members versus board members. They forget what is best for the student in the development of their education.

I would describe our district as weird and backwards. Long gone are the days of kids playing 3 sports. A facility that shares all resources but calls itself two schools is beyond strange. I hated it when my kids went and I still don't like it. If it was so successful then other school districts would follow suit and they don't.

A district that struggles to properly educate children.

I do not hear about anything from the district unless it is election time or the school wants money.

Unorganized and spread out

It is a strong community based school district.

There are several schools in the district.

Each have excellent teachers, who care for each student and work to help them have the best education possible.

I have a special needs child who has always struggled to just get through the day without having a meltdown, running away, or getting physical at school. He previously attended Hartford JT1 District, but they were unable to provide him with the support that he needed. My son started attending West Bend School District last year, and I realized how different districts can be from each other. The way things were handled with my son in West Bend was very different from what I experienced in Hartford. In West Bend, I knew my son's well-being was important to everyone involved. I felt genuine support and compassion for both me and my child, despite his egregious behavior. I appreciate the sense of urgency, collaboration, communication, and strategic planning that went into meeting my child's needs. THANK YOU! - Andrea Hodges, Angela Dvorak-Jaeger, Sheri Pease, Kerry Hughes, Lance Roell, Heather Geldrich, and Laura Westergaard.
I am so grateful that ESC/Great Expectations exists. I wish there were more programs like this available for kids.

I was very happy with the education my children, ages 21 and 23, received. We could afford to send them to a private school, but felt that there was more diverse programming available in the public schools. I disagree with randomly separating the children into East and West. The made-up rivalries start in middle school. I believe strongly it creates a lack of unity/town pride. West Bend is a wonderful place to live and yet you don't see much of this being promoted. The band is one of the few places I saw an effort to promote pride in West Bend by the chants Leah Duckert would lead.

Appears to be a normal public school system, based on my modest exposure to it.

It used to be highly respected.

I don't know what it is like now.

It's a district that is good for our community however it gets bad publicity with information that is given to the press.....aka....Wash. County Insider.

Overall very good district to be part of.

Excellent!

I would say the district is very communicative and readily answers all questions and concerns.

Standard public school system with decent class sizes and friendly and capable teachers.

It sucks

Most teachers we have encountered are strong, rigorous and fair teachers.

Discipline is an issue. Lack of consequences for students who bully. Reteaching does not work!

The students are often allowed to use phones during classes (and earbuds in some classes), too much of student work is done online, making it very difficult for parents to help.

We are supposed to limit screen time, yet students are on chrome books most of the day and for their homework.

Poor curriculum choices.

Parents kept out of loop with sexuality issues regarding their minor children.

Steadily losing enrollment.

Lack of transparency. Little planning.

A place with more options and opportunities for kids than any nearby school district.

The West Bend School District needs more attention. Staffing is concerning & the sizes of the schools are not suited for the amount of students. Jackson Elementary is a GREAT school, I wish they would expand to 12th grade.

We have great elementary schools and a lot of opportunities for technical education in the high schools.

Huge school - hopefully good values & activities & learning

Now that I have a child in high school who plays sports and we have traveled around to a number of different high schools in SE Wisconsin, I would say we have one of the oldest and outdated facilities. I remember attending a Div III high school sectional game at the West Bend HS when I was in high school in 1997 and the gym was exactly the same.

Fair Park has been absolutely phenomenal and I will shed a lot of Tears if Mr Hayes doesn't get to be my daughter's principal for elementary school. Or other kids as well. Also the Early Learning Program had start has been literally a lifesaver for my family my son who is now in third grade going into fourth attended 3K and 4K there and my daughter who is going into kindergarten attended both as well and the program has literally been a Saving Grace for our family

It's not known to be a great district. Children get away with very little consequences for their actions and physical fights are the norm.

Chaos

All teachers should come to work with the intent to teach their class in the subject they are there to teach. Their Political, social, sexual orientation and racism should not be a part of the curriculum.

Violence/bullying in the district is out of control!

Great People! I am really happy with them.

It is a district that is stuck in the past and is in need of drastic updates. Kids are leaving for other near-by districts because they are all improving their facilities. The fact that the high school is split into two schools is also an old thought that makes no sense.

Like most of the government schools, the emphasis seems to be less on teaching the subjects and learning how to learn and more on how to pass tests for the school to look good and social teachings in line with powerful lobbying groups. Not worse than average but certainly not better.

Not sure yet

My kids have only just started in the public school system, but so far our experience has been very good! The teachers communicate very well no matter the function. We are happy with the care and learning our children receive. We so no reason to deviate from the public schools in West Bend.

A district that cares and tries to do everything in their power to better the students while also providing a great working environment for staff members!

I feel like the district itself is fine. They have assisted me when I needed help with skyward online in the past and anyone I've ever spoken to was polite and friendly. The only issue I have is with the lack of discipline in the schools when kids are misbehaving. It's truly a very serious issue that I'm not certain is taken as seriously as it should. Because of the mistreatment to my child by other students I'm considering taking him out of the West Bend School District. I realize that your hands are probably tied with what you can or can't do, but the last 2 years my son attended Badger Middle School were awful for him on a daily basis. It is heartbreaking as a parent.

It is a solid district with an incredible group of teachers who care about their students. I would like to see our district place a higher level of expectation on excellence and literacy.

When I started working here, it struck me how outdated West Bend School District felt compared to neighboring districts. I agree with the description I once heard someone say that it was like "stepping into a time warp" back to the 1980s. (not a positive thing for our students!)

From our experience, both my son's teacher and principal are very caring and willing to help out.

CHEAP! or lack of intelligence on how to budget the money correctly... you go to every surrounding district and see the difference. It's come a long way but Washington County is and always be CHEAP!!!

Old and run down, decent testing scoring, split high school into 2 for sports (dumb reason), bad google reviews

The staff is great, but the facilities need work.

It feels like past decisions in structuring the district were made hap- hazardly. The structure is very strange beyond elementary school. As a parent of elementary school age kids, I hear only negative things beyond elementary school unfortunately. That said, I do feel like I see this changing with the current administration and am excited by the current work and visioning being done!

The district has strong teachers and administrators. My concern is with the aging facilities.

Run down and junky compared to other schools. All three of my kids are involved in sports of all kinds so we travel all year to different schools and we are always commenting after we leave just how run down and junky our high school is. It is very disappointing when visiting other high schools.

Avoid at all costs - children, especially those with special needs are NOT their primary concern or area of focus

Large but caring

Adequate, but some schools are preferable to others. Very large middle and high schools that have large enrollment problems.

Early Childhood and Elementary have some of the very best educators

Good teachers and a well run school district.

It's a great school district, and I've had a good experience with teachers at McLane/Silverbrook. I don't know if it's the age, or lack of guidance at home or what, but there are more fights at Badger school than I'm comfortable with. Oh, and kids are vaping regularly in the bathroom. With the way social media is these days, I'm seeing the fights recorded and shared with my daughter by the time I pick her up. I mean, I guess that's where we're at public schools in 2024. If I really wanted to shelter my kiddos, I'd send them to private school. I'm ok with them getting a dose of reality here, and coaching them through those real-life situations. The naughty kids are just setting a good example of what not to do.

It's ok if you're child is white. Lots of bullying that isn't addressed by admin. Drugs are big starting at least in Badger. Your child has to want to learn and is a better possibility of succeeding. Books and curriculum are being changed to "calm" a small portion of outraged parents (my child is limited is what they can access.... bc someone else doesn't want their child exposed to the same thing)
Mid-sized district with many classes offered at the high school.
Very large. Community oriented elementary schools. Middle school is institutional and that is too large for the needs of the age. High school that offers a variety of college prep classes, sports and arts for students.

I would say they are great with students who don't need special attention. But they don't give anything extra to the kids who struggle. If they aren't at grade level in a subject they don't seem to care. West Bend has given our children great opportunities like theater, orchestra, arts and advanced classes. I have appreciated the ways our young adults have been prepared for next steps. Over the years the district has worked to provide students with a quality education by hiring good staff and implementing curricula which prepare students for post secondary success. This is true of college prep work and technical education that allow students to go directly into the work force.
New to the district. Living Word is great. Jackson Elementary building is concerning from what I hear from fellow parents of students currently enrolled.
We are victim to years of low income housing being added to our community and this is creating a downward shift of public school students and families.
It was a lot of trouble getting help and answers for our kids at McLane, but things went a lot better one they got to Silverbrook.
Overall, it is a great school district to be a part of. My biggest concern is the level of bullying going on in the schools especially Badger and the high schools and the lack of what is being done about it. I'm concerned of the safety of my kids when this bullying/fighting is constantly happening.
From my personal experience so far, I'd say it's been great with no major complaints.
The majority of the schools need massive building updates

The teachers and principals are amazing at all levels. The district level leadership is disorganized and not transparent. The district leadership makes it hard for the people in the schools to do their jobs. A district with a diverse population, excellent teachers, highly communicative staff, with a personable superintendent.

Large, many opportunities at the HS for activities and AP classes, my student has enjoyed most of her teachers, teachers seem dedicated, some fights occur, but they seem to have been handled well I would be very in the middle right now with all the issues I'm having.
I honestly think the district is underfunded and not well kept up with.

We had a vote years ago to add additional funds for the school district and for some reason residents voted no.

It is selfish of west bend citizens to not pay to improve the school district.

Sadly our children won't be in this district forever as better school districts are somewhere else .
Very big. Although the teachers do their best to teach, class sizes are large. Negative student behaviors are a concern at times- causing safety concerns and distractions for students around. Lack of support for teachers/paras when they are struggling with a difficult student or family repeatedly. Lack of accountability for student behavior/parent responsibilities when consequences arise. Parents are quick to bash the district on social media any time something doesn't go their way. Pushing for higher and better test scores seem to be top priority- instead of the overall mental, emotional and physical wellbeing and safety of staff and students. Some buildings are nicely built; others have been noticeably neglected.
More real than homeschooling...
It's a typical public school doing a decent job of educating except for the DEI and teachings that counter and conflict with Christian values.
Good district, with good educational programs for students.
We have been very pleased with fair park and the neighborhood type school set up
It's good. Communication is decent.
Good but needs work with kids that bully and disrupt the whole class. Also needs work with bussing and bullying on the bus
The elementary schools are wonderful. The high schools have changed a lot since I went and even since my daughter graduated in 2021. I really like that they split 5-6grades from 7-8th. It's a nice transition for the young middle schoolers that they don't have the influence from the older kids.
small large town. school with many opportunities
I think it's a good district. It's just under funded and the staff is over extended.
I feel the top makes too much money and the teachers and aides who do all the are not recognized. The bad kids get all the attention. The good kids that are failing fall through the cracks and nobody cares. The district is failing. There needs to be change from the top down. I believe that the social emotional teaching and gender affirmation is going to result in a decline in enrollment.
Excellent teachers and schools. Student fights happen more frequently/are more serious than at other schools in the area. It's a conservative community, and there is a small but very vocal group of community members who want to impose their morales on all students and their families. Community is penny wise but pound foolish.
There is not enough revenue supporting our teachers or schools. Teacher benefits and opportunities have been reduced systematically resulting in less and less skilled teachers remaining in or applying for this district.
Very attentive to the children's needs. Great communication.
My kids take advanced classes, and the coursework is rigorous. It challenges the students to think. The teachers we've encountered seem to really care and want the kids to be successful as students and into adulthood.

Not a great school district. Let all the troubled kids who get in trouble from other school districts into our district. Hide a lot of problems that happen at schools so parents don't hear about them
Easy to access
Decent schools with good teachers
Bullying and fights have gotten out of control, I'm my opinion. It doesn't seem like anything is being done about it.
Decent academic schools. Horrible community relations. Complete disconnect between Jackson and West Bend. Zero school spirit. Athletics and co-curriculars have no identity and don't matter.
Horrible facilities. Jackson Elementary has sewage that comes out of drains in classrooms.
It is an average school district with not much discipline and little rules. The district teaches to the National tests.
Two schools in one, which is challenging. An overly political environment, in sports and education.
Welcoming
It a good place with the great people who can help
PWI & extremely conservative.
Most of the staff behaves at an elementary level while ignoring the students who are being taught by chromebooks. Unless your child has an IEP, they will not even receive basic care, and even then some teachers refuse to adhere to those legally binding standards. Make sure you become best friends with school staff too or you're child will be ignored out of the clique. Our tax money is being wasted on people who get paid to traumatize your child 6 ways to Sunday. And when parents reach out to work with the school, teachers are allowed by upper management to ignore our phone calls and emails. Substandard care bordering on neglect and abuse. This comment won't change anything anyway. Why waste any more of my time?!? I guess in the hope that someone higher than Jen Wimmer will see this and care.
For most children their school is good, but the teacher of the 18-21 program has used the school district administration changes, that happen constantly, to his advantage to get rid of one's that fall outside of his curriculum in either direction of his planned coursework.
It is a big school district. They seem to do a good job at the elementary level and even at Silverbrook but things seem to become more of a challenge at Badger and the high school. There seem to be issues of racism, and some public opinion is that there is no accountability for student behavior. I think kids are safe, but there is bullying. Badger seems to have a lot of homework to get kids "ready for high school". My experience has been that Badger is harder and more homework than the high school. It seems like teachers pay for things out of pocket because there isn't enough support from the school because there's too much interest in keeping taxes lower to keep the public happy. The district also seems to keep emphasizing increasing security improvements at school even though all schools are locked and have monitored entrances. Some of the schools don't have a/c or heat that work effectively in all the rooms that affects kids' comfort and ability to learn not to mention how staff are impacted by this.
Average but not great for special needs
The teachers don't teach. They just tell them what to do and when a student has questions they are told ask your group around their tables or to go to flexi. Also don't plan any trips or too many appointments otherwise you'll get a letter saying they missed too many days and they could take action. A good teacher should recognize a struggling student and figure out how to help them understand. But no
The bus

I don't know if there is enough space here. There are too many fights, that I feel the district does little about. The drugs that my child sees is crazy. The fights my child sees is crazy. The lack of communication regarding what is available for my child in terms of support... disappointing. The school is not performing well. The graduation rate is poor. I thought it would be better, I gave it a chance, and I am disappointed. I wish we could change schools, it's just so inconvenient with our other children. EVERY parent I talk to is disappointed in the FIGHTS, the DRUGS, and the performance of the district overall. Our children deserve better. You owe it to our children to deal with the families and the children that are this disruptive to their learning. Every year I contemplate where else I can send my kids. I wish this was not the case.

It is a fiscally responsible district that accomplishes a great deal with the resources it has, and it is a good place to work.

The teachers are usually great but the district as a whole is worth avoiding. The teachers are under paid and not supported by the district. The extra curricular activities are under funded and generally disappointing. The high school has issues with security & fights.

Elementary school is ancient and needs a new building

The safety and welfare of the children is a major concern. More issues in the district than the surrounding districts.

The district feels like it has taken a turn to accept any kids to the schools for more funding. It's no secret the amount of serious problems and bullying within the district. Does not seem like things are handled if at all not in a timely matter. We have strongly considered moving for my kids to be able to attend another district. Hard to believe they want to combine schools when staff cannot handle the amount there is now. I'm afraid my child would not get the attention she needs or deserves. It's hard enough now for teachers to spend needed time with a child to make sure they are understanding the curriculum. Also seems to be a common thing between all schools that drop off and pick up lines are nothing but a mess.

Welcoming to all

Diversive

Without empathy, unwilling to work together with parents to meet kids needs.

A great school district for your kids

A district that does not handle bullying well.

It's awesome! Fantastic teachers, tough curriculum, great student activities and sports.

Be present in your child's school life. Teachers do not always do what is best for your child with the drama & bullying that goes on at school. Nor do they follow your requests when it comes to your child's health issues.

Okay. Get's the job done, but not as well as other districts. Seems to be a lot of discord with the board and staff. Sports programs such as football and basketball in the high school have a lot to be desired.

The teachers in the district are generally all wonderful, buildings need a lot of attention and repair and are outdated and falling apart.

Not the best, struggles with staff recruitment and retention and there seems to be a subsequent overly authoritarian fixed mindset aimed at obedience and conformity above all else. It doesn't really give talented kids a lot of opportunity to really thrive or troubled/disabled kids a lot of chance to grow into the best version of themselves when so much of the emphasis is on punitive methods of having kids meet expectations instead of having the resources to meet them where they are at and bring them up. That being said, if you are a very involved, advocate parent and your child is well adjusted, they should be okay at least. There are a some really great teachers and traditions in the district. A lot of it is what you make of it.

West Bend School District offers a variety of classes, co-curriculars, and sports to meet any interests!

Pretty good. Better than Milwaukee.

Decent school district. Class sizes are bigger at the highschool. Not a huge fan of the attendance policy in regards to sicknesses. If I call my daughter in sick she gets a point. If I send her sick and the nurse sends her home I don't get a point. That encourages parents to send kids sick to school so we battle lots of viruses throughout the school year.

School Board and teachers in West Bend school district are very engaging with the students and parents

A good middle of the road school system. I often discuss the issues that having a rolling administration played during my child's time in the district - since Superintendent Wimmer has been involved, I believe the district has improved, certainly the communication has improved.

good school, good and feiwndly teachers

Good education, lack of discipline and accountability for action.

Sadly, not as great as it used to be. Has dropped in state rankings. Two high schools that should be one. The middle schools should go back to being divided AKA Silverbrook and Badger should both be 5th - 8th grade. You can see that since combining all of the 5th-6th and 7th-8th in the district to one building only has not worked and has more had more behavior issues then ever! Statistics will prove that it did not work out the way then had hoped. Also, those buildings have been remodeled and you would easily be able to separate the 8th from the 5th.

The education is satisfactory, communication with parents could be more prompt or given with more advance notice.

It is welcoming and accommodating district that works to ensure that every child's needs are met. The principals and staff are enthusiastic, committed, and caring. They work relentlessly and value education and the whole child.

Bullying is ridiculous - drug use in high school bathrooms - the next three school years can't go fast enough

Junk

It has wonderful teachers who are willing to work with you and your child and are willing to help you find help for your child like special classes or tutors

A school district with great potential, unfortunately is falling behind on facilities compared to area school school districts. The tone toward the school by the community is feeling negative as the negative news is out-weighing the accomplishments. A district that is in need a something to encourage students want to reach for maximum potential instead of just getting by. A shot of school and community spirit is needed.

It's good, getting more dangerous since Covid. More fights and the teachers don't seem to be able to discipline the kids. Doesn't seem like teachers have the backing of the district to take action

My son is currently in 4k at the main Y campus and I absolutely love it there for my son! The teachers keep up on their communication. So far I am very happy with it.

A district full of great teachers with leadership that is more focused on operating the district like a business than focused on the improvement of the children.

Not an option, go elsewhere; used to be an excellent district and wish it would improve; in desperate need of reform

West Bend is a community that is hesitant to put money into the school district and pay teachers more.. With that being said, the school district asks for feedback, but never follows up on situations presented. The teaching styles promoted at the West Bend school district minimally prepare kids for college.

The faculty has a very strong skill set and it is evident that they have a strong commitment to the students.

Good sense of community but struggles with adapting to change

Racist. Does not care or protect special needs kids.

I think the district is nice, there are certain teachers and staff that have gone more than above and beyond to show their students they care.

A bit of a mess.

The district doesn't appear to have enough resources or drive to limit or investigate areas concerning high risk behaviors in students and bullying. It's not ok to have an automated system at dinner time to alert parents of unaccounted for students. Parents should be notified immediately. there are too many variables that could result in a student being absent, such as medical events, mental health and extreme cases like abductions, weather causing accidents, student to student motor vehicle accidents etc. Parents would have no idea until 6pm when an automated message says our student wasn't at school. Unacceptable.

I'm neutral. Somethings I like and some I don't but overall it is adequate.

Run down and lazy. There are teachers in elementary and Silverbrook that are amazing. Our experiences in Badger and West have us feeling like we have failed our daughter.

Going a little downhill with fighting and disruptions at the high school. Not combining the two high schools leave sports lacking.

West Bend is a very good school district.

Unbiased politically (currently), learning focused, passionate staff, preparatory for next level learning, great resources, dedicated families

Small, friendly and helpful

I have had a pleasure experience with all aspects of the school district!

Conservative school in suburb of Milwaukee that can be reluctant to spend money on education. The district provide many oportunities for learning than other school districts the same size may not be able to offer. There maybe sometimes is a lack of focus on the basics because of the critiques of some loud people in the community. WBSD could work on focusing to make some areas better and more inclusive of people of different backgrounds.

Lack of discipline

It's a large district with many teachers and staff who care greatly about the kids.

The district is broken up, unlike a traditional school district, the district divides the kids at a crucial time when they're going through puberty and they keep the younger 5th and 6th grade together and 7th and 8th grade together to minimize the pressures of older kids during the most awkward time in their life.

I would explain to them to be prepared, because kids are constantly fighting and recording the fights. However I feel kids get a tap on the hand and sent right back into the school. They take a lot of riff Raff from other districts were these kids have been kicked out.. but hey they have an amazing library

It is a great place to go to school. My kids' schools are child centered and work to educate and take care of the whole child. It is like a family there. We are very happy with the West Bend School District! My son doesn't get the help he needs.

The West Bend School district has very dedicated teachers who have been though a lot over the last several years. Outside of teachers, I'm disappointed with the leadership, and lack of communication from those at the ESC.

Stay away.

West Bend Schools are not perfect, but no district is. if you want an on paper perfect district go to slinger and you will see it has the same issues as West Bend just not publicized.

The district is good, we do have problems with certain groups of kids but what school district doesn't.

The school district encompasses a large geographical area. Some areas of the district are rapidly growing and many of the facilities need updating/renovations/rebuilding

Mostly wonderful staff who care about the students under their care.

Knowledgeable

Bullying issues not addressed

I would not recommend it. Our elementary school is run down. The middle school has way too many fights and the sports programs are not as good as I hoped.

The WBSD has strong teachers and leaders who want the best for all students. The learning opportunities are vast and unique, especially at the high school.

While the district does its best to budget and supply/support the needs of the schools, the district budget is not able to update the learning environments on its own. Badger and Silverbrook are the most updated facilities where students are safe, updated technology, working utilities and comfortable environments. There are schools that have aging buildings that have not kept up with the needs of how students now learn and some of the utilities do not function reliably.

The WBSD is a good district to send a student to, I would recommend it. However, it is time to address the facility needs in the district for better learning environments. So much has been put off for years and our students are not able to learn in spaces that offer the best experience.

N/A

I think it's mediocre and there's room for improvement.

We've had a good experience, but I've heard of more than a few not so good experiences.

Great schools.

The teachers are doing the best they can with what they are given. The buildings are outdated and the administration at the HS needs to follow through with violence issues. The kids who follow the rules are the ones that need to jump through all the hoops while the ones that do not follow the rules have no consequences.

I don't know anything about the high school side of things because my children are not there yet. I feel like they do a good job of communicating info, responding to problems, and making sure our kids are safe. I am impressed with Jen Wimmers (sp?) motivation to make things change. She is very knowledgeable and willing/able to answer any questions.

Great if you child is going to be a factory worker..horrible if your child has a disability or a creative being

The elementary schools are great but after that consider other options.

A large district with limited cultural diversity. Ample opportunities to be involved in sports and activities. A strong Advanced Placement program and impressive scholarship opportunities.

This is a school environment that cares. With smaller class sizes the children get the help they need

This is my first year working in the district, so I am still learning about the district.

location

I would tell them that the district gets a bad wrap because the public only hears about when bad stuff happens. I work at the high school and really about 99.8 % of the students do not cause any problems

I believe the school your child goes to is what you make of it. If you are a parent that is present and invested in your child, this school district provides great teachers, families, activities, academics for students. My children attended K-12 and had fantastic experiences. They succeeded! They excelled! One has graduated college and the other will be a junior. I am happy with the WBSD.

Adapting to demographic change, works on a shoestring budget, able to offer amazing opportunities for what they cost.

Outdated

It's a great school district for really high achieving children and really low achieving children, but it's hard for kids in the middle not to get lost in the shuffle.

A large school district with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and student identities. From my experience I have met some very dedicated and influential teachers, aides and administration. For several years there has been a large focus on building structure neglect/refurbishment that has built to this point. Academically, nothing is sticking out to me. West Bend allows students expelled from other districts to attend here. That is a big turn off for some families and part of why some school choice their children elsewhere.

Great people who need to participation of the community to bring our schools up to date.

Teachers do what they can with the limited resources available. The district cares more for boys sports than girls.

I try to explain the reason why our district has only one building for 2 schools. I would explain that the district is caught up in athletics and lacks an emphasis on student needs. Especially those with special needs. There are teachers and staff that just stand by and watch while kids throw punches in the halls or on property and do nothing until admin comes in to deescalate. We have a lot of room for improvement in building access. When I see other schools in neighboring towns, ours is sad to look at. We are very behind in updates but somehow live in an expensive town. Where are the funds going?

Horrible district with teachers who don't care about students

A strong district with great educators that put our children first.

Organized and active

So far, I have loved the staff and community as a whole with Fair Park. They have been so welcoming and wonderful with my child. I also love how I am close to the school and the ease in drop off/pick up.

A better than average school district with room to improve on campus altercations and consequences.

Only really give regards to the current school

Wide variety of academic curriculum and club and networking programs.

The high school sports programs are mostly a disaster. Enrollment and participation numbers desperately warrant joint teams in all sports, including football basketball, soccer and even volleyball and baseball. The biggest problem in the school district is separate sports teams, it only breeds mediocrity and creates division in the school and community. The administration needs to stop trying to save their own jobs and do what is right for West Bend.

It's wonderful, but we specifically moved out of Milwaukee for the better community and better schools West Bend offers.

Not parent or community friendly

This is a declining district in an older city. Most sports teams struggle to have enough athletes and most do not have winning seasons. Fights and behavior problems are common.

Great elementary schools, middle schools use to be good and I hear mixed reviews on the high schools

Great elementary schools. Schools that lack attention and leadership at the middle and high schools

Not the best, mediocre, too many kids, too many problems and academically lacking.

Unfortunately, I must describe the unusual set-up of the high school (two high schools, one building) and middle intermediate schools.

While our experience with Fair Park overall was pretty good, once it came to Silverbrook administration it opened my eyes to how many problems really existed. Didn't matter how many reports from myself or the bus company about my child being physically hurt nothing happened with the ones that were doing the hurting. Leading into school multiple incidents where my child did be nice, report to the teacher - still continued with issues. It got so bad we referred to Silverbrook as the west bend 5-6th grade jail or fight club. When my child had been punched in the back of the head multiple times while trying to get a teacher and then turning to defend - he was met with out of school suspension while the other child still was able to participate in the school party and then complete in school service. Why? Because per Lance Roell while the SRO said it was in self defense all students are treated equal if involved at all, and we were a two parent non-minority household so our child had to have different measures. I had a 5th grade counselor call me off a blocked number to try and for my child into counseling not for himself but to "think about the funding it will help for other students that might not have the opportunity otherwise". Emails left unanswered and ignored by VP Heather Geldnich, when questioned just remained silent and kept her head down.

When I escalated the issues to the superintendent- it was brushed off by ignoring my calls, follow ups, and never following through on her part to help bring a solution.

That child is now homeschooled. The school around the area limited in the school choice spots but we are left with no options because the atmosphere created at Silverbrook creates mentalities of report a bully or problems and you'll be punished as well. So take it and hope they find someone else to target.

I pulled my other child intending to start at Fair Park to school choice knowing I would not send my child to Silverbrook and risk going through that again. The same with the next one coming to kindergarten in the fall. With two more, one on the way one looking at 25-26 4k year, that I need to think about we are knowing well school choice after 4k IF we stay in district.

I never thought as a parent I would have to fear if I'd receive a call from school that it was worse and they had to call and ambulance but that's where it was going to. West Bend protects the bullies. Encourages students to become fearful and just submit to the bullies because it's easier. Parents giving up because they don't know what other resources they have or can have.

I am dedicated enough that I will straight homeschool if I can't find a space in another school and will do the same with the rest of my children.

The amount of videos that have come forward and stories from other families with similar experiences is appalling. In all honesty I'm not surprised at the issues happening with Badger and the high school when for two years you condition the student and staff to "sit down, be quiet, and take it" while the others learn "beat, and intimidate and no one will stop you".

The district has so many amazing teachers, administrators, and qualities that are unfortunately completely useless if the bad finds you. I rather have a living breathing child(ren) with less given opportunities than a beat or worse that goes to the school.

It's your basic small/mid-sized school district. Lots of good opportunities for students.

conservative district with some hard-right community members who despise government and public education

Great place to work

At face-value there is a lot of positives, but only some of those are actually implemented, supported, or accurate for all. Much of what happens at the District is person/ family dependent or even site specific and if you don't have the skills as a family to navigate things you are less likely to have a positive experience.

Caring teachers, weekly updates and more frequent communication when needed

West Bend is a large district that serves the varied needs of the students of West Bend and the smaller outlying communities. It works hard to try to meet the needs of many different types of students that are in their care.

I try not to make too many comments. I have lived in Washington County for 32 years. It seems like the WB district is always facing some type of controversy. Just when it seems to be moving forward something happens to create a setback.

It is unfortunate the community cannot come together to support their schools, defend their system and work to put personal agendas aside.

A large district with a very unique High School format where 2 schools are shared and students are valued.

Great employees

Decision makers in the district listen to "loud" community voices even if those voices are radical, in the minority, or unsubstantiated

The District is located in the Hub of Washington County. It includes West Bend and Jackson. Early Childhood programming is a big deal in the District. WBSD encompasses the Head Start program that serves all of Washington County, not just West Bend. Early Childhood Programming and public 4K are also part of the WBSD.

It isn't what it used to be. Kids seem to get away with a lot now, and they didn't in the past.

Located in a county northwest of Milwaukee

Diverse student population

Many families in district are low-income

Staff has longevity but too much high school administrative turnover

A good district with a great staff

I often share all of the great work done by staff and the exceptional opportunities available to students.

Nice, friendly and a good place to work.

The district is full of issues, especially with student behavior and follow through of discipline. As a former staff member kids have been able to have their way to use any kind of vocabulary to me and classmates and just get a slap on the wrist. They care more about a kid just showing up for the first 5 minutes of class than they do actually keeping them there. This is our future and we take them doing one assignment a week as win? Hold these kids and families accountable, hold kids back a grade, I've seen kids get passed into the next grade level failing every single class they took or not even show up to school at all.

Like any district it has its flaws, but it is my home and I have no intention of leaving. There are wonderful programs and teachers, and I intend for my children to attend in the district for high school.

I love the teachers, communication from all levels, and opportunities. I am concerned with fighting, West Bends bad rap, and consequences of students who get in trouble.

Home school, parochial school or go to Slinger. To political and way too liberal.

The West Bend School District used to be a District that was a great learning leader in the past. Not anymore.

Good school system

Disengaged from the community at large. Such disengagement results in a minimal level of support for the school district.

Caring and competent staff. I volunteer so I see the interaction between staff and students. Plus I worked in the district for 30 plus years.

West Bend has some amazing things happening in its schools, and there are bright spots to celebrate. Changing Silverbrook to a 5/6 and Badger to 7/8 was a huge mistake. The behavior data must show some kind of trend? 6-7-8 works better as middle school for many social emotional and learning readiness reasons. West Bend school leadership needs to work with CESA 6 more for coaching and PD for special education staff. There is room to grow.

Our district has similar problems other districts have. We have a very conservative board. There is a history of lots of movement in administration. The elementary schools have a great neighborhood feel.

Diverse and the high school provides many different types of classes for all kinds of interests

Segmented structure for young children.

The district has good teachers. Unfortunately they have to follow rules and regulations from DPI and the department of education. Those cookie cutter approaches are not always what is best for WBSD.

Very friendly and always willing to get an answer for a need or a request. Very understanding of personal events or issues that arise and are resolved respectfully and timely.

WBSD is in a portion of the state where people are most proud to call themselves conservatives. The community celebrates spending the minimum amount to maintain its buildings and programming.

Despite this, the WBSD has provided a quality education and has expanded offerings. We get little state financial support while at the same time lose money to voucher schools.

My siblings and I have gone through the West Bend school district. My 24 and 15 year old boys went/go through the district. I Love it here and I have never had anything but good things to say.

Anywhere you go there will be issues that will need to be handled. Wimmer has done an outstanding job with the mess she walked into!!

Great teachers, great communication, buildings need updates.

The school system here in WB is not as solid educationally as in the past. There is too much social teaching rather than the "3Rs" & actual history being taught. There are good & not so good teachers.

The values that are being taught are not my family's thus I did not send my youngest to public school. The special Ed. Dept at the schools concentrates so hard on integration and not always what is best for the students w/IDD, mental health, etc. Its just easier and more cost effective for the district. I also do not agree with several of the books that are in our libraries that are sexually explicit. That is not what one sends their children to school for.

The elementary school our children attended is fabulous and has been for years (Jackson). The facilities are aged and many need rehab or to be re-built and at times are not safe. The high school set up (2 schools, one building) is inane and needs to be turned into one school.

A great school district for your children to attend.

They do a pretty good job with education and sports. But, the communication and information given to the public (school families) is terrible when it comes to the consequences and punishment of students involved in fights and other confrontations. Never know if the perpetrators have been punished, removed from school, expelled, suspended or any follow up. All the while what do you tell your kids, the generic response from the administration. " It has been referred to authorities and administration." Well, what happened to the person or persons assaulting employees and or students? We just don't ever find out.

great experience with teachers so far at Jackson Elementary, however facilities are greatly outdated. Junior high school has a reputation for bullying and both the junior high and middle school seem to have student behavior problems.

The district has great teachers who care about their students. Could use some work on the busing situation and bullying on both the bus and at school (at the Silverbrook and Badger level).

Due to the lack of information I personally receive from the school district, my main source of information has been from some staff who have worked there, some students who attend and news stories outside of the area due to the many searches for new superintendents over the years.

Little is in the local newspaper about school issues.

I do not participate in social media.

I did attend 2 recent public information sessions which give information on the school facility issues. Both were worth attending. I learned of these meetings via a POSTCARD which I received at home.

You need to keep a very close eye on what is happening in the classrooms. Ask your child daily about what is discussed in class. If your child is being bullied tell the principal AND the teachers and school board and get in contact with the bullies parents. The school will end up doing nothing to prevent it. Administration is there to protect the teachers not the students. Report cards are never current. There is always work that has not been graded in time for the report card to come out. Security is a joke at most of the schools. Doors are left open everywhere. Never allow your child to meet with an administrator alone. You must always be present.

Troubled.

WBSD is a pretty good school district. McLane is a truly stellar school with great staff and a good building, although the roads surrounding it are in desperate need of repair. Silverbrook is a newer building with tons of things that kids need to thrive, and most of the staff has been great although some teachers there seem overwhelmed and overly stressed. Badger has an okay building with many good teachers, however their athletics department is severely lacking with options and communication, and their track is terrible. It seems the coaches there are not well supported from what I've been told by the coaches themselves and athletes. The high school is decent, although they don't use a block schedule which I find to be a disadvantage to our district and students. There are a good amount of athletic opportunities, the pool is nice, the gym areas are good, but the football field and track are in need of repairs and updates. The fence surrounding the track/football field area is falling apart as well. As a whole, the music program is truly fantastic and the performing arts center at the high school is a wonderful space.

WBSD offers lots of opportunities to sports, clubs, arts, and trades. The district has an excellent and high achieving music program. The schools are heavily engaged in service to their local community and supporting local organizations (charity/non-profit).

Very disorganized, the staff at any of the schools my children have attended, do not seem to be supported by administration. Administration seems to play favorites with parents and therefore, in my eyes, staff is struggling more with the students. Safety across the board is also a large concern.

I am a former employee and my children previously attended WB. We chose to remove our kids from the district, and I chose to take a teaching position within a private school. The "anything goes" attitude and lack of district leadership was enough for us.

Just like all the other districts in the area

Generally positive feedback on elementary schools and younger, but not good perception about middle school/high school.

a little outdated but not bad quality

Organized, typically well-grounded and attempts actively to serve the community. Many other districts confuse serving with "teaching" the community by covertly enforcing their views and causing controversy and community upset. I have not yet encountered this too heavily with my younger children nor do I feel, reflecting back, that I was exposed to it growing up in the west bend school district.

I am mostly neutral, yet as of late I would suggest to someone moving here to try and not to be in this district. It's sad because I graduated from West myself. We have a lot to offer, some great programs, but many issues that need to be addressed. Smaller neighboring districts would be my first choice now if able to. :/

Good, success focused

The teaching staff is committed to giving the best educational experience to all children. The teaching staff puts in countless hours during and beyond the school day. Our district is rigorous and the teachers have high expectations for their students. However, the buildings are old and need to be updated. Some of the buildings are not handicap accessible. The carpets in the building are so old that I would be scared to find out what is under them. In addition, some of the schools have persistent water problems. Some of the buildings do not have a secure areas once someone has access to the building. The district has put numerous bandaids on the buildings and things need to improve so all of the buildings are safe for all students and staff.

Early grades are adequate. The schools fall apart once the primary grades are finished.

A good school district that I can rely on to provide a well rounded education for my children. I trust their staff and teachers. I feel comfortable addressing concerns with any of their associates, teachers and admins. They offer good opportunities for my children to participate in extracurricular activities. The community and families are kind and involved. Great grade school. Odd that there are two high schools in the same school. It needs work.

West Bend has a 5 location system starting in 4K, moving to a k-4 building, a 5-6 building, a 7-8 Middle School, and a conjoined 9-12 High school. The district is supportive of students with special needs and puts focus on meeting student needs.

Just like how we're two high schools in one building, some of our other policies and actions are contradictory. We have a wide variety of community members (political, racial, religious, etc.) that can be a great "salad bowl" of diversity, but oftentimes results in conflicts of differing values.

Many dedicated teachers. Inconsistent communication and leadership across district based on school(s).

This community does not support its teachers or value a well-rounded education for its pupils. It treats the school district like a culture-war battlefield, which unnecessarily makes an already tough job that much tougher. This results in a curriculum always under fire, teachers being demonized and under-compensated, and many students being marginalized.

Family friendly and responsive staff
Friendly
Kept up to date on events
Stays on top of the kids to keep safety
Lots of opportunities for students as they grow.
Over populated classrooms starting in the elementary levels. This day and age still a lot of bullying if you are not flashy with your money. Racism is still a terrible issue as well.
We have had a great experience the the WB school district. Teachers and staff have been great! Any concerns I've ever had were dealt with.
The city of west bend pours a lot of resources into its schools. And I love it, my kids benefit greatly.
The district offers great programs and has fantastic staff!

N/A

Lots of opportunity for students and very caring teachers. Not appreciated enough by the community.

The West Bend School District promotes a culture that includes and values all children.
a unique dual high school situation

A diverse school district that has a lot to offer, but is in a very conservative community that struggles to invent the money needed to attract families to continue moving in to the district. We have a ton of potential as a district and community if we could simply get people to invest in it.

The facilities are below average. Our School Board and Administration prioritize administrative positions over teaching positions and opportunities for students. The district is asking teachers to take early retirement and, in some cases, encouraging them to retire to save the school district money. The effect this has had is an increase in class sizes and the eliminating of some classes. The two High Schools in one building has always been an issue, it divides the teaching staff, the students, and our community. The reason for two schools in one building was the number of students we have and some felt it was better to have to have twice the opportunities for high school students. The high school enrollment is decreasing and student participation is low. The time is now to combine the High Schools. The West Bend community has much to offer and the only thing holding it back is the West Bend School District.

Pleased with my daughters education.

Overall good experience. I have some concerns with some of the violent situations I have heard about at the schools after elementary.

The leadership is struggling and doesn't support their staff very well.

WBSD has wonderful opportunities for students in the high school to try a wide variety of fields and also to dive deep when interested. 4K-6th grade has great teachers and staff that make sure to make connections with their students. 7th-8th grade can be a challenge as student have to decide what they want to do too early in their elective areas. The schedule is quick and student connections are not as strong. There are opportunities for kids 5th-8th after school at their school.

Teachers are very dedicated to the students
We have had great support at the school. I typically tell people kindergarten started rough, but that was more teacher specific since then we have had great teachers and I feel as if the district has been pretty transparent especially during COVID.

WBSD is a large district with many opportunities for students. The music program is top notch and starts in 5th grade! HS students have an abundance of opportunities to explore careers and get a head start for college, if they choose. Like any district, there are opportunities for improvement, but overall, I've been pleased with the education and experiences my children have received.

Lots of opportunities for kids, they get band or orchestra and they're both great programs! They get language at 5th grade, art, etc.

West Bend School District is a district that prepares all students for their futures by providing many different opportunities through sports, the arts, academics and career readiness.

West Bend School District supports a diverse community and faces challenges to how it provides instruction and support to the community.

The West Bend school district is run by an amazing superintendent, spectacular teachers, paraprofessionals, lunch staff and custodians. As an employee at of the district I love my job!

Not enough discipline. Too much DEI nonsense. Problem kids are never expelled. More concerned with social issues than actual education. Disappointed since I was raised here.

The district has many opportunities for students, but is limited by resources. We are in desperate need of funding for new facilities and updated equipment.

Great teachers who strive to give our students the best instruction. Lots of opportunities for academics as well as extra curricular activities.

It's alright, nothing spectacular. I completed K5-12 in the WB School district and the standards and quality of the education system, schools, and programs offered seemed much better years ago.

We have 4 children who have all gone through the WB school district - each year it seems to diminish. If our youngest was not in high school, I would have strongly considered moving outside the district. We work for the school district and believe that is a good place to be. My children have had a great experience within the school district. They have had many wonderful teachers at each of the schools they have attended. The high schools offer a wide variety of opportunities for students in academics, sports, and extra curricular activities.

Hardworking people with positive intent.
My children recieved an excellent education and had a lot of opportunities while they were in school. They were well prepared to enter college and the workforce.
Schools in good locations, teachers and staff very reputable, good security

Child focused

A wonderful district that has excellent teachers and puts education first.
Wait to see the violence in high school.
Everyone passes no matter what. Staff does the best they can, but there are a lot of behavior issues.

The west bend school district take the students safety and education serious and they care a lot and is involved a lot and they helped my daughter succeed

The West Bend School District is working on improvements to address some of the issues that are interfering with the learning of all students. Both of my children were successful going through the school system from kindergarten thru graduation. There are a lot of opportunities for advancement such as AP classes, enrichment courses in each area of study, summer school gym (allows students to take an extra class during the school year), etc.

Liberal agenda and too much money spent on woke programs
Small town feel with big city options.

A caring community

A good school district that has been struggling recently

Confused school district afraid to make the decision to be one high school. The current model creates animosity amongst the community and schools that does not need to happen.

They work hard to make sure the students get the help they need if they need it. They take care of issues that happen at the school fast.

Actively celebrates LGBTQ+ and various gender identities. More likely than parochial schools to experience bullying, fighting, student disrespect for authority, drug use, sexually active children, etc.

Parochial schools are not perfect. However, I want my children in an environment where they will experience less of these things than they will in WB school district.

Welcoming and warm hearted teachers who love their jobs and treat their students with respect. Great education along with a variety of elective classes, clubs and extracurricular activities.

Students come from different schools in the district and form bonding relationships in the middle and high school levels.

It could be phenomenal but at its core there is an unwillingness to do everything to be at its best. So, if you put in the time as a parent to make sure what is being taught and that your child is availing themselves to all that is offered it would be a great experience as there are a lot of choices for AP classes, etc. Do not expect the district to help them in and of itself, you have to be on the ball at all times. The East/West thing hampers the district and holds back much at the high school level. The district is admin/top heavy and does not utilize its resources well.

Large and many opportunities
Very large but still smaller class sizes
Good education
Needs improvement! We need better teachers and better curriculum.

A district where the teacher's are either amazing or vindictive, nothing in between.

Large district with significant financial challenges that does a good job with what it has. Because of misguided state laws regarding public school funding, the district cannot live up to its potential and community expectations.

Split in 2 by having Jackson separate from WB

The WBSD offers a wide variety of programming, especially at the middle and high school levels. The high school has a well-rounded selection of AP, STEM, and vocational classes. Most staff employed by the district to work directly with students are first-rate. Finally, the district is guided by a board that takes its job seriously and a district administration that is committed to providing all students with an outstanding education.

Different as it has two HS in one building

West Bend has the resources and potential to be a top tier school district if all the Board members would focus on education instead of using the schools to prove how they are falling in line with culture war issues from national partisan politics, and leading the community to do the same when it comes to schools and the education of our community's children.

It is a large district with such low spending it's come to the point it is in desperate need of facility repairs that should have been addressed a long time ago.

It was much better 10 years ago. Jackson Elementary is a bright star in the school district (the people not the building)

To be honest the structure is a bit confusing, especially 2 high schools in the same building. Personally I love Jackson and wish we wouldn't have to move to West Bend starting in 5th grade.

It's a large district.

Through Instagram, I see good things happening!

The schools are located on some nice pieces of property. Silverbrook and Badger are essentially brand new schools. Economically, there are children who live in million dollar homes and others who live in low income housing - and everything in between. There are many resources within the community that benefit the schools.

The high school offers a lot of AP classes, more than most other schools. If you apply yourself and join clubs/sports it was a great school when my kids were there. Graduated 2018 & 2022. In HS they were never bullied, my son was at Badger but it was never. We have no regrets sending our children there.

Has the potential to be a great school district.

We find the two high schools in one building very odd and not sure how that really works. However when there was an altercation at the school it was dealt with promptly. Not sure of other things at this point.

Silly combination of two high schools side by side.

Rising crime and violence.

Mediocre test scores.

Widely scattered elementary schools, confusing mix of grades here/there/ wherever.

WBSD has strong academic programming including all the AP and college bound courses you would need to be competitive for acceptance to elite universities. The music program is outstanding and has provided a safe place to land for all of my children. The music teachers at all levels continually go above and beyond what is compensated or expected during contract hours.

A school district that doesn't care about the kids. Only tells you what you want to hear when there is a problem and doesn't do it. They brush things under the rug and hope no one finds out about it. Not transparent at all.

Amazing opportunities for kids to succeed.

The District has its share of bad press, but I always tell people that 98% of the kids are all good kids. There are just some kids that are bringing down the reputation of the district.

Pleased with the education and care of students

Big district / needs updates

Has the potential to be a good district if they would hold children accountable for their actions. I know SEVERAL families that school choice out because of bullying not being taken seriously as well as concern for lack of consequences for kids who get in fights. Has great but also bad teachers and it's a toss up on one or the other.

It has been a great district, and still is. There are lots of opportunities for all students.

Wonderful schools teaching our children respect and helping them learn. The teachers and staff are caring and helpful.

It is too progressive.

We do not send our children to WBSD only because of the location of our house and transportation.

Run by democrats, triggered by liberals. With poor consequence punishment/corrective action.

I would poke fun at there being two high schools in one building.

Honestly, it's amazing and the teachers have so much care for the kids, they're more than teachers in my eyes. I will choose this district over and over.

Great school district. Educators are armed with the tools to help children succeed. However, like any other school district, achieving success is a team effort. Parents have to play an integral role in their child's education.

larger district split into many schools to accommodate large population of kids. Schools in the district are very multicultural.

Excellent well run district

The structure, principals, and follow thru are weak. The teachers say they are there to help, but kids get told not their problem when they ask questions at WBSD. In low grades they are more concerned about having parties every week than getting quality teaching lessons done. They send home homework on lessons they haven't ratify yet only to tell parents that know the old school ways they are doing homework wrong. They get attitudes when you point out agenda or age inappropriate reading material. Teachers are letting students go on YouTube and listen to music without boundaries.. my child her "wap" at school and was appalled. When you bring anything to the teachers attention they either fully deny, cover for each other or allow the problem children to continue to do the behavior. The principal at Jackson has her secretary doing all the work. The nurse makes up fevers at 99.4. When the nurse isn't there the secretary, without a nurse license either administers the meds or asks the child you know how to do this and let's them do it themselves.. all of which is illegal! The principal has talks with the children that cause incidents and nothing ever gets done. My special needs child has been pushed off swings, bitten, picked on, and it just continues all while they try to paint a pretty picture. My oldest gets picked on and told if she says anything back she's now the bully for defending herself.. Great way to lower their self esteem and make more victims. They've lost my child 3 times this year only to lie about it when others found her outside. They try to cover it or make it look not as bad when it happens. When taken on field trip a parent texted me they had my special needs chips as he teacher aide was talking for 25 minutes and didn't even know she was gone. I've had tons go on the bus that were horrific and nothing done or only to be covered up by silverbrook and badger administrator's. I can't move my kids because you have a rule that one an iep is started they have to stay where they are because you want the money. If I had a choice I ABSOLUTELY would not recommend this school district. I'm so done it's to the point of looking into homeschooling or taking my chances at prepare which would put my family out 6,000 per year and my daughter with iep would have to get private speech and probably fall behind.. my daughter has children coming to school talking about possession and devil worship. it sounds unbelievable, but it is going on. The only facility I can say is great is Jackson community center 4k program. If I could take Mrs Lane, McNamee, Aleithe, and Jeske with my kids thru every grade I would.

Not like what it use to be. Students in general are not held accountable for their actions. If parents are vocal enough they get heard.

Great elementary schools but after that it'll be difficult for transportation and connections.

Teachers are amazing. They definitely need to be paid more!! Especially for the kids (and some of the awful parents) they deal with on a regular basis.

A fiscally conservative district in demographic student transition.

I think it's pretty straight forward and a good running school district.

N/A

I would say the West Bend School District is average. The middle school needs much improvement. Issues such as bullying and dress code policies not being informed are issues that should be looked at.

There's a reason why our enrollment is down and people are open enrolling at other districts. No one moves to west bend because of our schools.

Slightly better than Milwaukee public schools.

There are tons of academic and extracurricular opportunity and truly amazing staff throughout the system. If you have questions feel free to ask at your child's school if it is site specific or to the superintendent or school board if it is a more global district question. Be informed and involved- it is a great place to be. Making our student's education even better and stronger.

My husband and I both went through the district back in the 1990's, me with high school, and my husband through K-12. I want to say the district has a very dedicated staff, and seems to be educating our girls who currently attend Badger Middle school. We are happy with the district so far, however, I do think that kids shouldn't be allowed to swear at school. I hear it when I wait for my girls, while kids are in gym outside by the track.

West Bend School District has teachers that are very dedicated and familiar with my students unique needs. They respond to those needs to bring out their full potential. Providing appropriate challenges or supports are provided for students West Bend provides opportunities to participate in sports, clubs and extracurriculars. Ongoing communication helps us stay up to date with district news. West Bend is an underrated school district. However, when compared to other districts I've visited, our district buildings are in need of renovations and updates. The high school is grungy and uninviting.

Average

I am a huge proponent of the West Bend Schools. We had 10 consecutive, amazing years at Fair Park. I don't think we could ask for a better elementary staff or schools. Our experience at Silverbrook was also fantastic, even amongst the lockdown. Badger was ok. I have no complaints about the teachers or administration, but I do feel it is way too big. Too many hormonal 13 and 14 year old kids in one place. I don't agree with Silverbrook being one big grade school. The smaller grade schools allow for a more personal, and nurturing foundation for our youngest students. It's easy for the problem kids to be loud and consume a lot of energy, therefore allowing a lot of kids to just coast and fly under the radar both socially and academically. With the middle school having more children and the small grade schools dissolving, it is likely that I would remove my children from WBSD if I had younger kids. We would choose out or move out of the district. I would vote yes on any amount of money for a referendum, but I don't think any of these options are BETTER for the children.

Not very good. Just park outside as school lets out look at the extremely lax dress code. It will tell you all you need to know. Taxes continue to go up as enrollment goes down.

The West Bend School District has a large number of great students. We are the county seat and so we offer many government sponsored programs. This has always brought in a different type of clientele. Students that graduate from our district are very prepared for whatever they choose to do after high school.

Good district overall. Seems like more and more troubled kids are absorbing the available needs and it leaves the rest of the kids shorted.

It's a large district that's average.

I would tell someone that it is a good district. Not exceptional, but good.

The majority of students are good kids & are there to learn, but there is a minority of real troublemakers. I also feel that quiet students fall in the cracks and there is little help from counselors.

A place filled with dedicated and passionate teachers and staff committed to providing a great education and care for all students.

Small/medium town school district in Wisconsin.

We have some great schools and some great teachers/staff. There are a few too many nutty community members trying to ban books and social emotional learning in the district, but we're doing our best to fend them off.

We have been happy with the majority of our children's teachers throughout their high school career. We love the variety of classes that are offered that the high schools that are geared towards all different kinds of interests and careers. The amount of honors, AP, and tech credit classes that are offered are excellent.

The West Bend School District is a district that welcomes diversity and strives to nurture our students while providing a safe, fun, and positive, educational experience.

Relatively safe. I see fights breaking out more at the high school and that worries me.

I also worry about the priorities of the school board and their utilization of the facilities.

I can only speak to Green Tree School since I have been out of High School for almost 20 years. Green Tree School has been wonderful for both our kids (Kindergarten and 3rd Grade!) The Teachers, the Support Staff, the Old and New Principle have all been fantastic. The rumors I hear about Silverbrook and Badger make my wife and I a bit nervous for our 3rd grader. But we are hopeful that the values they are learning at Green Tree continue to carry on.

Our children are at McLane. So far, we are pleased with the quality of education our children are receiving and we appreciate the care, attention, and communication the staff provides to our children.

WBSD is a fantastic district for high-achieving kids, with a ton of opportunity for advanced/college courses. It is also a very supportive district for low-achieving kids who can get the support they need to succeed. For kids who fall in the middle, I have concerns that they are getting lost. Also, the amount of behaviors the schools seem to be dealing with (or unfortunately not really addressing) can cause learning to be difficult for the students who are not exhibiting the behaviors. The facilities need repair and updates. Athletic opportunities at the high school level are a great way for kids to grow and connect and there are many clubs kids can participate in at all levels within the district. Even though some are disappointed of the things that happen here in and out of the district, we have to educate all and we are doing the best we can to work on behaviors and stick to the plan when it comes to discipline.

I love working here, my kids had a good experience when they went through the district and most importantly we need to follow through on our rules where some actions have consequences.

I feel that over the years, the WBSD has been a place where less students/families want to attend. I feel that WBSD has lost an identity and is a difficult place for many students and families to get a sense of belonging and pride.

2 schools in one building. I bet disappointed due to student choice options

Student orientated with a lot of opportunities for ALL students. Caring and capable staff. Having an Intermediate school to combine 5th and 6th grade allows the district to offer an early start with foreign languages and band/ orchestra which is invaluable for their future.

Middle class school district with teachers that care deeply about their students and families. Staff members are a family that work together to help each other.

My children have had great teachers over the years. They have made good friends. They participate in school activities. Our family has had a positive experience with the school.

Good overall support from District Staff, Principals, Teachers, and Parents. Living in Jackson makes it a little difficult for any referendums in regards to Jackson Schools to pass as most of the West bend School District lives in West Bend.

Very welcoming and has the best interest of the students and families at heart. Wants everyone to be successful.

There is a lot of bullying currently and is the past at Silverbrook under the Principal Roell. It is not addressed promptly and handled sufficiently. A lot of times the child being bullied is caught defending themselves and is punished, but not the bully. I saw this 7 yrs ago when my 3rd child was there and with my current child there. Situations at Silverbrook are also not handled in the same manner for the same offenses. The Fair Park school I have had great experiences with as was Green Tree years ago.

Lots of things for kids to get involved with

The WBSD is a big district which allows for a wide variety of course offerings for our students. We also have the best staff I love that my children are well known by their teachers and the staff at their schools. They are loved and cared for and I know that they are getting at top education while being valued for who they are as individuals.

West Bend is a small town community that is quickly changing. Many transient families have moved into our community and have changed the classroom dynamics. Our community has strong school to business partners. Over the past twenty years, there have been many low income housing developments that have dramatically changed the socio-economic population. Our district has cut social worker positions, but recently added school to home supports to help the economically challenged families.

From all the parent groups I've attended I have only heard negative things about Jen Wimmer but never met her personally. Our schools are known for having low testing scores and need to be addressed starting there.

School district with strong teachers but with bloated administration that is not interested in retaining their strong teachers and support staff.

A district that lacks any sustained successful change and continues to throw money at problems rather than looking at root issues. The quality of education grows worse each year from lack of personal accountability. You have empowered students to think they can do whatever they want in the name of total inclusion. Really sad.

It is a large district with a diverse student body. The board is heading in the right direction but it is necessary for those making decisions that impact the classroom to spend time inside of classrooms.

That it is a district that has lost its good reputation from when I was a student myself. That my children all speak so highly of their years at Fair Park but both middle school and high school years were/are very different and have a negative experience.

Has a lot of opportunities but desperately needs updates to schools.

Ran by incompetent people in power who don't understand the issues facing the district. Poor facilities management, and higher turnover rate with teachers.

It is a declining school district. They are failing in multiple areas. Discipline is lacking and there is no accountability. The behaviors in classrooms are taking away from learning.

Good schools that we know of so far. One thing to take note of is 2 separate high schools.

Way too conservative and concerned with angering the far right parents and don't pay teachers well, but the teachers are generally good and the schools are decent enough. Resources for neurodivergent kids are very thin, but if you have a normal kid they will probably be fine.

I was only here for 1 year

A progressive school district that works to provide up to date methodologies to meet the needs for all students The District lead by a Superintendent and School Board that has the education for the students as priority, but keeps the tax-payer in mind too. I feel the District faces disciplinary issues reflecting changes in the family and society in general but not necessarily a result of District policy or lack of focus on the issue(s). The School Board and Superintendent are beginning to look openly and honestly at building issues and make proposed cuts no matter how painful they might be according to declining enrollments.

It's an okay district.

It's a large district with a unique high school arrangement. It served its purpose and it is what you make it. Lots of opportunities offered to students at the high school level.

Too many kids from all walks of life, some not from our district. The kids obviously out-number the teachers. The high school is too big which allows for more problems asking the kids that over shadow the kids that are trying to do their best. The elementary schools are ok, give difference in the middle schools. Only allow kids from within our district to enroll and be tough on the riff raff.

I'd say it's an above average school district... although the fights and violence have ticked up lately which has made me question the kids allowed to attend the school.

Good schools with good vo- tech programs

Great teachers, more opportunities than other schools in the county. Unique dual high school set-up that needs to change to just one high school.

Great teachers. Need better facilities.

Strong, committed Staff, Administration and volunteers with the best social and educational values as a focus

Once the pinnacle of a quality education, now a district of too much change- and not always for the better, unfortunately. We have some of the best teachers, but many are leaving because of the unrest with the direction of the district and the lack of consequences with student behaviors.

various elementary schools feeding into one intermediate, middle and two high schools in one facility. Provides many extra curricular & co-curricular opportunities for students.

Lacking in follow through of consequences.

It's better than I expected it to be. The special education is good. I've been impressed with the High School interest programs and ability to earn college credits.

Good staff with meager resources

Wonderful superintendent. Very "visible" at community/school events. Tries to explain things thoroughly and respectfully. District office members continue to cycle in and out. Teachers work hard and demonstrate care. Buildings are in need of updating. Badger & Silverbrook have been nicely redone.

Our experience has been great at Fair Park. Outside of this school I can't give any feedback.

We have had a wonderful experience at Fair Park elementary School and an equally wonderful experience with a child at Silverbrook Intermediate School. For some reason the high school is small enough to be one, but due to tradition the school district keeps it as two schools so that they have two sports teams. However, the school is actually one in that all of the students have classes together. Unfortunately, due to the way the sports is, it affects youth sports in a negative way. And can pit friends against friends and neighbors against neighbors. So for that reason it's kind of an odd school district.

Used to be a decent school district but has slid in quality of education. Too much focus on things that are not core to a basic education in math, reading, and writing.

Many advanced class options in high school.

Most of the teachers and staff that we have experience with are very friendly and helpful. We have seen a few instances of bullying I think could have been handled better. There also seems to be a lot more fighting and violence within the west bend district compared to other nearby districts.

West Bend School District is in transition. It can no longer justify the number of buildings it is currently trying to manage on a tight budget. The community is reluctant to give more in funding, but at the same time they want to keep all the buildings, course offerings, same classroom sizes, etc. As a staff member it is important to advertise the referendum in a way that isn't threatening but clearly states the consequences of a yes or a no. Is the closing of FP and D going to happen regardless of the referendum? Is the referendum a way to make the inevitable closings easier to accept because what is left will be better? If so how do we make that clear in a that doesn't turn people off.

More open minded and accepting than people think.

Great teachers with old, run down buildings

Divided.

It has improved slightly over the past year, but still lacks in variety of learning styles and alternative programs for students compared to other districts.

Discipline and accountability are weak, and the buildings are in sad shape.

We have two high schools which is weird. It seems like the only difference between East and West is sports. It feels like West gets a lot more money, better coaches, and overall more support for sports.

We have an amazing music program. Kids can join band, choir or orchestra already at 5th grade. They also get to start a foreign language in 5th grade. These are two benefits that I really like. I'm also thankful that the band is just West Bend, as opposed to East and West separated.

All of the staff really care about the children and go above and beyond.

I get a lot of communication from the district. I don't always read it all but I could never complain that I don't hear about what's going on.

A district with a number of good private schools.

Needs a lot of improvement with those students disrupting school with fighting. These students need to be expelled immediately so that all others realize this behavior IS NOT TOLERATED! fights are sadly becoming the new norm.

The WB school district seeks to include high rigor in their everyday learning with students.

I am overall happy with the district. I am not sure how the declining enrollment is being represented. Is this representative of public schools across the state? The country? Why is this and what is being done to remedy it? What impact has Covid had on this trend and what are the projections for future? Every classroom my kids are in seems to be bursting at the seams. Teachers in elementary school are great but overwhelmed. In the older grades, teachers seem to struggle to control their classrooms (behaviors, etc.) and connect with their students. I hear of lots of issues with poor bullying response from parents across the district. I don't share that experience. I hear from my kids about situations that occur at school but seem to be handled appropriately which I am happy with. My kids don't ride the bus but if they did I am certain I would feel differently on that issue.

Silverbrook has amazing opportunities for 5th graders which included key classes and clubs/activities

We have wonderful support at Jackson Elementary, especially the special education teachers and staff. Our issue lies with not having coverage in Jackson after grade 4. We have voted for a new school every time since it has come up and are always extremely let down when it's heavily opposed by residents outside of Jackson.

It's ok.

We love McLane elementary school.

The administration needs to do better with supporting staff. They need to get the students under control, or remove them from our school District. They need to stop bringing in students from outside our district to better meet cultural differences. The students They brought in have been kicked out of Milwaukee schools and most have criminal records.

Great opportunities for strong students who, along with their family, value education.

Great experience! Great teachers! Provides a great education and environment for students to succeed.

Big, inclusive, wide range of extra curricular activities for the kids. I wish I knew the high school teachers better. I feel very disconnected at times from what is going on day to day. When I email teachers they don't respond.

Too political and one that does not share the values of the vast majority of its residents.

I frequently tell those unfamiliar with the district the following.

The WBSD does very well at the elementary ages largely because of the neighborhood schools. The smaller elementary schools give the youngest students the opportunity to have a sense of belonging in a less overwhelming size school, and behaviors are more likely to be readily addressed.

The district seems to struggle beyond the elementary levels with behaviors, bullying etc. This concern weighs heavily on our minds as our child grows and will impact our choice to continue in the district.

We formed this opinion of the older levels from several current friends and families personal experiences. A willing to be informed and persistent if necessary is huge. Your child's success in WBSD depends greatly on personal involvement.

We are happy with our elementary school. We hear a lot of negative stories about Badger middle school and the high schools, but have no first hand knowledge.

Currently, I am concerned about the district and how we compare to surrounding areas. Our high schools desperately need updating. I am concerned about our ability to retain good teachers. I am very disappointed how the ending of the high school German program was handled.

The WB school district has provided excellent education to my children who have attended all their here. There are growing challenges though. A main concern of mine for years is the discipline issue, particularly at the HS.

a confusing mess structurally, but a fairly large district for 'rural' Wisconsin.

It's terrible. Oh and if you like your kids going to school with other kids that get bussed in from other county's that cause the most trouble. Not to mention staff can't even handle the kids that Actually live here then go ahead.

It is a strong, soundly managed school district with great depth and scope, excellent offerings, and reasonable, performance within a financially sound, fiscally conservative community.

A large district that has had numerous administrative changes every year for many years until recently. The district has lacked vision along with those who were able to define a problem and develop solutions. A WB school board member was in a summer class about 20+ years ago and deployed the condition of the high school. No changes. Fund 46 was created to defray cost of new Jackson School.

Our Elementary school (Green Tree) is top-notch. The staff is outstanding and so warm and welcoming to our entire family!

Not stellar. But not bad. There are good schools, and quite a few very good teachers that we have met so far. Administration I have found to be typical stonewalling, bureaucratic and interested more in serving themselves than individual parents. Its pretty typical, and one of the reasons you are not a "stellar" district.

Conservative views within the community

It is a very large school district to start, while most teachers are fabulous, there are those that are sub par as well as administrators. If you email the administrative staff they are very receptive, and almost all teachers we've had so far are responsive in being a team with the parents facilitating learning environment for kids. There seems at a middle school level to be a large amount of inconsistency between student work loads from house to house. We don't care for lugging the heavy backpacks with chrome books back and forth for the elementary aged kids. Our kids backpack weight 30lbs. Too heavy for developing body's and bones. Each school tries to create the sense of community. Behavioral issues tend to need extreme before correction is taken. The charter busing for middle schools is problematic with timing and layover at badger.

Small

Jackson elementary school staff are great, but facilities are not ideal. Wouldn't want to be in this district when my kids hit middle school.

I absolutely love fair park. All 3 of my kids have attended fair park elementary. My youngest is currently a 2nd grader. Mr. Hayes is a phenomenal principal.

It is a great school district for families with children.

It's okay. Half of the classes my daughter says they don't even learn about the subject they are in. They have been reading books instead having nothing to do with the subject. There also seems to be violence and bullying issues. She also just said her science and social studies class is getting combined. How does that make sense.

We are a large school district, despite declining enrollment, that is able to offer a large array of opportunities for our students to prepare them for adulthood.

It's a good district if you put in the effort.

The elementary school and staff is great. The staff is highly engaged and provide great resources and opportunities for the students. I am concerned about the middle school and student safety surrounding bullying, and some consistent behavioral issues.

Any student who hits another student should not be allowed to attend from that day forward. There should be no suspensions. Also the English reading lists are awful.

They are focused on providing the best education to the students in their district.

Overall pretty good. Don't understand the need for "2" high schools.

Many opportunities for students.

Clear communication from schools.

Unfortunately set in an area that is negative towards schools and critical, which drives potentially good teaching candidates away.

A school community that seeks to provide quality education by putting students first. This is achieved by seeking and retaining qualified staff who constantly look for new ways to meet the needs of their students.

Community orientated, focussed on student's success and preparing them to do well as they move along their educational journey, highly concerned with hiring and retaining qualified staff, a strong desire to ensure that the family of each student is involved in their student's education and school family.

A school district who educates our children but wouldn't be my first choice to send my child too.

This district is overly conservative, but changing with younger generations. The high school has strong AP and honors programs, PLTW, and many electives that don't exist in other districts.

For the most part, the staff is wonderful. However, a lot of the policies are lacking. Many parents and teachers have worries about their safety and/or their child's safety. I myself am weary of sending my children to the middle and high schools.

It is a district that has good teachers but

the school board has become too political in recent years. It no longer has the positive reputation it enjoyed over the past 30 years. It is no longer seen as a destination district. Despite the negative things I hear from parents with children in the district, the district has excellent program offerings, good staff, and numerous extra cocurricular activities. It is still possible to get a good education in the district. I recognize that inadequate financing is an issue. The district is also negatively affected by national efforts to demonize public education.

The district offers many opportunities to children and has caring and competent staff members.

It is a good school district. There are lots of opportunities for kids to excel.

Stay away

It's okay but it could be better.

It's a great school district. Teachers at Decorah have been amazing!

Responsive to student needs and getting better every year. Large. Mixed lot of resources depending on level or building, but generally high quality for students and staff.

Overall, it is a good school district. They have a weird setup at the high school. It's two schools in one building even though most of the classes are mixed with students from both schools. The middle school breakdown has 5th and 6th in one building and 7th and 8th in another. It's a nice transition system. They approach everything practically which I enjoy. It would be nice if there was a little more organization at that start of school years. We learn about teachers and classroom assignments just a week or two before school starts. More advance notice would be nice.

Lots of opportunities for involvement

I say the schools are very large, once they get to intermediate (Silverbrook) and beyond, and that there is an enormous amount of students who attend. I also say it's a great district to be part of.

Its ok.

Decorah is Amazing! Silverbrook is Amazing! Badger is awful!!! The high school is average. Nothing positive or negative.

WBSD is an amazing district. We have had nothing but positive experiences with teacher and faculty. They are very accommodating and helpful with anything that is needed. Our son has ADHD and has been behind on reading and math because of it. The staff at Fair Park has helped us from day one to get him in the right path for success. I firmly believe that because of them, our son has finally reached an educational goal that we have worked so hard for. Kudos to Fair Park and all the amazing individuals that are there!

East and West are in one building and the sports teams are separate for most sports. The school needs updates and most of the schools in the district. Most of the sports teams are not that competitive. Pretty good level of education. Relatively safe. No evidence of faculty trying to indoctrinate my kids into an ideology that conflicts with what I teach at home. Pretty good access to extracurricular activities for the kids. Solid support for special needs. Some facilities are in great shape, others need updating.

The teachers and staff at Green Tree are nothing but supportive of each other and the students they work with.

Large, overly conservative and too focused on sports. But gives kids lots of opportunities

Low standards, tests scores and school rankings are low, a good number of west bend teachers don't have their kids in WBSD schools, they choose private or school choice out, inappropriate ELA books being read, SEL is a class taking up educational time, and behaviors out of control. The district is afraid to treat behaviors the same due to race so there is not a backlash. There are kids who have bad behaviors and get preferential treatment.

The district is not on top of the drug issue in west bend. Random drug and weapon checks are not done routinely to keep all kids safe.

The teachers are very support of my kids. They communicate effectively.

Currently, the district has problems with students being disruptive and combative with both teachers and other students. The rate at which the police respond to physical and verbal altercations is astounding and the district does not seem to have a zero tolerance policy to suspend students. The teachers do not have a safe and respectful place to teach and are often yelled at with profanities at in hallways and in their rooms. It has gone downhill over the past 5 years and I would consider school choosing outside the district.

Uncaring lack communication going downhill do not care as much about the white students getting bullied or harassed by minority groups, but if a white student does it to the minority group it's called racist and the white child gets into trouble. Don't send children here if you can accommodate rides to different district.

Run down schools especially Jackson elementary. At the higher grade levels in recent history acts of violence towards teachers and other students

I usually like to share the experience I had with the opportunities I received that I felt you couldn't at other nearby schools. But now today I am typically asked if I heard about the fights or other disruptions that you see in the news.

A larger school that has opportunities for advanced classes but also one that has come to have a higher than average teacher turnover. There are some facilities/building updates that should be done.

Family feel. Very welcoming. Hard working teachers. Inclusive of all. Great extracurricular activities.

I think our district is fine. Not the best in the area but not the worst. It definitely used to be held in higher regard when I was a kid than it is now- students from around the area used to Choice to WB, now people Choice out of it.

Thorough, complete public education with a very talented staff of compassionate professionals.

The West Bend school district is terrible from the top down. Starting with the school board, whose priorities are misguided by the people who think they are the ethical & moral compass of the community.

Moreover, they love to press their beliefs on the rest of the community. In addition to the ignorant school board, the district administration is overpaid and don't actually care about the students. They only care about where the next chunk of money they can get from the community is coming from and looking good taking it. Now, most of the teachers in the school district have checked out. It's obvious they are just showing up because they have to in order to get a pay check and count the days until summer. Most importantly, I would advise anyone asking that if they want their child to get a quality education to stay away from the West Bend school district.

Bad reputation for drugs in the schools. Lower quality of education than surrounding districts. Outdated facilities in Jackson. Terrible bussing practices.

It's a nice place but school leadership and administration is not always supporting their staff the best they can

Used to be top notch, feel it has been declining over the years-more fights going on, not all administrators are strong

District is ok, feel that there's a lot of work to do in the level of education the kids receive. Wish I would have researched it more before moving to West Bend. Two high schools don't make sense.

For the most part great teachers but no support from the District /administrators to help in classroom management.

Maybe the questions should be what are doing to encourage families to enroll their children in the WB District to support the need / what of more money to improve the education systems. These families are leaving because of the first statement as well as great teachers who just don't want to deal with all the issues. Maybe less money spent on management and over paid administrators and more invest in what school should be, Education!

Decent Elementary, but I hear bad things about the Middle and High Schools. Especially regarding violence and safety. Jackson has good staff but is in complete disrepair.

Suburban, large community/school district, good communication, overall good. So far supportive admin from my own perspective. Only hesitations is word of mouth middle school concerns (Badger).

WBSD has done some things in the past, but changes have been made and it seems to now be on a solid path to include the community.

Staff at Fair Park are wonderful and principal is exceptional.

I haven't had an issues with my children there. I feel I am heard as well as my children are too. And I have great communication with the teachers and staff.

It's just "ok". There are other nearby school districts I would rather have my children in if I could.

just another school district

Same as any other district. The teachers and staff we have worked have been amazing.

Wonderful staff! Love the support my family has received from elementary, intermediate, middle and high schools!

Our oldest is in 1st grade so we are new to this world, but we've been very satisfied with Jackson Elementary. We also have had all positive experiences with 4K at Living Word. I would say the

communication is plentiful and my children are very happy.

Trying to do its best for students. The stories the public typically hears are not the true reflection of what happens on a day to day basis. However, academic scores are hurting in both reading and math, so changes need to be made.

A big old pot of everything mixed together.

I am very disappointed in the state of this district. I am told West Bend High School is known in the area as 'The Pharmacy'. My child attending the high school indicates there are bathrooms you do not use due to drug use.

In addition I believe there is a very high percentage of teachers that are immature, really don't want to teach, and treat their students as friends, rather than students. Quite frankly I cannot wait for graduation.

Happy with it. Kind, loving teachers.

Great district - our home schools in elementary school are magical. It does take a turn once we start getting to middle school & high school. Small home school sizes are lost and kids are older so problems get more mature.

Very large, lots of schools and too many transitions

Best education in the state, country.

Too many school buildings.

I would describe the district just like any other neighboring school district, it has some wonderful teachers and some that haven't been the greatest. Some of the kids are great and some seriously disrupt my child's learning. It's a district that would benefit from having stricter classrooms, but has been fine for our child.

A wide variety of classes and extracurriculars available at the high school.

I would tell them not to judge a book by it's cover. I personally had amazing teachers that are still teaching and my children who are now in the district are striving. The resources, staff and sports/extracurriculars that are offered are amazing.

Low budget, but does what they can with what they have.

Very frustrating to get anyone to listen to what your child needs. They are too focused on policy and don't do what's right for the kids.

Older outdated buildings but just "ok".

West Bend is a giant small town. People are deeply rooted in tradition, even if it doesn't make sense for the current state of affairs in the community. There are two high schools in the same building, b which only makes sense to people who grew up here. Outsiders think it's absurd.

Very large district with alot of building options for elementary aged students. Kids in 5th and 6th have their own building which is nice because kids are not mature enough to be with older students at that time. Badger is a nice transition school before High School. High school is in one building but separate sides. Provides a good framework for sports and extra curricular activities.

Average. Nothing stands out, good or bad.

Quality education

Instances of losing capable educators and administrators in the time I've lived here.

Fiscally and Academically Conservative - reflection of the broader community

Facilities need improvement

Not very progressive. Not very diverse or welcoming to anyone that isn't white and straight

Great education with a substandard high school building and athletic facilities.

More concerned with in-fighting, big projects, DEI than teaching basics to students and keeping up with general maintenance. Afraid to punish kids for bad behavior and thus punishing good students by making them have to attend schools that are not safe.

Two high schools that should have combined a while ago.

Friendly teachers and administrators who seem to care about their profession and children. I would mention that there has been a couple of fights this year. That's very concerning that that isn't under control.

Elementary school is amazing, middle and high not so much.

It's better than some people from other districts like Germantown or Slinger might think - and a lot of the good news about our district is not publicized - but there's always room to improve.

It's terrifying thinking about sending my children to silverbrook, badger and the high schools due to HIGH volume bullying, and physical and verbal altercations that take place. It's a very high populated town with not enough resources to manage the children efficiently or appropriately.

Elementary schools are great (staff and processes) but the middle and high schools don't seem well ran or managed.

The school administration, teachers, and support staff care deeply about the students and creating a supporting learning environment. There are some problems, however, with decisions made by upper-level staff at ESC that may not fully understand the needs and daily challenges teachers and staff face at the schools themselves.

Some schools are great, some aren't.

A middle-of-the-road district that struggles with appeasing community members with extreme, politically motivated opinions. There is far too much coddling of people who show up at school board

meetings, write Op-Eds in the newspapers and rant on Facebook about how teachers are overpaid, there isn't enough discipline, books and flags need to be banned and teachers should be armed. It would be in the interest of the students and teachers if less resources were spent trying to appease these people. Board should be focusing primarily on how to support teachers, which is what will create an environment that will allow students to excel.

While it is quite a large district, it still has a hometown feel.

Indirectly. I may provide my anecdotal experience with strongly disagreeing with candidates for the board. Otherwise, so far my kids have all have very nurturing experiences in the district. We volunteer for as much as we can. As an adult who never went to West Bend, I can say my interactions have all been positive.

Good school district. Has some issues.

The West Bend School District offers a quality education to all. They strive for inclusiveness and have zero-tolerance for campus violence.

For Jackson Elementary school I would describe it is a great place to send children that require a little extra help learning to control emotion or behavior. The school staff is wonderful, the special education staff is wonderful and the therapists and school psychologist are wonderful. The building leaves something to be desired, but this is not unfamiliar to those of us who are involved with and have grown up with private faith based schools.

Well on its way to be mps in regards to poor grades and lack of safety

Depends what the topic is.

If it's in correlation with the teachers & such, then great all around.. however the bullying aspect is sickening.

Good schools/teachers/education, a little weird having the intermediary school and split building high school.

The district was once a beacon destination where parents and professionals sought the best schooling in the county. It has not been that shining star for many, many years.

It is a district with a lot of potential. It's in a great location and I believe West Bend and Jackson are overall pretty good communities. However, the need for updated facilities, especially in Jackson, is way past due. The district needs to address improvement on these facilities. Also, investing in more security and support for students in the West Bend middle and highschools is much needed. Too much bad press on fights, drugs and bullying.

The West Bend School District has wonderful things to offer. The staff in many buildings are like a family. The WBSD historically has struggled maintaining the facilities to provide adequate, up-to-date, and safe learning environments for children and staff. Working at Jackson Elementary School is a privilege. The staff and students make each day that much better.

It is a wonderful district with phenomenal administration and leader.

Average school district and a lower middle class area of the district.

A district where your child will get a sub par education, where they waste time and resources to "review books" to ban, does not have any resources for gifted kids, violence within schools and no affirmative action and not spending time, money and resources to GROW the district. Instead, enrollment numbers and dwindling and West Bend Parents are running to other districts.

Overpopulated and out of control violence and drugs in middle ad high schools.

Teachers who truly care about their students and work with parents

the elementary school is AMAZING but anything higher and it's not good. I have lived in Washington county all my life. the highschool and middle school were bad when I was in school it's only getting worse.

As far as special needs, it's been pretty good. I have heard it gets worse the older they get, which is why we are exploring other options.

It's really great until middle school then you should consider alternative districts.

A district that tries to do right for the children but is blocked by the community at all angles because they only care about themselves and nothing ever can get accomplished.

We have had a great experience at McIne and silverbrook where our kids currently go to school, but I have concerns about my kids going to badger and significant concerns about my kids attending high school at west bend.

I have had a good experience with it thus far. Decorah Elementary School has been a breath of fresh air for my family. They are extremely organized and communication has exceeded my expectations.

Unorganized

Friendly

The West Bend School district works hard to put students in a position to be successful no matter what their learning level or goals are.

As a district with wonderful teachers, growing diversity among students and staff, and one with a plethora of opportunities to expose children in our community to new activities and experiences.

Honestly I think it's better than I initially thought. We offer a ton of opportunities for students. We have good teachers and a district that seems to value good teachers. I think overall we have good students. However I feel we are behind in facility updates.

WBSD is a large district in the center of a suburban/rural community. It offers a wide array of classes, activities, and opportunities for students. We house some beautiful facilities, like the Silver Lining Arts Center and Silverbrook and Badger. Teachers are dedicated and work hard to care for all students.

Due to being in a near constant state of change, shifting curriculums, inconsistent leadership at the site levels, and a growing and concerning level of behavior issues that are not being supported administration, I would say that Kewaskum is a great school district. There are so many staff members from across the district that are leaving the district, which is such a shame. In addition, the human resources lacks its namesake, the "humane" side of their role.

Cares about student success

Great teachers

Many buildings

It is a large district with a growing population that had extraordinary needs, including special education, poverty and home life situations. It is near other districts that are much more homogenous in terms of race and socio-economic status, and many are choosing those neighboring districts or private school options. I feel that the upper middle kids are completely lost in this district and do not reach their full potential due to a lack of opportunities to grow and the constant drain of staff time and energy dealing with behaviors and lack of respect.

Major discipline issues with no follow through.

While coping with yearly cuts from DPI for school funding, WBSD has been able to keep all of it's courses. Most schools cut art, theater and sports as a way to deal with the DPI cuts, but WBSD has kept all it's programming.

There are very kind and caring teachers and staff who do their best to help students to be successful in school and life. There are many opportunities for students for extra curricular activities and excellent opportunities for students to learn a wide variety of subjects/topics every day.

The district has passionate educators with fiscally conservative constitutes. They provided a large array of services for all learning abilities, and provide a variety of electives and advanced placement classes in the high school. The school district struggles with keeping up with funding for their staff (created by past decisions and state funding) which has resulted in loss of some qualified staff for open positions.

The district has a hard time maintaining strong leadership, and the turnover in leadership positions is high. The concept of a joint school at one time was a fiscally strong decision, but has morphed into a nightmare with lackluster athletic programs.

The SES of the population has morphed over the years and there are many more students that are at risk or financially disadvantaged. This has put a stress on classes and teachers because the class sizes have not adjusted enough to accommodate those needs. As the enrollment declines, and the deficit continues from the state, the school district is going to find itself in greater need.

It is a large school district with that is slightly diverse. There are several elementary schools, a 5-6 building, a 7-8 building, and two high schools.

It is a large suburban school district that seems to be trending more "urban" in regards to student behavior and increasing lack of classroom resources.

Excellent teachers and staff who really care about the students

Not enough is done as far as discipline towards students, especially those who continually disrespect teachers and other adults

A school where the priorities that are atated do not match the actions of all administration and staff. A district that is constantly catering to the loudest voices and an many ways has lost sight of the priority...children feeling safe so they can learn.

strong drive for academic success, putting effort into show success in other areas

Good schools but huge behavior problems

We're a hands-on organization, focused on working with the public to strengthen the community that we share.

The staff really do care about their students

Caring team, but feels unorganized at times.

It's a fine school district in a good community.

To avoid it as the school board doesn't support its teachers. Open enroll and go to any other nearby district.

The WB School District offers a variety of programs to help all students be successful. The District employs dedicated, caring, resourcefully teachers and staff to meet the learning needs of their students. Students not receiving the basic practical education that is useful for the future

It is a district always in transition without consistent leadership. The curriculum is ever changing and the teachers don't receive support for the curriculum they are to teach.

West Bend always had had a solid education system. The schools are ranked pretty high in Wisconsin. I think the students overall are pretty happy attending West Bend schools.

Old school mentality. If you aren't 3-4 generations of WB, you don't matter.

WB does not want to recognize the growth of outer communities that pay a LOT of taxes. They seem to be intimidated by outside thoughts.

In need of facilities updates. Well run with good people, though.

WB schools are passionate about teaching their students and having them excel inside and outside of school. The district is one key component of the economic vitality of the city.

Caring teachers

The High Schools have created a flexible schedule which gives students the opportunity to learn how to make their own choices.

The expansion of the apprenticeship program is great.

It's a mess. There are long-term divisive politics that seem to delay progress. Constant turnover in leadership. Current leadership is working towards change which I'm optimistic that is positive, but they are unable to articulate their vision and hides behind "listening sessions" versus proposing and defending a plan that they see is best fit for the direction of the district.

Two classes of students... the great students who succeed regardless, good students, behave, try hard.

The second class of students are the students that don't want to be there and are misbehaving, disruptive, don't try.

If you're kid is a good kid, they will do fine. If you're kid is susceptible to bad behavior, they will do poorly.

It's a big district, has two high schools in the same building, also has an intermediate school in between elementary and middle. Its far for the kids on the bus because it encompasses such a large area

It seems the district has been declining in the last decade. Enrollment is down, there are fights at the high school, and like many districts there are some disturbing books in the libraries. I have also heard from people who are involved with the school district that it is difficult to get access to the current curriculum.

It is a great area to raise a family, we just need a little more love from the school district here in Jackson.

Student centered and well rounded

Woke

The district has a bad rap. That's only 0.005%. It's a great school district with a lot to offer with curriculum, as well as awesome, caring teachers!

Our grandkids go there. It seems to be a bit chaotic (fights), but I don't necessarily blame staff.

A larger school district that has many great people working within the school but has it's troubles common with today's society

Typical Wisconsin district. Not bad, not outstandingly good. Works well for most students and parents.

This school district struggles with many similar problems in all public schools: infrastructure needs, staff support (librarians, enough counselors, nurses, supplies, etc.).

Despite these hurdles, staff is professional and tries very hard to maintain standards of excellence.

Community criticism can be useful, however it can also be demoralizing and destructive. We need community members who support our public schools.

Fairly good. Good teachers and opportunities but a bit too liberal leaning.

For the most part I think it's pretty well run. There are small tweaks that could be made. But I've heard bad stories of other districts from friends who have children in those districts. I think West Bend

does a pretty good job.

Not good. Wish we didn't live here but too late to change as the kids are established with sports and friends. Never had a problem until high school. Teachers and principals don't care if your child is not

learning a thing. They continually allow them to repeat the test until they get a passing grade. I have had many meetings with counselor teachers and principals only to have no one care about my

concerns. The fighting and bullying is ridiculous. What students are allowed to get away with is asinine and the education is not good.

A district that fails to teach children basic education skills. Low test scores. Over paid teachers. Declining enrollment.

It is a large district with many families and many schools to try to manage.

Pretty good teachers. Some trouble in middle and high school (involving police).

The West Bend Schools used to be good schools.

Nowadays they are known for the fighting that is prevalent rather than the academic rigor they used to be proud of.

The district does not have a long range plan for it's facilities. It has allowed the facilities to become so run down that major renovations are or were needed. There are significant issues with

staff/admin/board relations, and these issues have forced staff to leave the district. There are many fantastic teachers, but their morale is low because the district seems to constantly be under attack

with factions evidenced on the board.

It's an excellent school district that I would send my children too.

district seems to be making a good faith effort to involve taxpayers in process to budget monies to maintain existing infrastructure. However, I've noted comments that district will receive lower state of WI funds due to declining enrollment where this will result in a budget shortfall. Best practice in business world is if fewer resources are needed to support declining enrollment a reduction in resources is used to adjust budget shortfall. IE, reduce staff. The reluctance by the district to propose these staff reductions is what I describe to those who I discuss the WBSD with.

The teachers in the district are great. The school and classroom environment at Badger at unacceptable and we moved our kids from the school district due to it.

It's collapsing and we can't seem to pass a referendum to do anything.

The district has several wonderful schools throughout the city. There are neighborhood elementary schools and then one school for each of the middle school grades and two high schools on one

campus. My children and myself have attended these schools have gotten a well rounded education. We were well prepared for high education and going into the work force.

Selective in where money is not spent to improve the learning environment outside of the West Bend (city) locations. Other areas in the district are severely neglected (Vil. of Jackson, et.al).

Just like every other liberal school district.

Not in touch with the students needs

•liberal

•inefficient with schooling needs pertaining to academia when it comes to basic reading, math and sciences

Ghetto. Very poor.

I believe the results for the West Bend School District on the DPI report card are mediocre at best and therefore would describe the district as not performing at a level that the community deserves.

Most kids will do alright, but it's getting tougher over time. Teachers are overwhelmed, student behavior is unacceptable, the environment is loud and distracting, and there is little and continually less

engagement from parents and guardians to support staff and do anything at home to keep their kids in line at school. We need lower class sizes, more teachers, more security, and problem behaviors

need to be dealt with in severe and immediate ways.

It's a good district.

The District and the Community have a small town feel.

District is unique with 2 high schools under one roof which allows more academic and athletic offerings.

Poor. Do not recommend overall. The early learning programs and teachers are wonderful. However, once you start factoring in the middle and high school, my glowing review is tarnished. Crime,

weapons, incidents on busses and on campus occur far too often for me to be comfortable with my children attending. My niece and nephew attend and have told me of incidents not reported that make

me sad ...so much hazing.

Caring school district.

It's a good school district on the whole. Caring teachers who welcome parental involvement at the elementary and middle school levels, less so at the high school level. The variety of class choices,

particularly for college prep students, is outstanding. An abundance of athletic and extracurricular activity choices are available as well. School spirit is lacking as a result of dispassionate

administration. Nice high school and middle school facilities with some outdated elementary facilities.

My children received a great education in the school district. They also have a generous scholarship program.

Above average education.

Nice

It's an OK public school District.

West Bend is a good district with great staff

We love Jackson Elementary. The staff is awesome. Our building is very run-down and in need of updates.

A poorly managed district with poor outcomes for students.

This district has a lot of very dedicated teachers. The children's best interest is always at the forefront of what we do.

2 High Schools and too much Real Estate and employing too much personnel. Also not charging surrounding communities a higher share of the tax burden.

Adequate on education. Lacking control, discipline and response to safety issues.

We have young adult children who graduated from WBSD. They excelled (or are currently excelling) in college and have told us their WBSD education prepared them well and are happy with their

education they received there. All of them attended K-12 at WBSD.

District has potential but needs a consistent vision with consistent follow through

A dumpster fire that fails our children more and more each day.

A failed system that no longer understands the value of educating our children that needs to be dismantled and a private school system be setup in its place.

Overall I say that I'm satisfied with the district but there are areas in which we are not. Enough so that we would consider moving when our child reaches the middle school age.

Also the matter of the past referendums is an issue.

I would tell them that West Bend is a good school district.

My kids attended school in West Bend for grade school, middle school, and high school. We feel they received a good education, and had access to a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Just fair in terms of quality. My daughter did well in the West Bend district. However, the district did not do as well with our son. They failed to correctly evaluate problems with our son.

We also toured Jackson Elementary a few years ago. It needs a lot of work and probably should be replaced. The floor in one room had dropped away from the floor boards. I would have to worry if my

grandson had to work in that room.

Good

Typical Bircher politics, or an attempt at it. Folks chomping at the bit to censor and impose religion on everyone. From history and prior budget involvement: had** the talent in the system to be nationally recognized despite underfunding.

The teachers, principal and staff genuinely care about their students and their academics.

West Bend is a school district with a diverse population of students. The teachers are dedicated to their students and have the students best interest at heart.

Seems to have a problems in the High School and Badger middle school

Two administrations running one building/one population of kids

Lack of community due to separation of East/West

We are known for providing quality education to the district students.

The school district has gone downhill while all the private schools are busting at the seams. The only thing that is happening at the public school is fighting, chaos, and agenda that I wouldn't want to

expose my children to. I talk to so many people who have children going to West Bend school district who wish if they could just afford to send their kids elsewhere. The lack of discipline for those kids

that are causing issues creates a terrible environment for all the kids who are good and just want to be there for an education. West Bend needs to take a good hard look at how they are handling

disciplinary issues and the coursework or they are going to continue to fail the children in the community and continue to shrink.

It is a district that has neglected the needs of the elementary school children as in the school they attend in Jackson is broken down and old.

It needs to be upgraded and rebuilt to accommodate the rising number of children in Jackson.

It is a large school district with older buildings. Great teachers and staff at JES and 4K.

The West Bend school district has a large high school and middle school with several fine elementary schools. It offers education for all levels of learning.

Generally okay but needs to listen to tax payers more

I would not recommend sending their children to west bend middle or high school (too many incidents of physical harm to students and nothing done about it). The elementary schools are great

The district has ignored the school facility in Jackson. The board was able to remodel the old high school and then demolish part of the school. They have had money to redo Silverbrook. Now they are redoing Silverbrook and Badger use. Still no practical movement towards righting the elementary school in Jackson.

Great teachers!

But building maintenance and a needing a new school in Jackson, (which has been necessary for all the years I lived here & my grandchildren attended) is an embarrassment!

No idea

The teachers are very dedicated to the students. The district struggles with maintaining the students they have-open enrollment hurts the district. Past administrations are the root cause for any decline in the district.

The west bend school district is a representation of conservative politics. If your child is not with their politics then it seems your child is singled out and made to want to "quit" school. There is blatant racism and discrimination. There is little to no ethnic or racial representation within any staff at any school. If you are a Caucasian person with a good family who has money or you play sports then you can get away with anything at this school district. If you are poor or belong to any type of race, I would say find a different district. Your child will be picked on by staff and administration. The policies are archaic and petty. They need to repair the school buildings and invest in the infrastructure of the schools. Examples the constant battle of Jackson elementary or no air conditioning at the high school on warm days because it's not in the budget. Jackson should have its own school district. Period. It would solve over crowding and busing issues.

It's administrators are out of touch with the reality of the people that live in the district.

They ban books. Stay far away.

Our school district is filled with community members who like to complain a lot, but when it comes time to fix our crumbling infrastructure they want nothing to do with it, just keep kicking the can down the road. "It's fine the way it is". "Why should West Bend foot the bill for a new school in Jackson?" (hint, because Jackson pays about 1/3 the cost to currently run the district) "The district has no vision." (hint - have you attended any listening sessions? Answer is almost always no).

I have attended the listening sessions, and for once, there is a vision that takes into account a 5-10-15 year future plan. For me, it is encouraging.

Very large wide spread district

Tons of schools, confusing how they change it lots of times, big population, older buildings

I have volunteered in the West Bend school district for over 20 years and have found the teachers to be incredibly patient and wonderfully helpful to all their students.

It's pretty standard. It was a great district when we moved here but over the years it's now closer to average. There are good non-core options starting in Badger. Biggest challenge is how behavior of kids is handled. My youngest had issues with other kids a few times and the teachers just told her the kid was in Special Ed and didn't know better. It was bad enough it would send her home crying several times and the principal said the same as other teachers. She didn't want me to bother talking to the school because she said it would be a waste of time.

Lack of leadership, vision, communication, declining educational quality, poor athletics. Pains me to have these feelings.

good

Mostly good, but the number of kids enrolled has significantly dropped.

A progressive forward thinking district, caring for student/staff concerns as much as funds will allow.

We have a ton of amazing opportunities for our students! We don't only appeal to the 4 year college bound.

Many of our teachers are awesome at creating connections.

Our high school needs upgrading. The water stains on the walls in the science rooms, the uncontrolled temps, the classrooms that haven't changed for 40 years-makeover needed!

Many options for high school courses both for college bound, apprenticeships and technical school. Passionate, caring staff.

Overall tries to partner with parents and community for best outcomes.

WBSD has the potential to be an outstanding District, but the conservative taxpayers in the District are not willing to part with THEIR money to upgrade facilities.

Generally favorable about the district. More impressed with the offerings in the Tech Ed area than I have been in the past.

I think the West Bend School District has great potential but there is not enough resource to help all children of all abilities

It used to be one of the best districts in the state, but sadly the schools have digressed as of late.

Good, determined by conversation with parents and students currently in the district

A district with a large array of cultures and income levels that tries to be inclusive to all and interested in finding ways to improve

Controversial. I see and hear arguments about not wanting to teach about evolution and an endless amount of complaining about odd miss balances in resources.

Chaotic.

I would explain that 15 years ago when my children went through the high school it was a very desirable district and was a positive experience for my kids--strong academics and extracurriculars. In the last decade there's been a lot of transition (staff and administration) resulting in inconsistent expectations and ever-changing curriculum. I have my reservations about the quality of leadership and the management of student behaviors. I'm hopeful for the restructuring of the facilities. Hopefully it tightens the management of the district.

A well rounded school with many opportunities for students of all ages and abilities

Provides voice and choice to families with plenty of extracurricular activities, clubs, and exploratory offerings. The district is willing to work with families to support their needs. Staff are dedicated and care about individual students.

It is a district that should be better than it's state scores show. It seems to be well managed, but has some PR "black eyes". EX) The student getting stabbed on the school bus last year, but the offender was still allowed to ride the bus.

Medium-sized district with a large proportion of aging buildings for various reasons. Programming is great, my children were very well qualified for life after high school (2 children with graduate degrees, 1 with an advanced technical degree).

Dedicated teachers, high school issues with violence & drugs, concerned with some curriculum.

Conservative in outlook, but sincerely wants what's best for the community.

This district has wonderful opportunities for the students. They really do help the child be successful beyond high school by providing so many opportunities. In the high school, students are able to earn credits for college through AP courses and the tech school.

There are many opportunities for extra curricular activities that also span into the community. Teachers are also long term which helps drive trust, dependability, and familiarity.

Lack of academic focus and focused on students of the well-connected

the district prepares students for their future - whatever it may be.

It's a very confusing school district that seems to lack the proper leadership. Overall, it is an average district.

That I am not current with any information on the district and they should explore further

Wasteful financials.

The district has a diverse student population, caring and professional teachers, and a variety of opportunities to excel in academics, arts, and sports. Some of the district's buildings need updating.

Very good teachers, ok administration, somewhat divisive district with vocal minority, great opportunities for students, and a changing community. Students were the focus and today a few distractions (\$\$, viewpoints that clash, overwhelmed staff by unrealistic expectations of parents, adm, and parts of the community)

Seems to be continually struggling year after year with facility needs, changes in leadership and school board. My children did receive a good education that got them into the college of their choice. So I am grateful for that.

It is a large district located in the County seat. The county is very conservative. The district is mostly white, higher percentage of those needing federal aid for school lunches (than other schools in county), great teachers, community wants A+ schools without paying taxes for A+ schools.

That the district thinks that the parents are idiots. The high school has a LIGHTED SIGN in front that states "West Bend".

1 99.99 percent of the population know where the school is.

2 that is a UNNEEDED COST & an on going electric bill that has NOTHING TO DO WITH A PERSON'S EDUCATION!!!

I would imagine it is a decent district. Not outstanding, not poor.

Education is very good.

We have been happy with our students education in addition to the staff and facility of West Bend Schools.

We've had an amazing experience thus far at Decorah Elementary! The teachers have been excellent! I am however very unhappy with the current proposed changes for many reasons. I don't feel we should be closing schools but rather adding 5th grade back to the elementary school and eliminating having 2 intermediate schools. I feel transitioning that many times from elementary to Silverbrook to Badger is needless. My kids aren't looking forward to it either. Silverbrook could be eliminated all together. 100 million dollars is a very large sum to ask your community to increase their taxes to accommodate. I wish the school district would put more money in the teachers salary budget to keep the excellent teachers we have so enrollment stays up and people want to move here. Lastly I'm very concerned what will happen to the Decorah Elementary School property if it does close. We live 2 houses up and absolutely adore our quiet neighborhood. Depending what the property is used for in the future that would all be ruined. I don't want apartments or condos that close or any increased traffic to our quiet neighborhood.

Need to teach the basics. Get rid of dei and sell. Teach real history.

On a downward slope

The staff are dedicated professionals who get little to no respect from the community. Great music and academic programs but an over emphasis on athletics

Large suburban and rural school district facing severe challenges due to declining student numbers.

The district currently feels very community oriented and the amount of elementary schools highlights and encourages neighborhood cohesion.

We are impressed by how caring and attentive the teachers and staff are and are happy with the education received.

Very poor test scores is the status quo.

Old

Over staffed

We love Fair Park. We trust the principal and teachers with our kids and feel they are receiving a great education there. We don't want to go to a different school and may homeschool instead if Fair Park is closed.

I really appreciate the dedication of those involved.

Teachers are burnt out!

Unable to understand what truly is needed.

The story keeps changing.

It is a good district - does seem behind academically compared to the education my sisters children receive in the Slinger school district.
A large school district that covers both West Bend and Jackson. They have an over abundance of district management personal and constantly look for "new" text book program's to occupy teachers studies instead of focusing on current materials and current student needs. They waste money on programs. Expensive for students to participate in sports and the arts so that all students don't have opportunities. Very frequent turnover in leadership positions. Too worried about the 'show' of their district
It is a district that needs new leadership, starting with a new superintendent. The district spends way too much money on district office employees including the superintendent, assistant superintendents and other high paid administrators.
I think they need more staff to help get the kids better education. I believe that some kids are being held back of their full potential because the limited staff helping out all kids that aren't quite getting the material.
It's disappointing to hear you would close decorah elementary when that is one of the nicest schools in the district. My child would be entering 3rd grade and would have to start all over at a new school. Because of this we are looking to move out of the district that won't throw us around like a ping pong ball.
Teachers and administrators are excellent. There is a lot of inconsistencies from year to year in curriculum and structure. There seems to be more interest on behalf of the community in tightening purse strings rather than in investing in our youth. Seems to be on a downward trajectory.
High quality staff and administrators who care about their students. Passionate teachers who give their all on a daily basis to ensure the success of their students.
Politically? Education? Socially? Geographically? Not sure what is meant by the question? The district is generally conservative with decent schools.
Good teachers; challenging political views by community members.
West Bend School District offers multiple levels of learning/ education, extracurriculars, and sports activities. I would consider it fair or adequate. I hear things about Badger Middle School and the high school which concern me.
It was top notch years ago but has slipped in some ways the last decade.
Teachers are great. Buildings are not.
Good teachers. Not very good school spirit and not a great "culture." Issues with fights in the schools. Buildings that were not properly maintained for 30 years, badly in need of improvement. Many students leave to open enroll elsewhere. Very poor participation in some sports teams.
Diverse class options. Great teachers.
I believe the district is considered a good school district. I do know of families who have determined to send their high school students to others such as Kewaskum or Living Word.
West Bend High School offers a really good variety of honors and AP classes
Focused on making WBSD great, though still has work to do
I presently do not have any children attending although my two children did attend and are both have college degrees, one with a Masters and both successful in their careers.
I do know that the High Schools are over 50 years old and most of the other schools are older. Numbers are down and some updates are needed. There is talk of closing two elementary schools and changing some grades around. Updates are needed. Updates will cost money. A referendum may be needed.
A typical district for 2024-safety being a MAJOR issue
the teachers and support staff here at the elementary school are incredible! i think the "same high school but different" thing, as someone who's only been here a few years, seems like tax fraud, but that's not my problem really.
Way too liberal. Let kids have to many opinions on how things run. Need more discipline and consequences for behavior. No more woke policies.
A district that has dedicated teachers, but that has recently struggled to pick and maintain curriculum paths. There are also a lot of behavioral issues at schools.
Like any other district it has problems. I dont know how other districts deal with them but I think West Bend could do better with the policy dealing with problem kids. I would rather West Bend be a leader in this area and not just in line with other districts.

They have a good selection of classes. I wish there were more time for electives but thats not the districts problem. I think the classes offered are great and the kids have to make some hard decisions. That's a good problem though.

The selection of extra curriculars are good. One issue we had in then past at Silverbrook is the after school activities are all on the same day so kids that are in sports can participate. However that severely limits those activities that kids not in sports and probably need to be part of. Instead of being part of 2 or 3 groups, we saw kids only able to participate in one.

I would like to see kids in the middle grade come home with actual home work. This would help teach them time management and work responsibility. Again, i dont knowif this is some trendnin education, but there is benefits to it.

The most interesting HS in the state...two HS under one roof. On a more serious side and great school system with great teachers that educated our children

As someone who has grown up in the MPS school system, west bend school district by far has way more opportunities for children.

A lot of discipline issues. No follow thru on poorly behaved students.

Be alert for your child's needs

The district offers lots of opportunities at the high school level however the district has not invested in the up keep of many of the elementary buildings.

n/a why bother unless asked

Good school with good teachers.

I think it's a great district with a diverse population of students. Overall it has great opportunities for the students to grow and learn. I do think the community roadblocks improvements to the school because they don't want to pay, yet have high expectations of the district to do more and more without funding.

good district but struggles in comparison with Slinger - which affects its reputation and operation. The districts negative reputation impacts negatively on the local economy

Your choices above should have included:

'neutral' this is different than 'no opinion'

Ground zero for political hotbed issues, low morale, performance down from years past, not nearly as affluent as community was

A district that once was top notch, number one in the area that now is considered at the bottom in the area with a bad reputation for lack of student discipline, terrible and declining test scores, good teachers leaving to other districts and a less than mediocre at best administrative team that few even choose to reside or send their children to West Bend schools.

Unlike the past, there seems to be a lack of community interest, support and has become very apathetic about what is going on there. This is supported by an administration team and school board that appears to believe all is very good in Camelot, totally seeming to disregard the daily fights, drugs in the bathroom at the high school and lack of respect by students for teachers.

The school district doesn't maintain facilities, allows students to act out without repercussions and has no leadership or direction.

Potential is there for thriving school district. Unfortunately, communication is very weak, unless it's for a referendum, especially among people without students in the district. Communication for Fall referendum should have started two years ago. Administration is not engaged.

It's confusing

Large, has neighborhood schools, modern middle school buildings, sometimes contention between school board /administration and vocal community minority, solid teaching staff.

It's OK.

Excellent

Large district that does it's best but has discipline issues and can over involve the police

The middle school and high schools are extremely large. Our giant high school is really two high schools in one building. It seems that one high school is typically average or above average in sports and the other is well below average.

On a micro level, great teachers able to meet the individual learning goals of students. On a macro level, fiscally conservative with a worrying amount of culture warriors trying to influence things to the detriment of children. I'd also say the district is at a crossroads on student safety and enrollment.

As a former teacher in the west bend school

District I am greatly concerned by the lack of discipline and the lowered expectations of students. I was so proud to have gotten a job teaching here in the 80's. Sadly, I have to say I am glad my kids are out of school. They did receive a great education here, but I just don't think it is the same now

Very friendly and welcoming district, wonderful teachers, principals & staff.

Good teachers and balanced curriculum.

Appendix 2

Question #19: Please use the space below to provide additional information to the District and school board as it considers next steps to address the district's long-range facility needs.

Please use the space below to provide any additional information to the District and school board as it considers next steps to address the district's
Replace Jackson, now!!! We have the land and the school condition is a disgrace to our kids and taxpayers. Furthermore this helps with the long range bussing I'm hesitant on Jackson being a K-8. I would for sure vote for a K-5. I'm worried about what behaviors of a 7th or 8th grade with a kindergartner or 1st grader. But Jackson no doubt needs a new school.

No one in the community should even be allowed to vote no to replacing Jackson elementary school. The school has already been place on the back burner for far too long. It is not safe and secure, not ADA accessible, has parts of the school that have leaking water, poor ventilation and probably mold. The health and safety of our vulnerable youth MUST come first to keep our community strong.

I think west bend needs to concentrate on having teachers teach our children and concentrate on the buildings after we get that accomplished
I appreciate all of the thought that went in to this. I really hope it all passes!

I don't know enough about Jackson Elementary to know if I support replacing it or not. If it is replaced, I think it's odd to have one school K-8 when the others are K-5. If it's K-8, would middle school level students at Jackson be missing out on opportunities that are provided at Badger?

Turning Jackson Elementary into a K-8 would be a great idea. I do not want to close Fair Park, Decorah, or the Rolf's Learning Center.

The survey never mentioned the savings by closing the proposed schools and the Rolfs Center. Thank you.

I am wondering why they would close decorah over McClane. You would think you would want elementary schools spread out more for family conveniences, and McClane and silverbrook are right next to each other. So many more kids are going to need a bus now. I am also worried about class sizes as they are WAY too the referendum to build a new school in jackson was already defeated before the decline in students,bring why it up again. bus the students to decorah and sell that would be closing is one that my child would attend. If these building are closed, how would the funds be put to use to improve the facilities that will have higher student classroom density? I prefer the new structure of elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, as opposed to having the children move to more schools.

The classrooms and facilities are a large part of the education, but we also need utilize these funds to help give the best possible education for the next
I do worry a bit about the isolation factor with Jackson students not acclimating with the rest of the West Bend students until high school. This might make Jackson students less likely to loyally stick with West Bend high school once it's time to make that transition. I can see some students open enrolling to other
My only concerns: What if many students school choice to Jackson since it's the only "new" building and then open enroll to a different district (ex. Slinger)?

I agree with the need to create secure and safe entry into the buildings, as well as make necessary repairs to current buildings.

I do not support closing neighborhood elementary schools, nor removing Silverbrook as an intermediate school. Silverbrook was designed and remodeled with a specific purpose and I believe it fulfills the vision that was presented when it was accepted. The building is not set up to be an elementary school in its present configuration. I'm not keen to spend more money on retrofitting a newer remodel to make it adaptable for K-4 students. I'm also concerned about the probable loss of foreign language and music education for 5th graders if the district reverted back to K-5 schools. Additionally, I feel having an intermediate school is fantastic in terms of being more developmentally appropriate for 5th/6th grade students.

I would appreciate seeing more details on the projected impacts to bussing and the associated transportation costs with the elimination of 2 elementary schools.

A considerable amount of time and money has been spent over the past 15 years trying to make plans and coax voters into building a new school in Jackson and that idea just hasn't resonated with the majority of district voters, as evidenced by the repeated rejection of those referendums. (2009, 2019) I think it would be good to see an option that incorporates the students of the Jackson Elementary attendance area into other elementary buildings in West Bend that are more mechanically sound and reallocate the funds from Jackson to making the needed improvements to the buildings that would absorb Jackson students. This is a conflict with my belief in and support of neighborhood schools, but it is also senseless to continue spending time and money on an option that isn't being received by the majority. The structural and mechanical issues of JES will continue to persist and I feel it is an unwise use of district funds to keep putting band-Jackson needs to stay k-5!

-I support replacing Jackson and am happy to pay for it.

-While I understand the transition reduction argument, I think the current Silverbrook approach is excellent. It gives 5th and 6th graders excellent options for learning independence and building self-esteem in the classroom (orchestra, foreign language) and extracurricularly -- things they wouldnt have the chance to do in a K-5 setting. And it shields them from 7th and 8th graders who are in a more challenging :) part of life. I learned this year from the bus experience that mixing Badger students with the younger students wasn't good. The bus drivers and school personnel are excellent and the Badger kids are fine. But the 5th and 6th graders aren't ready to be exposed to the 7-8th grader issues and conversations. This is another reason I like Silverbrook for grades 5-6. I filled out this survey a few minutes ago but I accidentally hit the "previous" button and it wasn't clear if my responses were fully submitted (it said 90 percent completed) so I filled it out again to be safe. I apologize for any confusion. (Please feel free to delete the previous one.) Thank you!

Please consider the plan put forth by the community leaders about 2 years ago. Please take a more aggressive stance on handling declining enrollment, such as closing Jackson, selling land and use the money for capital improvements before coming to the taxpayers.

Jackson does need a new school. Security does need to be updated at the schools. That's agreed. But are all improvements absolutely necessary? The taxpayers are already paying for Moraine park improvements, when that should have been handled with tuition increase or another way. Tax payers can only handle so much extra burden. Not to mention what does all the moving of the boundaries do to the kids? They have valuable friendships and connections with teachers. Those will be broken. Buildings can be fixed. It is worth the cost of a valuable bond or upset community? Not every classroom has to be in a state of the art environment. As long as the learning tools are there for a sound education.

The proposed site for the school in Jackson is too small for the size of the school. Where will there be adequate parking? Where is there room for athletic
I'd like to know more about why Jackson K-8 is being proposed vs K-5 or K-6. I want Jackson kids to integrate with WB kids in middle school, not at the high school level and compete on the same teams, have the same opportunities, languages, extracurricular opportunities.

I would want to know what teachers support. Our family tends to vote pro-educators because they tend to know how to best meet student needs:

Students who attend a K-8 school are more overwhelmed entering the HS than students who have experienced K-5 and then a MS first. They have more troubles adapting (though most definitely do adapt) to the large, less personable building. For this reason I think the Jackson kiddos should have the same opportunity as the other kids in the district. (Yes, the private school kids don't get the opportunity but that is a CHOICE made by their parents)

Having absolutely no schools on the East side of town seems like it would be opening a can of worms for bussing issues. If the only elementary schools in the district are Green Tree, Mclane and Silverbrook (which are all a stones throw from each other), seems illogical.

Be more specific about what the capital maintenance problems are.

Why have the maintenance needs not been addressed over the years? It seems like the district lets maintenance degrade until it becomes critical and more expensive.

I don't think two options should be given as that just shifts the problem to 2029-2030

have are that there is a forecasted enrollment decrease of 600 students and yet somehow students from multiple schools are going to be packed into the remaining elementary schools. In regard to the Jackson K-8, it is irregular to combine this large of an age range into one school, and my concern is the vast difference in maturity throughout this range. How will the consistent presence of 7-8 grade students impact the growth of K-4 students? I completely agree that the Jackson School itself needs to be replaced entirely, and am open to supporting a K-8, but I think providing better information on how you plan to support the actual children being moved throughout these facilities would be extremely beneficial in getting community support for these transitions.

Why does west bend have Jackson in their school district. If Jackson wants a new school they can pay for it.

early childhood?

For elementary parents who have children in a current school that would stay open. Will they have the option to keep them in that school even if different school districts are formed (eg parent drop off vs busing)?

Maintenance especially at the high school(it is used so very much. I just can't see closing all three of our elementary schools. I would vote in favor of a new school for Jackson but only through 5th grade. They would be too isolated from the other students when attending high school. They might as well become their own district. I do NOT mind tax increases but please find a better solution than closing THREE elementary schools.

Badger as is with only 7th-8th grade, and then see if/how the remaining pieces of this complicated puzzle would fit together. I just can't justify spending that much on Jackson, when the majority of the population lives in West Bend. Let's prioritize the capital maintenance. If the Jackson school is that bad, could those kids be bussed into West Bend, to the schools needing less maintenance? Not ideal, but none of this is ideal. I'm much more open to spending money on doing some maintenance on say, Fair Park or Decorah, than on building a whole new school in Jackson.

Also, this is 20 years of debt, just for phase 1? Wow. How many other phases will there be? How much for those phases? When will those phases come out?

As much as I want all the kids to receive an excellent education, this is unfortunately not the best year to be asking for money, what with inflation and grocery prices at 150+%, not to mention a presidential election...

All of these are just some initial thoughts based on the survey. I don't have the total picture. Thanks for all the work you all do! I used to be a teacher before becoming a stay-at-home/homeschooling mom, so I understand in a very small way the struggle that this really is. We want the best for our kids, but never seem The school district needs to be honest as to why enrollment is declining. It is not a highly ranked or sought after district.

I personally am enrolling my children in private school next year.

I am concerned that the farthest south elementary school would be McLane with seemingly a lot of growth on the south side of West Bend. I'm also concerned about all the busing, especially for small children. Neighborhood schools would be far more preferable in both the number of students enrolled and the distance they would live from the school. The sense of ownership would also be an important part of neighborhood schools, prompting more parent involvement and Jackson will continue to grow....

West Bend more old people and limited income population..

Would this increase the class sizes at green tree or other elementary schools?

I feel we still need Decorah.

Divest from Jackson. Jackson continues to grow. Let them develop their own school district. it's time.

Happy to have my money go to the school district. Please take steps towards sustainability - solar panels, heat pumps, school gardens, etc can be learning opportunities and long term savings.

If you're closing buildings what is to be done with them? How can tax payers recover any of the tax dollars previously spent on the proposed to be closed I just want my child coming into the school district to be safe when going to school, learn from teachers who are teaching appropriate materials for their age and have an overall great experience at school like I did myself going through the West Bend School District. The student and their learning/safety needs to come I just worry about moving the ESC to the High School. My 6th Grade son currently attends ESC and I do not want him around high school kids. What would this change mean for middle school aged kids who cannot function in a normal classroom environment? Will there still be separate/small classes for them? Will there be enough qualified staff (special education) to support these kids and their unique/individual needs?

I have lived in Jackson for 19 years and have not always in the past felt there was a need for a new school, but Jackson is booming, and I now think it is the right time to rearrange and update the school district to give our children more modern facilities. It is unfortunate that so many children are pulled out of the public system to go to private schools as their families are often more involved. Hopefully if the school district facilities are modernized, they would be more attractive Jackson is needed! One big question comes from moving Jackson to a K-5. If you are having Badger as a 6-8 will they be getting a new Gym. There isn't enough space for classes with the gym/facilities they have.

Declining enrollment and standards do not quantify the funds needed. The district is not what it used to be.

Does the West Bend School District even need a referendum? The WBSD could easily close the three schools, incorporate the declining enrollment into Silverbrook, McLane, etc., and use the money saved through no building maintenance there and the sale of those properties to fund a new Jackson school. No referendum needed to close the schools. Why is that not an option in this survey. Money saved from closure and sale of schools could be used to finance issues in Jackson. THAT should be the option on the table.

West Bend. Enrollment is declining because people are having less kids and/ or are choosing private options because of smaller class sizes and less transitions. Instead of closing so many elementary schools, can less be closed and instead transitioned to k-8?

The taxes we would pay with numbers that have been provided are reasonable and is not a concern for me. The affects on my children are my priority and I have not been provided enough info to know if the proposed is in our kids best interest.

What frustrates me is that it has been known that school transitions negatively affect our kids, yet the school district ADDED transitions when renovating Badger and Silverbrook. I understand you are trying to work with the poor decision and backtrack to less transitions, as it was for years, but right sizing the schools will cost a lot anyways, why don't we do it correctly this time. Silverbrook and Badger are nice, new facilities, add to them to make them k-8 and expand other good condition buildings to do the same.

I think this district has a lot to offer families. Making improvements to schools that will have a long-term benefit is very important and I will support the need for a Too much money without going to obvious places other than the taxpayer first. No explanation of why selling the buildings isn't being done NOW. The question about "most urgent facility needs " isn't related to information about having outdated buildings that need to be sold off. There's no information about I think Jackson needs to branch off and become their own district. Their town has expanded greatly over the years and West Bend shouldn't be responsible for their schools.

The answers that I provided yes to would only be if Jackson was taken out of that equation I think it's Ludacris that we have to support a different city with our tax The high school needs to be combined into one school. Students and staff would prefer this, and the headaches of two schools for athletics is ridiculous. If the school remains split, then the open enrollment for eighth graders needs to be gotten rid of or made much more strict to prevent a widening enrollment gap There are serious Title IX deficiencies at the softball and tennis facilities. I am the West softball coach and have raised these issues, which have been ignored by the district for more than 50 years since Title IX passed.

Jackson is noticeably improving and upgrading its infrastructure for its residents, indicating continued tax revenue and growth. Although the distance is not extreme, residents time is better spent in their locale and building a new school in their area should not only serve the City of Jackson, but the outlying areas around and between it and West Bend. I believe we should not overextend our middle school facility in an effort to conserve 20m of planned referendum

I think more schools = smaller class sizes with more personalized learning.

Have you seen Jackson's school... that needs to go!

have seen things that I am not proud of on both projects. I would strongly suggest to hire an outside rep to review contract negotiations between the GC and school to make sure the district is getting the best price/ service. Has the district received pricing from other CM's/ GC's to get the best price for the work? I would suggest not allowing the GC that is going to be the CM, bid on the self preform work unless you have someone else compiling the bids. I would suggest no negotiated self prep form rates and mandate a minimal of 3 hard bids for each scope of work. What is the plan for the closed locations and where does the income go once sold?

I have voted yes on every school referendum in the 20 years I have lived in West Bend, and I would vote yes on a referendum to improve the existing schools, but I am not going to vote yes on a referendum to close existing elementary schools. However, I understand the needs of the district. I just wish it would not have been a decision made only by who was the worst. So maybe it takes a bit more \$\$ to put into Decorah than another. Might have been more well received if more than just the number was looked at. With that being said I would still support the \$100m option as I understand something needs to be done. Also however I am extremely upset that a map can't be offered. You have all these facts, all this data and can't offer us a suggested possible district map for who would be moved to where? No school East in town, lot longer bus times. Currently my children don't even need to be bused.

I don't think adding 6-8th to Jackson is a good plan. We already have inequalities in the make-up of area schools. Jackson appears to have more "affluent" families which would make it even worse for a longer time period. Also, closing both Decorah and Fairpark means less neighborhood schools for children living on the east side of the district. Bus rides are already long so this will also lengthen the time on buses for them.

Silverbrook has been the least liked school by all three of our children. Being only 2 years it's very difficult to establish a group culture etc.

We have no more kids in the district so friends and mail is the way for us to know what is going on in the district. We are not on Facebook.

I understand schools are important to a community so I am open to changes that improve the schools.

I trust this board to consider what is best long-term for our local education system.

My child will be attending Jackson Elementary School. I would love to have them in a secure, up-to-date, safe building so learning would be the main focus.

When your environment isn't safe you can't learn.

The town and village of Jackson continues to grow. Jackson is a very tight-knit community and I think that having a kindergarten through 8th grade school would add much value to our community. I hate to think that my children will not be in the same school until high school. My heart broke when the last referendum was not passed. Thank you for making Jackson Elementary a priority, once again.

This doesn't effect me

Closing the learning center. So no learning center anymore at all? Risky.

What if enrollment increases instead of decreases over time somehow? How will you adapt to it?

What if all these do not pass by vote. The recent vote did not pass. Sucks. I think less families will want to live here if the schooling isn't addressed and funded somehow. Schooling is important. It is the reason why we will leave sometime soon.

5th grade should not be in the elementary building. If you need to close the elementary schools could you do 2 schools of 5-8th grade at Badger and Silverbrook?

I will not support referendum due to the 5th grade at elementary

No one "likes" change but it is understood changes must happen in order to make the district ensure better educational environments and safety. There are many concerns about future staff cuts; hopefully building changes does not cause more.

Tax rate is not an indicator of cost. As assessments increase, tax rate tends to decrease, but the costs remain or increase.

Our facilities work and are fine, this spending isn't necessary.

I prefer that we spend the money and do it right and keep it maintained. So much time and money was put into revamping Silverbrook and restructuring our district to be elementary, intermediate, middle, and high school. Was it best for students to have only 2 years at Silverbrook and 2 at Badger when most districts are K-8 or K-5 and 6-8? And now we're going to mess with Silverbrook and the transitions again? Will these remodeled buildings also be underfunded and fall apart because our community doesn't want to pay the money for the upkeep? Penny wise but pound foolish.

Similar to my previous response, I'd fully support many of the proposed steps to address the district's facility needs but strongly oppose converting Silverbrook into an elementary school and moving 5th grade back into the remaining elementary schools. Silverbrook is an excellent way to transition younger children into middle school and separates 6th graders from 8th graders. It introduces students to foreign languages and band at a younger age than surrounding districts. It was never an issue.

Combine East and West. Make it one school. Save money on sports, principals, athletic directors.

Keep all schools. If the city wants to keep building so much housing, in due time there will be more children. Then when we have no more room, are we going to build another school.

The district needs to stress that Jackson residents pay taxes towards the WB School District. Our referendums never pass because residents of West Bend (30,000+ population) seem to not care about a school in Jackson that does not affect their children. With a population of only 8,000 how are we to compete?

I think this community has prioritized low taxes over education for decades and NEEDS to invest more in our public schools. I believe the proposed referendums don't go far enough. Currently my children attend Fair Park, and while I understand the facility is outdated, it will be a tragedy to dismantle the highly supportive and caring environment Tristan Hayes and his staff have painstakingly created to serve some of our city's most underprivileged children at their most vulnerable. Your internal personnel issue needs addressing before anything. Work well with what you have now and then we'll discuss infrastructure. Work on your attitude.

I know what is being shared as referendums makes sense; however, when Silverbrook became an intermediate school the argument was that it was better aligned with students' developmental age. Now the argument is being made that Badger should go back to 6-8 grade so there is less school transitions. It seems like these arguments are convenient and what they are really about is what makes sense based on enrollment numbers and building needs and not really what I think it needs to be replaced but I think Jackson should take care of Jackson. It has grown big enough I think that their residence can pay for it themselves.

You need to ALSO pay attention to your teachers

I support building in Jackson and updating security in other schools but closing Decorah and Fair Park seems too far. What if enrollment upticks? Won't that Enrollment would not be declining if the real problem was addressed. Address that problem and you will receive a lot more support! I am not supporting welfare trouble makers who make the learning environment miserable.

The Jackson community is growing. This would position Jackson to keep up with the demand and make Jackson the primary school of choice.

I think if we are going to move forward with this, we should do it all and do it correctly. I know that not all residents will agree, but I can imagine it will be more cost effective to do it correctly the first time.

I think that a K-8 is essential to retaining and recruiting students to the Jackson area

put all this money into silverbrook conversion and the other two elementary schools that would remain but not to just update in phases the current elementary building we have. I do not like the idea of empty building or more apartments/condos trying to bring for families in to this declining enrollment. As they build more complexes where would these growing families send their children. Just keep shoving them into the few buildings we would have. As my daughters were starting to attend elementary school there already weren't schools with availability for open enrollment due to having to many kids. I don't want my kids to feel lost in a school and to feel like they are seen and heard. I feel this would be lost combining all the kids into the three schools. It just is not making sense where all these extra kids would be going. McLane is one of the oldest schools. Although I really like McLane they are at capacity and wondering how restructuring the school and adding more classrooms would look like.

I would support for closing hallways in elementary schools rather than closing them completely so that elementary students can continue to walk to their The school is sustainable and keeping some Jackson students at Decorah helps to maintain enough space for students.

My comments have little to do with the facility needs, but it should be made known that the attendance office is horrible to deal with. Even with medical excuses from the Dr they gave us such a hard time. It was terrible.

Now is the time!!!

Jackson should have their own school district. Lets just serve West Bend. It would solve a lot of problems! Otherwise close it all together and use the free (or almost free) land the county has given that Fair Park resides on and build a new school there that serves Jackson and the City. Close McLane!

It's sad to see some very beloved school closing but I think the thought that has been put into these potential plans have the very best interests of the district and greater community of taxpayers at heart, so I support them.

As a Jackson resident planning a future family, I prefer a K-8 Jackson building because it would reduce the amount of traveling time on the bus for middle school aged students. I do worry that there would be less opportunities for specials classes that are currently offered at both Badger and Silverbrook like band, choir, orchestra, French, Spanish, and German. Our current middle schools also offer a wide variety of intramurals, clubs, and co-curriculars. I have been wondering there will be equal opportunities at the two middle schools if Jackson is considerably smaller than Badger.

I have no additional information as of now to address the ditric long range facility needs

This would also decrease the need for a lot busing

district! That is why enrollment is down not because of the facilities but the classroom environment! Look at what grades kids are changing to private schools after attending public elementary schools in the district. I am 100% on board on replacing buildings and improving buildings for our school district and raising my taxes if needed because schools are a driving force in improving a city but it's more than just the facilities, it's also the environment and culture within that building that needs a facelift!! That is why people are leaving.

I don't want a middle school near my residence

My concerns are about the reassignments of the elementary schools, my hope would be that the families that are already at McLane/Greentree would be allowed to stay there and not move to Sliverbrook. The ideal plan would be to take the sections of the city that go to fair park and Decorah and put them at Sliverbrook. Not interrupting the students who are already established at McLane / green tree.

Are there any plans on looking at athletic facilities? The field house, weight rooms and locker rooms are extremely out of date. Our facilities are very near the bottom of out conference and schools in the area.

Stop trying to get west bend to pay for a school in Jackson. Close the school in Jackson and consolidate to a grade school in west bend.

If you were building new in west bend, I would vote yes.

I find it important for the village and town of Jackson to also support the changes financially as well.

The high school does not need to remain two schools nor does it need to have so many administrators. District office is heavily overloaded as well.

I do not believe closing elementary schools would be best for the education of our students, I would rather us spend the money to upgrade these facilities now rather than in 20 years we need to build a new school because enrollment has increased again.

Please provide more detailed information about this project. I think more effort should be put into all children's educations and test scores rather than focus on building upgrades. Kids will do just fine in outdated buildings. Focus on the children as a whole and their actual education and their futures.

I would anticipate some concern from the community in having K-8 in the same building

Jackson might now have the classes that Badger can offer for the 6-8th grades that is my thoughts also older kids picking on younger kids might be harder to handle with Jackson set up as a K-8 school

Jackson should NOT be combined as a k-8 school. 6-8th graders should be blended into the districts already existing 6-8th grade classes. Keeping kids in Jackson for what should be their middle school years is not allowing them the same opportunities the rest of the district has when it comes to making new

As far as I know, there isn't a close middle school to Jackson. As an open enrolled family, it would be fantastic to stay in Jackson and not have to go into West Jackson should put its big boy pants on supports itself.

I moved here 3 years ago and when I went to Jackson elementary I couldn't believe what a beautiful family oriented place it was but what a run down school it was. The deserve to have a new school not just for the community but for the children and the teachers that work so hard every day

This is not an easy agenda, but it is needed. Great job school board!

Jackson is way over due for upgrades, this is a high priority to me and my family.

coming in from the ceilings this should be addressed. Many kids are leaving the district once they get to the high school because of how dumpy it has become.

When attending events at other schools in our conference everyone one of them puts West Bend to shame. Maybe tour other high schools to see where we are lacking. What percentage of the Jackson kids end up staying in WB? It has been said they choose Slinger, Cedarburg or KML. So why invest in an elementary school there when the kids will not stay in the district.

I do not support closing multiple elementary schools in West Bend. That said, I would support a referendum to do facilities maintenance to these buildings as

I definitely agree that Jackson needs its own 5-8th school, but it's difficult for me to see eliminating Fair Park and Decorah, and how the boundaries would

Jackson needs to break off of the West Bend school district and become its own district. Jackson is growing at a fast rate.

Invest first in teachers

As a West Bend resident, I won't support building a new school for another community.

Be closing the elementary schools you are taking away the community schools that have small class sizes that are so important for the younger children that are struggling. I come from Milwaukee where the class size is 34+ students. Learning is nearly impossible. I don't want that to happen here.

I think outside of elementary school, the locations for our junior high and high schools should be centralized, not decentralized.

I would like the City of Jackson to help contribute to the changes.

I trust that careful consideration has been given to any option. Nothing is done without thought. These are the two best options and either is fine. Anything will be an adjustment but as long as the student needs are being met, that's the most important part!!!

There is so much growth in Jackson and I think a new school is needed. This will help with the accessibility it needs as well as a more close knit community and keeping our students here in Jackson. This also means bus transition is not needed and the kids won't have to be on the bus for an hour or longer.

We are really sad to hear that Fair Park is closing/will be closing. It has broken our hearts at our home as they have been so wonderful with our child and we

were hoping our younger child could attend the same school as well since we are in close proximity to it.

This whole thing sounds more political and revenue based than asked for my own perspective. However, you got what you likely wanted to out of this.

leave it the way it is.

Enrollment would go up if a serious look at administration was completed, and while the updated - more secure - facilities completed.

was long time resident of Jackson and was resentful that WB residents kept voting against the needs of students there

It is about time Jackson gets some updates. We have yet to see any improvements to Jackson.

I think it would be better to keep Jackson as a K-5 to allow all 6-8th grades in the district to keep the same opportunities.

Replacing Jackson needs to be a top priority.

I am not a huge fan of having a K-8 school for students. I prefer K-5 in an ideal situation.

I feel like the Early Childhood, Head Start program needs aren't being addressed as seriously as the needs for the other grade levels. Further dividing the program into more locations becomes more complicated on multiple levels. These programs are divided currently due to space issues, not because it's what is best. 4K is divided to serve families within different school boundaries and also considers the preferences of the parents (ie. an emphasis on the outdoors, etc...)

We strongly feel by keeping a k-8th grade school on Decorah grounds would benefit families that live in the city of West Bend. If Decorah is tore down, build on this location not in Jackson for k-8th grade. West Bend School District should stay in West Bend and bus those that live in Jackson.

There are too many logistical nightmares and disadvantages for staffing a K-8 school when the rest of the district is set up differently.

Go back to teaching the children. Stop all the wasteful spending.

Cut back on all the dollars spent on sports, fields etc. Those things will never make the child successful in life. Teach real life skills.

I still would like to see ONE High School.

Revisit concept proposed by citizen committee where Jackson-Decorah-Fair Park would be replaced by one facility at a location closer to West Bend southeast side that serves a more comprehensive geographical area. Not sure WBSD district residents at large should be having to resolve Jackson's lack of appropriate community planning - allowing growth without consideration of infrastructure needs.

We use private school for grades K-8 so have paid our own way with our children's education which was of course our choice. Would most likely vote no because we don't use those facilities and with the cost of living increases don't want anything else to go up.

safety of this building is a huge cause for concern that we want addressed. It has been too long and Jackson has been at the mercy of other communities that do not want to support it. Jackson is tired of it. Now that we also have a child at Silverbrook... we've seen firsthand the mental toll this takes. They have insanely long days due to bussing and driver shortages and traveling time and the constant changing of schools is horrible for their emotional/social needs. Our child has been significantly impacted by this... too much transition and too soon. He was a phenomenal student now struggling. I support k-8 in Jackson to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our children. It's time!

Being the lowest spending district has not been the positive people thought it would be. We have district buildings that would be better off closed than fixed. (Even if we had lots of additional students it would be better not to put kids in the buildings.) West Bend's children are worth more than \$5.20. We valued our communities kids so little that the building we designated for them fell apart.

My boys attended Jackson. I love JES....fantastic teaching staff, but the building is falling apart. I just wish residents in West Bend realize that Jackson students are West Bend school district children and I pay taxes too.

Since enrollment is decreasing & we can do without 3 elementary schools. Are these buildings being sold or rented out? Why can't that \$ be used to build a new Jackson school rather than asking us taxpayers for more \$.

If there is a new school in Jackson that's built at the old fire station what happens to the equipment and supplies that are currently stored indoors there? Has there been a discussion to add onto the maintenance shop to store these supplies and pieces of equipment that is out of the elements and stored in a secure Should not Jackson have more of a tax burden for a school that serves Jackson residents? Or are you going to ship west bend kids to Jackson? I believe Jackson should carry a higher burden for their school.

If the K-8 option for Jackson Elementary fails, our current 6 year old would not be attending Badger Middle School. She would be open enrolled to another district or would be enrolled in private school. We do not feel her needs would be met at Badger Middle school without the success of the referendum and the It may be helpful to include 4k within the Jackson k-8th building.

I have concerns about how this would impact fine arts offerings which currently begin in 5th grade.

The City of West Bend is going to be facing several tax base challenges moving forward, and I just feel that there are some right now that have a greater need than the school district. I do appreciate the idea of the school district right sizing, closing schools, consolidating, etc. BUT I feel like the time for tax increases in Jackson definitely needs a new school but it should house the same "population" ad the other buildings in the district. Make a better plan people!!!! I fully support something needs to be done, but the current plan isn't it! I would definitely support giving as much money as needed to address the needs of the district. Closing elementary schools is NEVER a good idea, and I will not support any referendum that includes that option. Having neighborhood schools is a huge boon to students, families, and even property values.

Figure it out.

Jackson Elementary absolutely needs to be replaced and it would be a great service to offer K-8 to the residents as I previously resided there with my elementary student.

I can't however support the closing of the elementary schools as I feel it is safer not to "store all our eggs in one basket:" From a violence standpoint but also from an infectious disease standpoint.

I understand the competition the schools face with surrounding areas but let us not hurt our community during already inflated times. These goals are excellent- just not all at once during this economic time.

I would also like to note that our community is working hard to improve itself, and I am not so convinced enrollment will continue to decline as much as projected. Especially if our district continues to do as good of a job as it has historically and our community leaders continue to make this a safe and beautiful that will lead to lower enrollment to the WDHS once those kids go through that school.

Also, I understand Silverbrook and Badger are the newest schools, and you want to utilize them to their fullness, but my kids thrived with going to the newer more mature setting type school for 5th grade. They were so ready to leave the elementary school settings midway through 4th. Moving 5th back down to the elementary schools saddens me, as I saw a big difference between my kids and my friend's kids in other districts during that 5th grade year. I'd much rather see an alternative plan where we can keep 5th as it is now. I do agree, closing some elementary schools is needed as we have many. Again, I think providing more possibilities for solutions would be more accepting within the community, even if it means more money. Separating Jackson residents out through 8th grade, is the biggest no go for me personally, with this current plan.

We need to stop taking the "kicking this can down the road" option. It will continue to increase total costs the longer we don't address this need.

What does this do to busing? What does this do to school start times?

Fifth grade students currently have more opportunities in the current model at Silverbrook (foreign language and music). They also have the house system which eases students into the move to a middle school. Consider the current model of a house system for fifth graders to get them ready to move to Badger. for them to transition to the real world, college and the workforce. The benefits of Silverbrook, Badger and the H.S, in student growth is outstanding with maturity. The students do not have the influence of the older students.

Jackson is a large enough of a community that they can fund their own school and not have the West Bend Community pay for their students with our tax dollars.

Closing the elementary schools and consolidating schools/students should be enough of a savings to make the changes proposed. Not only will the district save I want to express my concern for the students and staff at Jackson IF a new school is not built. The current school is in need of massive repairs. It is not a healthy place to work or learn. Something needs to be done!!! enrollment, i agree with the revaluation of current WB schools and feel there does need to be some realignment.

With the growing housing development and population in Jackson, I would like to see Jackson become a K-8 school within the West Bend School District. With the current population, Jackson has given it's fair share to the West Bend School District over the years and if it is to remain a part of West Bend, it deserves to have a portion of the taxpayers funds put towards a new school that offers updated technology and facilities, especially when our neighboring municipalities all have their very own K-12 schools. I also feel that having a dedicated school for elementary/middle school in Jackson would be appealing for new families and hopefully continue to keep the enrollment within West Bend School District.

I think the Board should consider the ramifications of closing Fair Park and Decorah schools. Would this mean having class sizes of 15 or 16 at those schools? If closing these schools would result in classes of 25, 30 or more in the remaining elementary schools the decision would be much more perplexing. What is wrong with small class sizes? The Board should in no way adopt the philosophy that if you are truly a good teacher class size doesn't matter. To whom? What I feel that Jackson Elementary is an aging facility that will end up costing much more in the long term to maintain then building a new school. I would very much like to see a new K-8 in Jackson. Thank you.

I agree that Jackson Elementary school needs to be replaced. I like the idea of it being a K-8 school to reduce so many transitions. I wish this would have been able to be accomplished while my son was still younger but by the time this is all done he will be in high school.

Regardless of how the voting pans out....Jackson needs to be replaced!

Closure of school facilities in neighborhoods such as Decorah elementary is concerning. What will happen to the vacated building and neighborhood property values in the areas of proposed building closures?

I am sure there is a better way to go about fixing the issues in Jackson.

I'm uncertain about the Jackson building. It is old and needs addressing but I'm not sure about options

I guess I don't quite understand how fixing things costs less than new or rebuilding costs.

retrofit the high school to upgrade bathrooms to stop the water waste (toilets and urinals), pay the people who keep that building running a more fair wage (\$25/hr: you are lucky to have that fine group of hard workers)

Has any thought been given to splitting the district up? With both West Bend and Jackson having their own district?

I believe parents would like a K-8 Jackson school, but the students would not. They would miss out on the badger middle school experience; every 4th-8th grade student I've talked to about this has said they'd rather go to K-5 then 6-8 instead of K-8 as their other friends will have a different experience. If it was K-8 at Jackson the middle school students would have to constantly shuttle just to be involved. They said they would feel like they'd still be in elementary school and feel they would be made fun of. If there were say three K-8 schools in WBSD then that would be a different story.

I support closing ONE of the elementary schools, however, closing both puts the families in Trenton and Newburg further away from school making attending school functions harder, longer bus rides for the students and generally gives the impression that the school board could care less about the students in this area.

I am not opposed to making Badger School 6-8, however, you are asking families who are in k-4 to make decisions on schools, programs, and cultural (of the school) they know nothing about.

If both of the schools need to go, why can't Silverbrook support the current families that go to Fair Park or Decorah? Why do we have to move all of the students in the district around? It would be a better transition for all of those students if they were just funneled there.

Other school districts in the area have their own schools with smaller populations than Jackson and are fine. If Jackson school needs rebuilt, it should be an independent school from West Bend and the school could then house K-12.

is so good for them and having it be with kids they don't always see in their core classes is good for them and helps them build relationships. They need a bigger pool of kids to draw from. From a mental health standpoint, grouping these kids for 8 years together takes a toll on those who aren't part of the clicks that establish early. So many kids that stay in a school through 8th grade have issues with not feeling a part of their peers. Giving them a bigger pool of kids helps them be able to find ways to belong. The clubs, etc after school are ways to make friends too. But if the clubs are the same kids as your classes where you already don't feel like you belong then they just feel more isolated. My kids were pulled from a Catholic school because it was too small and it was the best thing I did. I realize all of the issues the district faces, but the thing I love about west bend is having an intermediate school and then middle school. It gives kids increasing responsibility and gives them age appropriate progression. Silverbrook staff and culture is one of the best in the district and was the reason I changed my kids over. I realize Badger will be overcrowded and honestly you should figure out a different plan that doesn't sacrifice what is actually good about the district. I will vote yes for any amount of money that creates a good learning space for kids. Making Jackson K-8 will not be what's good for them for their I strongly agree with the plan to re-size the district schools and build a new Jackson school. These changes would impact families whose children travel from Jackson to West Bend. Jackson is an amazing community and a new school would be a great addition to the community.

Reduce costs elsewhere to pay for necessary maintenance. Right size the schools and quit giving in to teachers demands. Stop with the DEI social justice nonsense and just teach the kids what they need to succeed. I've been in enough of these schools to know the funds are not being spent wisely.

Only question I have is why does Jackson not have its own schools? Why throw everyone into 2 big high schools in a different town? What is the population of Jackson? I can tell you the population in Jackson is 5-6 times more than a lot of towns that have their own schools. I do not plan on sending my children to West Bend. There already aren't enough bus drivers. What happens when you close 2 elementary schools? All those kids that usually walked to school would now need to be bussed. And with only 2 elementary schools instead of 4, you can't count on a staggered start times to make the bussing "work". Even now, bus routes run Next steps also need to include dealing with fair salaries for our teachers. We need to increase the salaries, especially for those teachers who have stuck through the many ups and downs this district has taken them on. MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

I worry that Jackson might not be getting the same opportunities as the students at Silverbrook/Badger. I am in the middle of yes and no. That's why I think K-5 The plans do not address the needs of the athletic facilities and locker rooms in the school. This school is behind the times in technology as well.

Find ways to reduce spending. Get multiple quotes for projects. Don't pay for 100% of any quoted projects. Learn how to bargain like buying a car, look closely over the contracts. A lot of money can be saved. I know it's going to go through just PLEASE try to bargain. When all quotes are in hand contact the contractor of choice and say "I will accept this contract if you can throw in a 10% discount and they normally will bargain with you and settle on basically any return offer.

The tax levy per 100,000 is too high as many homes have increased substantially in the past two years. Home value should not determine tax increase the district taxes are way out of line. I could support a dollar amount per household of x dollars but not the current tax levy amount the average taxpayer cannot afford a \$300 to \$600 increase with inflation at all time high. I believe many taxpayers will consider moving out of the district!

facilities we have is ridiculous. It puts a strain on coaches, parents and most importantly our athletes who deserve so much more. The East boys locker room is an abomination...I dare you to tour it and be proud of this district. It screams not caring about the kids that put their hearts into their sport. We host tournaments and playoffs for WIAA events and put teams in that?! Sure, borrow money, I get it...but cut the fat, stop buying new academic programs for math/reading etc. just because it is budgeted, cut administrative do nothing positions and put the money where it matters, our kids. We lose kids to Slinger and parochial schools because people see these things and then we lose revenue and parents/students who care...and they pour their passion into other districts.

Combine East and West high schools!

needed at the high school. Replace Jackson Elementary as K - 4 and figure out the rest of the elementary needs within the other buildings or another new elementary in West Bend as well. Other communities have had referendums that passed with the notion that student enrollment was going to decline or not accelerate at certain rates only to find out the projections were wrong and then they didn't have enough room. Take Grafton for example. I am for a referendum, but not this plan as it stands.

or that 24 students in K-2 is something that we should aim for. Especially at the lower grades, if we had larger buildings with classes that large, as you are proposing, more families would be opting out of the district. (You should survey your teaching staff and families of current school age kids to ask specifically how large they think a class can be before education suffers.) Student to teacher ratio is often a selling point in education, when there is a choice between schools.

When you take away these unrealistic—and I would say, undesirable—class sizes, the whole plan falls apart, and we are left with no capacity to absorb more students if enrollment projections, based mostly on live births within the district borders, do not fall as much as projected.

There are other factors you might want to consider. For example, how are local private schools doing financially, especially with their facilities upkeep? There is one that puts out buckets to catch the water whenever it rains. Do they all think they need redundant layers of security, based on fear of a shooter entering the building? Would that even be enough to deter a deranged person? Does all the furniture need to match, as EUA suggests? Is the lack of break-out spaces really as important as a reasonable class size? Are the classrooms really undersized if you put fewer students in them? Does the lack of natural light in some rooms really affect high school students who change classrooms several times a day? Do pick-up and drop-off problems improve if more students are concentrated in a given school?

A good point was made in one meeting when the average annual cost of projected facilities upkeep over the next 15 years was placed at \$15 million annually, and it was pointed out we budget only \$2 million annually for that. Even if we had back the \$4 million we now lose to private school vouchers each year, we would still need to ask for \$9 million more, just to maintain the facilities we have. It is important to maintain what you have, and in West Bend the tax paying public, whether they realize it or not, is not doing that.

Yet the best answer to the problem is not to close buildings that we have made significant investments in, and bus those students across town so that they will be crammed into a slightly larger room, on a site that was never designed for that load. Silverbrook and McLane are within walking distance from each other, and there would be no elementary schools at all east of Main Street. Closing the neighborhood school near me would definitely affect the appeal of my home to its next owner.

For me, West Bend is less appealing when some neighborhoods are favored over others, and closing schools is a blatant way to show favoritism. I have long said that neighborhood schools should be as equal as possible to offer the same opportunities to kids. Especially with Decorah and Fair Park, we have not Plan ahead, it's good to be fiscally responsible but not to the point that the facilities have degraded to this point. Spend a little more along the way instead of asking for such a large amount all at one time.

As a parent of Jackson kids, I would absolutely support this to eliminate multiple school transitions during their formative years. This is especially challenging as 2 out of 3 kids have special needs.

ready. I'm more in favor of keeping Badger and Silverbrook as middle schools. Silverbrook has a perfect design for a middle school. It might be best from a student behavior standpoint to break that age group up.

The district also needs to be transparent with how this will change the curriculum. Most likely, it seems that world language and music choices will not be happening for the 5th graders.

Bottom line - my opinion - yes - close the elementary schools that need closing. Remodel the remaining elementary schools. Rebuild Jackson as a K-5 or a K-1. We need a new Jackson and we need it yesterday.

2. Closing 2 neighborhood schools in West Bend in order to build a new Jackson is a losing proposal.

3. We also need to add operational costs to the referendum as having new buildings doesn't really matter if we can't keep quality teachers (or qualified teachers) working here - without a pool of qualified new teachers to talk their place.

home of \$300,000 value and their taxes are going to go up at least \$400 a year? Groceries are outrageous right now trying to buy gas it's all of these have more than doubled or tripled in cost and you want to add an additional \$400 to a middle class family with children. You need to rethink what's going on and how things can be done and a more cost-effective basis. I support closing buildings Milwaukee did not close buildings and they have a 26 million minimum cost every year for those buildings to maintain them. Close them and sell them and consolidate that shouldn't cost so much and that should actually add to your money base to be able to do some things you want to do

My biggest concern of the new plan is the increased need for busing due to the closure of neighborhood schools. Bus driver shortages have caused a huge problem for our family this year and I fear that they would continue to be a barrier to success of this plan. Also, in my opinion, we need a new high school, not just an updated one. The low ceilings and lack of natural light make it very unappealing.

as it is and you want to put 6th graders there. Not okay. Money is tight for everyone and people are not able to afford things as it is with prices going up. Now you want to put this onto us the tax payers. Maybe start with fixing the problems in the school and getting a super I that is going to do something about it. One of the many reasons we left when my child was being bullied and nothing done and another child that had special needs and the special Ed teacher was horrible and didn't do a thing to help my child succeed.

There is a difference between "right sizing" the district in the best interests for taxpayers vs the best interests of students. As a district we can do both. I absolutely do not believe that closing multiple neighborhood elementary schools is what is best for students at that level. Would also mean more elementary kids riding the bus. That would be a huge mistake making a few dollars and cents a higher priority than what makes sense for students. Especially at the elementary level. When I attended school here, the district motto was "Where Children Come First." I do not see that as a priority in this referendum to "right size" the district. I live in Jackson and believe the very first priority should be replacing Jackson school. Jackson is a growing community and should have a modern facility. I don't disagree the Elementary school needs to be fixed but, why should I pay for a different town to get a brand new school while you close the one my child goes to that we moved here for them to go to.

The last referendum was sold to the public that as an intermediate school, there would be more opportunities for fifth grade, with foreign languages, art, band, orchestra and vocal music, which were not offered when 5th grade was in the elementary schools. Long term residents may recall when 5th grade went from being at the middle schools when there wasn't room at the elementary schools, then moving fifth grade back to the elementary schools (except for Fair Park, which bused the fifth graders to Silverbrook daily because there was no room). Then Silverbrook was remodeled so it could be an intermediate school. It seems like the district can't figure out what to do with fifth grade. Maybe keep all 5 elementary schools, but make them K-8 like Jackson?

It doesn't make sense why the three elementary schools are all on the west side of town, just blocks from each other. I would close McLane over Decorah, as Decorah has space to build out as well as being more centrally located. I think it is unfortunate and unfair that Decorah and Fair Park might be closed because the district chose not to add gyms or extra rooms over the past 30 years. There have been additions at Green Tree, McLane and a total redo of Silverbrook.

Each of the elementary schools are neighborhood schools, and closing Decorah and Fair Park will hurt home values in those areas. Please consider that when making your final decision.

Jackson should be the main focus for the referendum, as it long overdue for replacement.

middle school is the hardest age range for kids. Ages of heavy hormones coming in, the amount of behavioral issues are high at this age, we do not want to over capacitate Badger. This will not be beneficial for the staff or the kids and I fear the violence rates, bullying, etc will only get worse.

It is difficult to understand why the oldest elementary building McLane would remain open.. Decorah and Fair Park buildings are not as old... Would redistricting be done with the impending school closures?

Jackson has needed a new building for years...I hope a new school would be built in Jackson. However, sadly you will need to educate your voters.. most do not realize that Jackson Elementary is a part of the West Bend School District! How will you go about that? Also making sure you have the Village and Town of Jackson's support for this referendum?

Maintaining facilities is critical. I would hate to see FP & Decorah closed but I believe you have done your homework.

I can't vote since I don't live in the district, but I would be supportive as a staff member.

younger rooms crawling on them in circle time, and the only problem is they do plenty of adding for money that all fields trips paid for, they have money for snow cone rocks at end of the year that 1400 could be spent on stuff like this instead of useless things like a white cone truck or a Fiesta party with food trucks for teachers. We get told to give stuff for teachers appreciation as should but this again is money that is not being used efficiently. My child doesn't need to have parties etc every week. So I think on the lower levels their needs to be some checking on actual funds usage and what a lot of us parents are thinking is misappropriation of funds that could be better spent.

I am in support of helping the elementary schools and spending our tax dollars there.

at those ages are so vastly different that I do not believe it is safe for young kids. Especially when they don't have adequate time to be outside or eat or play. Our children are only learning what prison is like at school these days. These are all kids. Even 9-12 grades need time to be a kid and have fun. Schools are too focused on scoring well that they don't care about the children's mental health anymore. People wonder why so many kids turn to drugs. As a past student and as a current parent, the mental health of these kids should be the top priority.

My children and I live in West Bend

Most students from Jackson go to Kettle Moraine - why would we invest in a new school when they wont finish in our district ? Silverbrook and badger are designed nicely for middle schoolers, why change this up? If Jackson gets a new school, then make Jackson its own school district.

Why replace Jackson and then close Decorah? Just move Jackson students to Decorah.

It's unfortunate the businesses, civic organizations, and foundations can't step up like they did for the \$900,000 in scholarships.

conversations I have both in my school and in the community and there are a lot of uninformed individuals to the current needs and also to the options going forward and how they have been thoughtfully designed to meet those needs in a financially responsible way. Even among our current staff. Lots of people have not sought out the information on their own- we really will need to make efforts to bring the information to all the people and not expect that they will seek it out.

It's time to invest in our students' education. A successful school district is something a community can be proud of, brings young families into the area, and in turn increases property values. To me, this is an opportunity to invest in the future of West Bend to truly make it a destination district. It isn't right now.

Closing elementary schools is an awful idea. McLane is the oldest school in the district and should not be one of the two main schools to be left open. District employees have complained about how old and decrepit that school is. Even with declining attendance rates, that translates to smaller classroom sizes, which I like the direction the board is going in general with these ideas. I think right-sizing the district is important when the population is growing or shrinking.

The #1 priority, in this day & age of violence, should be security at all WB district schools!

This opportunity doesn't happen often so please make calculated decisions in ensuring our children have the facilities, technologies, and QUALIFIED EDUCATORS in whatever decision is determined. Thank you.

Jackson needs their own school district similar to Kewaskum. They are both villages, and if Kewaskum can handle maintaining their own elementary, middle and high schools there is no reason why Jackson still needs to be leaching off of West Bend. Cut the cord already.

N/A

I do not like the idea of one building for K-8th grade. I think it causes a lot of problems to have that wide of an age range in one building.

As a Jackson resident with two kids in the school district, I would highly recommend replacing Jackson Elementary with a new school (4-8). This will give future students in Jackson a more updated school and learning experience.

schools in West Bend, improving the West Bend schools that are proposed to be closed, and turning Silverbrook and Badger back to 6-8 grades. This would take those younger kids out of the Silverbrook school and put them back into the elementary schools, which could reduce the current bullying issues occurring there with kids closer to the same maturity levels being together. It would fill existing schools in West Bend, thus reducing the number of buildings to be closed that would go to waste and still cost taxpayers money to maintain. It would also help consolidate busing a little more as well with more kids going to the same schools versus lower numbers being distributed to more schools. As a daycare owner, we had 18 kids born in one year during COVID who have not yet entered kindergarten. That's an entire classroom of kids just from 1 daycare that will be incoming. I don't think that baby boom is being taken into account. Another option could be to remodel Jackson, make all elementary schools k-5 again, close 1 West Bend school and move those kids to other elementary schools, and again returning Silverbrook and Badger back into 6-8 grades. Again, this reduces the number of deteriorating buildings sitting unused that taxpayers have to pay to have maintained and regroups kids back together that are closer to the same maturity levels and hopefully reducing the bullying.

I would want to make sure that Jackson middle school students would have the same opportunities as the student who attend Badger.

I do not like the idea of closing neighborhood schools. I don't believe many will vote for this new plan as a result. We are not considering the wants/ needs of the families who attend school. Data shows that families are more engaged when they can attend their neighboring schools.

Why isn't the district considering an operating referendum to honor its current commitments? Class sizes are up and discipline issues are as well. An operating referendum would help pay for OPEB, smaller class sizes.

You cry for money yet when I look at where it goes it's crazy. You get no more. Done

we choose the location of our home due to walking distance of the elementary school dechora, to have it close it would be just unacceptable. there were no information on why one elementary was closing over another more information on each school and cost of maintaining, enrollment, staffing, ect... would me useful

The only reason I do not like Jackson as K-8 is because I feel Jackson kids will then not have that interaction with all other schools before high school. I think it would be difficult for these Jackson kids to integrate with the other schools who all combined already going to badger.

Would we be able to keep 6th grade in elementary schools that we supposedly have a surplus of space in until 2029, then add 6th to badger when the school has the capacity? Then we can build the cheaper k-5(6) Jackson school. Feels unwise to build space in a new facility that won't be needed after 2029 (badger I've been in Jackson School many times, and while some people say, Teachers should be able to teach in any environment", I believe Jackson needs replacing. Bussing will be an issue to some parents as will be the distance from West Bend proper, but I feel now is the time. As far as closing other schools- downsizing- to meet student population projections- albeit difficult, I think it's something that must be honestly put on the table.

I am in agreement on closing down schools and right sizing the district which is critical to consider as enrollment continues to decline. It's important to know the costs of leaving things as is, which I haven't seen noted. Just because the mill rate has been declining, doesn't mean we need to return the spending level back to where it was at its highest. I'd be will to support a referend if I could get a better idea of see what the costs are going to be in leaving things as is as opposed I know our schools need to be renovated and updated. But I feel FairPark school is in a great location and has wonderful staff. I think it would be a tremendous Maybe the district could look at other ways to increase funds besides raising taxes. Have a gala at a school over the summer and auction of some stuff.

I think Jackson is big enough to create their own school District

Improvements to the high school besides security? Cost savings by becoming one high school?

more informational about the residential and commercial growth of the greater Jackson area will help WB residents understand the needs of Jackson families

Don't close down good schools like Decorah.

I think a plan to keep kids at Jackson through 8th grade really puts these kids at a disadvantage compared to the other kids in the district who get to go to middle school and have that experience. I also feel that it is a shame to get rid of the intermediate school. Both of my kids greatly benefited from going to Silverbrook for 5th and 6th grade. The opportunities with languages and music, and easing into moving between classrooms in a closer environment were really great for them. It teaches them some responsibility that they would not get at the elementary school level. I'm disappointed for the kids that will not get this opportunity. Things within a budget. I also asked that the district look at the high school situation. Look at the enrollment, look at the Athletics and see what is really needed. The reason for the two schools at one time decades ago was because of opportunities for our kids. However, things have changed drastically since the two schools were needed. Enrollment has dropped and also there are more opportunities than ever for students and so they actually don't have enough students to field all of the teams. In addition, our students don't necessarily play two to three sports anymore. A lot of times they play one or two sports. This affects how many students you have going out for various sports. Additionally, I think that the athletic facilities and cafeteria facilities need to be updated at the high school drastically. For a lack of better words, they are dark and dingy. However, I would like to see the situation remedied before more money is spent on a school. Perhaps the colors will change if it was combined to one. If the community wants to keep it as two schools, then I would prefer it being actually two schools where East are really homes where people live on the east side of town and West are for kids who live on the west side of town. The way it is done with birth dates is just odd. And as I've said earlier in this survey, there are neighbors who are against each other east versus West. At homecoming week, I don't like how the community is divided against each other. That should be a week that we are all in support of all of our kids who attend West Bend high school. Instead it is once again East versus West. For our own kids, there are kids that they play sports with for years. Then they are eventually going to high school and we'll have I feel elementary age students need to be separated from older students. Too many bad behaviors to impact their young minds. I would want 5th graders to still be able to take a foreign language and band, choir or orchestra.

Jackson needs to be replaced, so I guess whatever it takes.

Plan for Jackson doesn't hurt any students or teachers. Plan for West Bend is not favorable. A plan lumping the two together will have a hard time passing. Which is very hurtful to Jackson schools and West Bend schools. Please look into a plan that addresses student and teachers with closing schools in West Bend. While I do see the plan put forth as having logical reasoning, people simply cannot afford the tax property hike in today's economy when inflation is so high. Our family will begin homeschooling our 3 currently enrolled in WBSD starting this fall, the 24-25 school year, so we simply cannot support based on finances alone. Properties risk jeopardizing the security of the surrounding area. Families/students will have to make numerous transitions when new boundaries are set. I absolutely support replacing Jackson Elementary to include K-8. Silverbrook already has a dangerous layout for pick up and drop off - I cannot imagine how much worse that will be with additional grades with younger students on top of it. It is not designed to accommodate the recess/playground needs. There is no parking as-is and virtually no outdoor lighting. Closing schools will only increase the need for busing. Buses/drivers are short now and student behaviors are challenging to manage as it is. Increasing busing because of the reduced elementary school access will add to these issues. Anxiety and mental health concerns have risen in children since Covid and not all children do well riding the bus. If my children's only option would be to ride the bus, I would consider homeschooling (which I have done in the past) or finding an alternate school plan to fit my family's needs. If I live in walking distance to one of the schools proposed to close, the proximity to school is impacting my home's value. Removing this asset will risk decreasing my resale value which will trickle down eventually to the tax values as well. West Bend needs to be a place that invites young families to grow, not alienate those who are engaged. None of these proposed improvements include a projected increase in student academic performance which is equally needed but harder to quantify monetarily. THIS should be the staff, students, and parents at Jackson elementary deserve (and have for a long time) a new facility. K-8 is imperative as the transition a 5th grader would need to make now can be very tough on them.

The only issue I have is turning Silverbrook in an Elementary school. That is one of the few that are doing well do why change it. We spent all that money to set it up as a pod base system and it is working. I saw the results in my own children they thrived at Silverbrook. Please look at keeping it as a middle school. ready for it. Let's bring back the West Bend Badgers and push some school pride and spirit. The schools pretty much operate as one high school outside of sports. Also, the bad kids have to go. You're losing good teachers and families. Let's stop tip-toeing around the race issue and hold students/parents accountable regardless of race. I am sick of being highlighted on the news for fights and behavioral issues. Finally, take a hard look at administrative positions. As a businessman, I can see positions in district leadership that are of questionable value or redundant. In business, we downsize/right-size when needed. Tell the community what will be saved in salary and benefits. It's a conservative community. If you want us to spend, communicate the increased efficiency and long-term savings. As a life long resident, I am concerned that our schools and community are headed in the wrong direction. Taking action on these suggestions will be well-received by community members that can help to pass a thoughtful, financially sensible referendum. Thank you for the opportunity to share this the aging population and new developments being constructed in the Fair Park area especially. Long term, I think it's a huge mistake to consider closing existing schools. I remember when the district had to bring in trailers to accommodate students due to lack of space. When the population changes again, are we going to be asked to fund a new school or addition after closing our existing schools? We just remodeled 3 schools and shifted Badger and Silverbrook around to accommodate different grade levels. Now this?

Smaller schools with smaller class sizes are better for learning anyway. Fix what we have.

Also, why is building a new school in Jackson even a consideration? I think it's time for Jackson to enjoy higher taxes and fund their own new school. If not, then close Jackson elementary and those kids can come to West Bend to fill up our great existing elementary schools.

We need to build a new K-8 Jackson school! It's well overdue.

Security issues are the most important.

I see a desperate need at the high school and I'd like to have my children experience these updates. The above option does not focus on the high school. add confusion to explaining the path to anyone who's not intimately familiar. Also, two high schools, but really, just one high school with two differently labeled doors, like, combine the resources to give the students access to all of it, not divide it right within our own community. I understand it primarily concerns sports, but those shouldn't be the primary purpose of an educational facility to begin with. I'm not here to say blow it all up, but im saying take a step back and look at our district compared to other rural ones, they aren't this oddly organized.

Specific to the option I selected here for Jackson, if the option for Jackson being K-5 goes ahead, it should be because a plan for badger to be right sized happen simultaneously, but you seem to have structured this to make the K-8 option more appealing based on spending more money just in Jackson. My point is, this comes across as favoritism towards Jackson and is mainly about removing resources for the bulk of WBSD.

cost, and what could be done with the money. \$3 million. \$5 million. This way the district could maybe bring back the gifted and talented program that was reduced from three teachers to one teacher since 2001. The same goes for librarians. With a little more money in the operating budget, perhaps the district would reconsider the idea of replacing or eliminating teacher retention tools that assist retirement.

On another notes, the next time the district wants to buy curriculum replacements or tweaks, they might get a better product and save money by paying teachers to build the curriculum desired. Lots of teachers would be interested in the money, and the taxpayers' dollars (transferred as compensation for services) will more likely be spent by the teachers in Washington County rather than going out of state. In fact, perhaps it should be part of the curriculum revising process to consider the teacher built option.

The district had great opportunities with Jackson such as purchasing land to the north before houses were built. Then, the board approved the patchwork addition about thirty plus years ago that was not beneficial. Again, lack of defining the problem and analyzing solutions over decades.

instead renovating them, or replacing the buildings with new construction one at a time, along with a k5 or k8 jackson as needed. Be aware that both current economic environment and recent history suggests that especially new construction done by a school district will inevitably exceed its budget. That needs to be watched very closely when a project is executed. Many citizens are on to the scam played by construction companies in general - once they start, they don't stop, and we just keep paying them, especially because if it's a school, we have no choice...

We teach our kids to reuse and recycle, why don't we consider doing the same and use local small firms to renovate/maintain/replace one at a time, and avoid putting the whole district on the hook for ballooning construction costs and the taxpayers getting hit all at once. If you are proposing consolidating and closing schools there should be an offset to costs, or no cost. Enough of this already!

Ask yourself: what plan would actually be the best one for the STUDENTS? Closing 4 elementary schools that serves a district this size - not likely. What if our community becomes viewed over time as one people want to come to - then enrollment goes up, not down, and your plan completely falls apart. Failing to acknowledge that in this plan is foolish.

What if the board had done the responsible thing the last 30-50 years and planned properly for replacement of one school at a time, as each building really outlives its economic life on a case by case basis - ask the fire department how they have to manage multi million \$ assets like that! It can be done on a rolling one-at-a-time basis to minimize financial exposure and operational risk simultaneously.

If you were asking to close maybe one school, and reconsolidate, I might have bought your plan. What is presented is frankly a non-starter proposal.

Lastly, consider including some experienced and interested citizens as consultants on these issues prior to putting a plan out to the community and fire the I would vote to replace Jackson as necessary, but am concerned that these students would be isolated from district classmates through eighth grade, when others are feeding into middle school environments. I am also concerned about opportunities provided to Jackson middle schoolers - will it be equitable to the Yes, as Jackson is growing, it would help to not overfill schools in West Bend with Jackson students

I'm not sure how I feel about Jackson being a K-8 school. Would students have the same opportunities as students that go to Badger? I would definitely support I am concerned that district students would be separated within the Village of Jackson for so long in a K-8 scenario, which would also have those students go through less transitions and a different experience than the students in West Bend. While the students would combine eventually in High School, there would be 9 years of academic growth that would have been a different experience. Whether one is better than the other is up for debate.

Jackson as a k-8 is a strong yes in my opinion. Allowing for growth in Jackson while maintaining capacity at Badger, it is a no-brainer. The community needs to look at the bigger picture and start thinking long-term if they want to continue to see the area grow. This minimal investment is critical for the growth and Decorah to Badger Middle school - making it one elementary school. Jackson Elementary could be replaced as a k5-5th grade. I feel that this would help to be cost effective all around and not cause too many changes. Thinking about family location, Badger Middle school turning into an elementary school would easily be closer for those families who attend Fair Park and Decorah currently.

Another idea would be to convert Silverbrook into a middle school, then have Badger be a "new" elementary school for Fair Park and Decorah students.

I hope that you consider these alternatives that would still help to meet the budget and be in the best interest of the West Bend community.

With the behavioral challenges that Badger has had, I would not want my 5-6 year old in the same building as a violent 13-14 year old when the parents and administrators aren't doing enough to keep kids safe. Granted, these won't be my personal children, but I wouldn't feel comfortable with it.

Combine the high school already, east/west is dumb and we all know it

I would like a specific analysis of the consequences of not doing each of the options listed. And I would like to see the results of this survey by each of the groups listed at the start of this survey, as well as a composite result. This information will definitely help me decide how to vote.

I think it will be very important to move forward with facilities updates and a plan to maintain these facilities!!

Completely selfish reasons but I do not want to see Decorah closed. We live very close and the kids are still on bus for 30 minutes. Making them bus all the way to Green Tree would have them on the bus for way too long. The city spent millions to make Down town pretty but we can't spend the money to make our This needs to be a top priority. Higher than security and capital maintenance needs. Although I do feel that pick up and drop off lanes need to be added to all elementary schools. Capital Maintenance needs are a close 2nd.

It needs to be highlighted that a portion of the Jackson building is the one room schoolhouse. K-8 should not happen in Jackson as there is huge benefits to mingling kids sooner than high school.

Declining enrollment would/could improve if the schools improve. The need is definitely there but the order of importance should be re-visited.

I'm not sure of the idea of not having an elementary school positioned on the south end of town (Decorah). While I understand the capital needs are clear.

Geographically I question having all of the elementary schools positioned on 33.

If you have Jackson through 8th grade you will have a TON of families wanting gmo school choice to there and/or a ton not wanting it. It seems like it would be an unfair set up that Jackson area kids have a total different learning set up

With declining enrollment, why would you build a new school. Fix what you have with that money.

solution is not good because of maturity differences between the ages. Look how bad stuff got when Silverbrook changed along with Badger. Kids being scared to go to school, and nothing done to the bad children. I understand that buildings need to be fixed, but so does the way they are ran. I would pull my child out if I had the means to do so and a lot of people I know would as well. Thank God my child only has 2 years left, so they go to school and keep their head down and try to make it through each day. It is sad this district used to be amazing.

Please replace Jackson elementary. It's outdated, unsafe and not practical in 2024 or any year for that matter.

There are many more family sustaining jobs in Jackson than in West Bend therefore they should be able to afford their own school or pay for the majority of it and the majority of Jackson kids would go to the Jackson school. Not many West Bend kids will be bussed to Jackson for school.

these increases are very high.

2. I'd be curious to know how much is being used from current taxes to help maintain the buildings and this project request.

3. What has caused the buildings to become so drastically in need of replacement/closure?

4. With the changes requested, is there a balanced budget moving forward to help protect the district from requesting these funds again?

5. What safety measures to the buildings and school areas to ensure my child or others will not be in harm? The entrances are not what we see on the news and in the paper.

6. Have other ways been explored to bring in funds for these projects to reduce the amount requested from the tax payers?

7. Will there be an increase in class size or reduction in teachers?

8. Mr. Hayes is a great principle, with your plan to close Fair Park, I hope there is a place for him to still have a great impact with these students. I always find it I am not against increasing taxes for improving schools. I do believe we need to look at cost saving opportunities within the schools. I don't know the inner workings of West Bend schools, but I do have experience with Government spending and the waste that is often overlooked. I would not like to see Fair Park Elementary closed. It is the highest rated elementary school in West Bend. It's a tight-knit family feeling school with great teachers and principal. It may not have I would vote no on any tax money being used for the school district to misuse and give administrators raises. Which is what would happen if a referendum gets keeping fair park or Decorah and fixing it instead of one of the others.

I will not support any referendum that includes replacing or fixing Jackson elementary. However, if you remove that from one of the options, I would support other maintenance and building costs

There is a huge influx of housing in Jackson for first time home buyers. These are young families that are going to eventually use our schools. A new school This school has needed to be updated for a long time and adding grades up to 8th will definitely help with the numbers to keep Badger in a good place.

Having a K-8 school in Jackson would honestly be an answer to our family's prayers. Thank you.

I do not think that the solution of building a new school in Jackson with little improvement to West Bend Area schools will pass given the previous attempts to replace Jackson Elementary. I am in favor of doing something between Jackson and West Bend, there just needs to be more for the West Bend schools. Way more information needs to come out before I can truly decide whether or not I'd vote yes. The plan sounds fine, but what is going to happen to the sites where Decorah and Fair Park currently are. Would fifth graders still get foreign language and more music offering that they currently get? What would happen if there was an increase in enrollment. Does this new plan accommodate for that or will that put the schools at over capacity because you eliminated too much? Will you have proper busing now that there will be 2 school areas out of walking range to the other elementary schools?

the cost of the improvements.

No opex numbers have been shared (current vs. future). If enrollment is declining, opex should also be declining or should be drastically cut.

How many quotes were received for the \$50M? How do we know this is competitive? Did we receive a quote from non in state, non prevailing wage builders?

Have we looked into funding from the corporate community / sponsorship to fund the needs?

I would be in support of a K-5 as well. Just as long as Jackson gets a new school to meet the needs of the students!

The district needs to take a very close look at administrative costs at every level. There are areas that could be cut there as well.

I would be concerned about the kids acclimating to high school when they wouldn't know any of the West Bend School students, only the Jackson school students. I agree that a new school needs to be built but you are putting the Jackson kids on an island until high school.

100% needed and urgent!

I think it's important for middle-school aged students to all come together at Badger at the same time. I would hate to see Jackson students missing out on the increased pool of peers that my own kids flourished in, when they had greater social and recreational opportunities.

the 2 years my child went to Silverbrook there were empty houses. New condo housing is booming along with road repairs and revitalized down town area. West Bend has alot to offer to families with children. I do not believe enrollment will decline. I attended the district in the 90's early 2000's and many of my friends who attended with me still have families here in the district.

Also, nothing has been mentioned whatsoever to my knowledge as to what would be done with the closed down schools. I live 8 houses down from Decorah and would very much like to know what will be done with the empty building as it will reflect on my property value.

I think the district needs to take a hard look at the reasons behind the loss of students from the district. Fixing the schools is only a surface fix. The school district has been declining and this problem will continue if steps arent taken to push our students/faculty/parents into the future and start setting our kids up for How many of the kids that attend Jackson will go on to WB middle school and WBHS? Mismanagement of funds over decades has people feeling like they have to make up for this. Board promises have been made since I was at WBHS, sadly, the buildings haven't been maintained since then. Be honest with people and follow through on some things, minds can be changed. Has start with student behavior and show good faith.

Safety and security issues at Badger need to be addressed, or my children will not be attending West Bend schools beyond 5th grade.

Jackson's old, needs a new building

success and burn out your staff. Fix the buildings all together instead of closing them.

Make the district safe. It's not. I cringe thinking about the future when my children will attend silverbrook and beyond.

Offer busing to homes and families that are currently within your 'no busing' radius. Especially when those radiuses include incredibly busy and dangerous intersections and roads.

A new Jackson Elementary is long overdue and a K though 8 school would be ideal. We have 3 children at Jackson, and love the staff and our experience. We were planning on moving out of the district or enrolling in private school as our kids move towards middle school age, however, this plan has our plans on hold and we believe this plan would solve many of our concerns with the district as a whole. I would imagine there are many other families that feel the same.

Our schools are in very poor shape, except for Silverbrook and Badger, with the high school being somewhere in between. Right now, I work in one of the schools that would be closed, and while I don't want it closed, this building is in horrible condition and something needs to be done. Other local communities are putting money into their schools, and we need to also for the sake of current and future students and West Bend's educational and economic growth. We need that attracts talented teachers who are happy and stay. It does not make sense to have a Split 5-6 and 7-8 school so I fully support a 6-8 option. I would also love to consider combining East and West high school to make our sports and HS organizations more competitive. While it is a nice thought to separate in order to give all kids a chance at playing, it doesn't seem to make sense when enrollment is dropping and sports teams are ending seasons early due to blow outs. No one moves to a district because their kid might have a chance at making a non-competitive sports team. Families may, however, be motivated to move to districts that have highly competitive athletic programs. I really hope this is discussed by the time my kids are in high school.

I like the idea of a K-5 school environment, but understand the fiscal responsibility of not providing additional transportation to Badger as well as easing the population burden of Badger Middle School.

How would the 6th through 8th grade be separated from the younger children in K-5th grade?

Bigger schools tend to have bigger problems when the age gap is much larger.

The growth is not slowing, it is increasing. The school capacity and capability should as well. If staffed with like minded individuals to those we are already working with, this would be a game changer. With the expansion of the choice program, which I also really like and appreciate, this would provide the chance for parents to keep their children local to home, off the busses which are a mess with behaviors and explicit content, and in schools with children and teachers they already know and trust.

West bend school district is hellbent on becoming mps with this Ponzi scheme. Declining enrollment and you want more tax dollars. Declining test scores and grades but let's close schools and make class sizes larger. Not to mention safety and discipline in the schools. West bend school district the mps of Washington In my opinion as someone who cannot attend all of these meetings, I'd like clarifications on updates needed specifically. All the elementary schools are old..

walking into mclane versus fair park MCL seemed more dated. I understand the bussing aspect for saving Jackson kids from coming to west bend etc.. but just wondering how these numbers were configured/what will actually be needed to be fixed.

Also want to know the expected enrollment numbers - how is it projected?

I would vote yes to build a new school in Jackson no matter if it's k-5 or k-8. It's the rest of your plans to reduce the number of elementary schools I have an issue with. Kids will receive a better education in smaller class sizes. Teachers will also have an easier time helping those who need it most in smaller class I believe Jackson going k-8 makes the most sense from a district zoning perspective alone, additionally reducing the transitions by eliminating the multiple pre-schools and Silverbrook as an intermediary makes for a much more simplified district that flows better for the kids and parents from busing and drop-off to We must add a quality school to Jackson, or that growing community may seek another district.

safety of some of the areas of Jackson Elementary School. There has been flooding and leaking, causing mold and other unhealthy things that are being breathed in every single day by staff and students. By respecting and maintaining the buildings and grounds, it is respecting our community, students, and staff. It also helps all stakeholders feel like the mission of the District is important to the District, too. My hope is that the community will see and feel how important this referendum is to the entire WBSD area.

We have the best students and staff. Let's match the facilities to this greatness!

Jackson elementary has parts that are over 100 years old. The area is getting bigger and bigger every year. Most of the new construction is being bought by families with children. A k-8 school in Jackson would make class sizes both in Jackson and West Bend smaller and would eliminate the need for bussing to and from school.
#ERROR!

As nice as it would be to replace Jackson and keep enrollment at optimal levels, I don't know how I feel about K-8. That's a broad age range and older kids behave much differently from younger grades. The influence concerns me. Kindergarteners do not need to be in the same building as 8th graders for school. This is a lot of info to absorb in taking survey on phone. Need more time to read thru but quick math it's a lot and trying to see the benefits or the savings for long term w property taxes after the 20year increase . I'm a strong supporter of improved security for facilities though w these updates. Jackson is a growing community it would make sense to build a school k-8th like richfield has and then feed them into the local highschools from there. split those kids between west bend, germantown and slinger not just fully feed them into west bend. West Bend is a great community. Great communities need great schools. Our schools are old and run down and the community needs to understand the importance of quality schools for our youth. With great schools comes great staff which brings success for our students. Additionally, great schools will keep people living here and will help our community develop, grow, and continue to be a great place to live. Decorah and fair park are in good shape. McClane should be the school to close. I don't feel that we should pay for Jackson to get a brand new school when west bend won't. Don't think Silverbrook should be an elementary school. I like the intermediate school and keeping 2 grades at badger. Yes!!! Needs to be done for our students!!! east side of town in WB. Silverbrook is too new to make so many changes to it already, and the 5/6 and 7/8 configurations are best for kids in their development. I walk through buildings in other districts and I'm embarrassed by the facilities our kids have to attend. We should be doing better by our kids in this community and it makes me sick that the general population is satisfied with 1950's era facilities because it was fine for them and their families back in the day. The mindset is backwards and redneck and it will never attract the kind of families that we should be attracting when there are great districts nearby who have incredible facilities. I would never have sent my kids here had I the chance to do it over again. It isn't that it's bad, but it isn't great. And great is right down the road.... how do you fix a community mindset? I don't know that you can, sadly. We will support any efforts to make improvements. My last answer was cut off.

Teachers and positions at schools that directly impact student learning are cut regularly, but people are not aware if cuts are being made at the district level, as well. With declining enrollment, there is also less of a need to pay for some of those 6 figure salaries yearly. From the last directory I could find, there are at least 40 people working at ESC, which is more employees than at some of the schools.

Jackson is a definite high need that I would vote for. The rest I am hesitant about as I feel there should be more efforts made to increase enrollment rather than accepting it as is. What is being done to retain families? What is being done to gain families through school choice? Why are families in the district choosing to send their children to other schools? Since the district is so large, could it offer programming no other schools in the area offer that would draw in families?

This plan feels very calculated with how it was put together and then sold to the community as the only real option. It seems like an all or nothing when there might be more of a compromise of closing and shifting some things but not all that has been proposed. back to the k-5 model and 6-8 model. I have also had more children than most go through the system and truly believe the only transition that is challenging for kids has been the 4-5 one and that all of the children I have served have been better served in this model. We need to stop letting community members who do not understand the world we live in or child development dictate the direction we take and the way we make decisions. I have seen so many children flourish under our current model and it is unfortunate that this is the only option we are bringing forward. The locker rooms and bleachers are not in good shape. (have they even been changed in the last 30 years) The track area and turf need replacing, and the sound systems for each athletic venue needs some serious improvements. The tennis and softball area needs a building for concessions and working (non porta potty)bathrooms. Some of these changes are cosmetic, yes, but some are also a danger--- broken turf and track. And as far as cosmetic updates, having updated facilities that our athletes and community can be proud of...not embarrassed by, can be a huge boost for school culture and enrollment. We needed a new Jackson Elementary School years ago. The School District had the chance to build a beautiful new school on the land that was being used for the gym space at Badger is extremely limited with 2 grade levels being instructed. How will this be addressed with a 3rd grade level? The gym facilities themselves are deteriorating and in need of replacement. How will this be addressed with more students speeding the deterioration? Replacing Jackson should be of the highest priority. Don't be greedy. Republican heavy Washington county is very frugal, especially as we've seen in the past with education. Don't ask for too much. Enrollment is declining. The first thing the school district does is to ask for more money rather than being creative to use the assets already existing and not letting buildings stand empty. We homeowners pay enough in taxes and there is a reason that prior referendums have not passed. We all have to live within a budget and don't get "free" money from others. We figure out a creative way to get the things done in our personal life thus there is no reason the school district Concerns of going K-8 would be that the students in Jackson would not be given the same curriculum options as they have now. How do you support a choir, band, orchestra, languages and stem classes in Jackson? Would teachers need to travel?

Losing the warehouse space and loading dock with the closing of esc would be a major consideration. People are easy to relocate but those kind of spaces are hard to come by elsewhere in the district.

I could possibly support a plan that is maybe a quarter of what the district is asking its property owners to pay in taxes. The plan the district wants would have to be pared down considerably for me to vote yes on any referendum.

I agree that Jackson needs to be replaced but I think the community will be hesitant to have the latest and greatest facility built on the south side of Jackson. I know the district already owns land there, but I think West Bend residents would offer more support if the building was located closer to West Bend (half way between West Bend and Jackson, or on the southeastern side of West Bend. Geographically this would make sense as well since it would be a center point Jackson needs a new school or to leave West Bends district.

Rather than replace Jackson, preference is to replace one of the elementary schools in West Bend. Jackson has a much lower population than West Bend, so it seems more effective to build the newer, bigger school in West Bend. If this was an option, I would definitely support all of the proposals.

expenditures is negligent. There is also no conversation in right-sizing the high schools. Both are seeing declining enrollment and combining would see a significant cost-savings which would allow for increased expenditures without additional debt. Why do we continue to have two high schools when combined enrollment is still smaller than many others in the state. Sports teams continue to co-op or be inadequately staffed. We have redundancies in administration because of the split schools (2 AD's). Practice space is limited, busing costs to activities is significant (4 buses to go to the same track meet- girls/boys, East/West). The concept that is proposed is very supportable, but we as a district and community must consider the entire picture and be look for long-term efficiencies in finances. Our leaders need to advocate for what they feel is best even at the risk of having difficult conversations despite working behind the scenes to implement plans and act like the community is dumb and doesn't know how they are trying to play politics behind the scenes.

The high schools are too big. Quit throwing money at the high school. Do everything as said EXCEPT don't spend more money on the high school building. While I understand the need for school buildings, the community deserves better educational results.

Please keep up the good work, I love the proposals and I'm excited for Jackson to get some much needed love!

Move Jackson students to west Bend schools that already exist

I am a retired teacher (not West Bend) and I see the need to update Jackson elementary. I live 1/2 mile from the school and go by it daily. I have been in the school as well and it needs major work.

Currently have had 3 children through the district and another 2 in the district. Overall have had a good experience but is concerning to see great families elect to school choice to other schools...and seemingly at increasing rate. When good families leave, it removes productive people from our community. Would highly (NEEDED!!!!) suggest combining the high schools and make a commitment to a single vision city wide for our school community. One community. One I remember Superintendent Pat Herdrich's proposal for closing some schools and building some new ones. I toured Barton School in the open house sessions before the referendum.

It really did need to be closed, and I became convinced that the district-wide plan for closing/building schools would be a good value in the long run. But it I would not support any expenditure for school athletics until the basic safety and educational needs outlined in these proposals are thoroughly examined and the The high school has not been updated since the 70s. It looks awful when you look to any nearby high school. How can we expect students to be proud of where they go when it looks so crappy? There isn't even hot water in the locker rooms for our students. You need to do something to the high school.

Teach our kids first. Cut staff. Close underused school buildings.

With many new subdivisions in Village of Jackson, geared toward small families, enrollment at the elementary school will definitely increase. Kids don't need to Perhaps actual budgeting would provide the funds you claim to need for maintenance items.

Declining enrollment is a consequence of lower birth rates AND

dismal academic results. Why would anyone want to throw money at a school system that doesn't care about getting our kids to proficient levels in reading,

I would like to know if staff have had any opportunity to provide SIGNIFICANT opinion on these plans. It appears that an outside firm with no ties to the communities or district has made these suggestions.

district seems to be making a good faith effort to involve taxpayers in process to budget monies to maintain existing infrastructure. However, I've noted comments that district will receive lower state of WI funds due to declining enrollment where this will result in a budget shortfall. Best practice in business world is if fewer resources are needed to support declining enrollment a reduction in resources is used to adjust budget shortfall. IE, reduce staff. The reluctance by the district to propose these staff reductions is what I describe to those who I discuss the WBSD with.

Badger middle school has too many kids and it's hard to control the environment.

Jackson elementary is in dire need of complete replacement as the community has grown and the buildings are in a worn-out condition. The teachers and staff make-do with what they have but the children are deprived of a first-class education.

We are age 70+ and have 1 grandchild attending Jackson.

In this inflation economy, let's reduce taxes, not increase them.

See comments previously regarding previous referendum dollars and where they were spent.

Jackson school needs updating!

Jackson is growing and is large enough to have their own school. The current one is not up to standards and needs to be replaced. At a minimum, it needs stonger security. A new school is something this community has needed for a long time. Having a k-8 school here would relieve such a burden for working I would support K-5 or K-8 school in Jackson but see a couple upsides to the K-5 option that might not have considered. First it'll be easier for kids from Jackson elementary to make friends with kids from West Bend's elementary schools if their integration begins at 11 years old. 14 years old is a tougher age for making new friends. Second, high school team sports/activities would benefit if they begin playing/participating together in middle school. Successful high school

Maybe a new school should be built in the city of West Bend instead of Jackson. Close Jackson

This makes no sense and you want way too much money from people who can't afford it and are struggling to just survive. This is outlandish and an insult to It looks bad to be closing 3 buildings and still asking for 100-150 million. One would think there would be cost savings which could offset some of the capital Just surprised we would keep McLane open when it's a junky, old two story building in a terrible location for pick up and drop off!!! I'd rather stick money into My son attended Jackson and then Badger (when it was 6-8). He would not have liked Jackson to be K-8 as he feels he would have not met as many of his good It is a shame that people are using school choice to move their children out of the West Bend School District. Safety is my first concern but then I think something has to be done with the scores on the tests. Also Silverbrook was built as a middle school and now there are not enough students for both Badger I'm curious as to the increase in bussing costs, will that significantly impact our yearly budget? I'm also wondering how boundary lines will be established for the elementary schools. I would like to see a more even disbursement of low income housing between the elementary schools.

Get more bids on everything and projects can be less Taj Mahal and more fancy industrial genre.

Combine the high schools. This would reduce admin costs.

Replace public school with a private school system.

By offering the K-8 option, the cost savings on transportation for the district needs to be shared with the communities. Also the impact of choosing a K-5 or k-8 for the other west bends schools so folks really understand that.

I have lived in the school district for almost 30 years. It seems like the children of Jackson have been short changed for much of that time. It is time to replace the school in Jackson with a new building.

I do support these updates. However, with children in the district during these potential years of change I am concerned about how that will be handled. I would like more detailed information about how these changes will be implemented in regard to students that it affects at that time (for example, a child who will have been at Silverbrook for 5th grade but would go to Badger as a 6th grader because of the year of change)

2 school athletic programs seem like a misuse of a lot of money with the High School. For a generation that complains about participation trophies, 2 sub par money pits seem ironic. Combine and save. Rather have an extra teacher or two in the bigger scheme.

to having even more student per school and classroom. I love Fairpark Elementary and the simple fact that the students are not lost in a large pool of others within their classrooms. What are the sizes of these classrooms going to look like? How many of these teachers are going to be gone and without jobs now?

Whole I support what the district is trying to do, I have many concerns and worries about what my children and other children's education will look like. Will test scores go down? Will enrollment go down further by adding so many students into these buildings. We're talking about losing 3 elementary schools gone while adding only 1 additional school. My children possibly losing their friends by going to a different school than them. There's so much I, as a parent, need to know to be able to fully support this all.

I have concerns about the quality of education received by the grades 6-8 students at Jackson. I doesn't seem appropriate for the Jackson students to be separated from the rest of the district. It sends a message that Jackson is the "poor cousin" even though the socio-economic status of most Jackson students is definitely middle class. The school district has always treated the Jackson community poorly.

Just because prior debt has been paid off doesn't mean we should jump into more debt. West Bend is growing with many mature families moving into rental units which means home owners are going to absorb the additional referendum dollar requirements. School taxes already make up a significant amount of our before throwing money at your problems, take a good hard look at all the issues at hand. If you didn't have a failing education system and failing disciplinary actions you wouldn't have shrinking enrollment. The shrinking enrollment isn't due to the shrinking population. It's due to the fact that the education is so terrible at the West Bend school district that people are either going to public schools outside through school choice or are finding the money to send their kids to private Consider the amount of housing building going on and proposed in West Bend and the amount of children moving in may influence school needs. Don't be too hasty in closing or tearing down buildings !

As the parent of a child that attends Jackson and one that will be going there next year, replacing Jackson is a must! Poor heating and AC are not conducive to a proper learning environment (my 3rd grader has had to wear his winter jacket in January just to stay warm because of the poor heating).

Vote only @1 need Jackson Elementary

Why wouldn't the town of Jackson provide more money from their mill rate to replace the building. People of West Bend will vote this down simply because they will see no gain from a new school in Jackson (and can't comprehend the gains (business, smaller class sizes as a result, more room, etc.). Sadly, I see alot of people already in defense of this plan, changing mindsets needs more deliberate approaches.

I don't think that the West Bend School District has the best interest in treating the kids in Jackson equally with the West Bend students. I'll believe the promise when they follow through. No money to till they will use the money they have in a way that represent equal opportunities for all students. A proper learning environment should be available to all students. Not just students in West Bend.

The district needs to stay on top of maintaining the buildings just as a home owner needs to replace roofs, windows, AC and plumbing issues. Jackson needs its own separate school district.

Your ideas of closing the wrong elementary schools is wrong. Your idea of moving Rolfs and administration to the high school is a very bad plan and is a waste of taxpayers money. You opt to keep open a school that is over a century old and bus elementary kids from all over the district there! The only smart thing in all Stop banning books! Also, it's unconstitutional to block residents from the district FB page; as the Supreme Court has already ruled.

I constantly hear people complain about replacing Jackson - "let the people in Jackson pay for that". It might be beneficial to let the people of West Bend know just how much the Jackson community contributes to the tax base for WBSD. I have heard it is close to 1/3 of the total tax revenue for WBSD. At the very least, have the numbers crunched because I know people will use it as a beating stick (for the dead the horse they are riding).

p.s. I do not live in Jackson, just tired of the simple mindedness.

I am disappointed that your information did not include more student benefit information. I think many people would vote no because of the cost. After talking to an employee I learned more about the benefit these plans would have for the students. The students are our future, they need to be a priority. If the plans would benefit them and improve their chances for a better future we need to know about that. Why are residents now sending their children to a different district? Get The biggest and most important need is increasing and enhancing security and safety aspects across the board.

Although Jackson 'wants' a school, it does not make long term financial or planning sense to invest the greatest sum the furthest away from the population I agree with your plans to consolidate into less buildings due to the ever decreasing enrollment.

I don't think the community is going to vote to spend this much money though to upgrade and replace other buildings though.

A lesser plan that does some improvements rather than so many items on your wish list all at once is much more likely to pass.

Maintain Fair Park OR Decorah...use the money intended for Jackson 6-8 for the FP/Decorah needed upgrades. Allow Jackson students to attend Badger 6-8. Smaller neighborhood schools are best for kids and community building. One HUGE Silverbrook elementary is NOT desired.

The concern would be the delayed integration to the full district now at high school instead of at the middle level.

school while closing down others IN WB seems extremely foolish when walk zones would be either greatly widened or eliminated. Busing is already under staffed with daily calls about late routes. How will increased students on bus routes be affected? Add to this daycare shortages. Where will these kids go before/after school for working parents?

Safety concerns are priorities great. How will class sizes be maintained with more kids each school?

To do nothing is not an option. Replacing Jackson K5 with a new Jackson K8 will pay big dividends. Many families open enrolling their children out will for sure reconsider. Closing facilities as outlined will also spend funds strategically. Thanks for holding the preliminary meetins in April at the High School.

Jackson has been growing for several years, and should be it's own school district.

What the hell is wrong with you people?! Why would you propose closing Decorah and Fair Park which are relatively new schools and move them into McLane (a 70 year-old building)? Also, \$50-\$70 MILLION for a Jackson school is nuts! You couldn't come up with something for HALF that amount? What is the staffing plan??? With a 10% reduction in students is there any staff reduction? Why is that not being stated???

I would indicate "definitely support" for many of the responses except I'm curious how much, if any, of the funds will be needed to reconfigure Silverbrook and Badger to accommodate the new grade assignments. These schools were most recently reconstructed with their current grade assignments in mind. It would seem to be really bad planning if we're now going to spend a lot of money to amend them for the new proposal.

Recognizing the overcapacity situation a K-5 Jackson decision implies, as projected this would only be for two years since Badger wouldn't change to a 6-8 model until the 2027-28 school year, correct? Given that our population numbers are a bit more than an educated guess, but still a guess all the same, I think two years of overcapacity is offset by the \$20M savings and increased programming offerings through economies of scale.

Concern with having K-8 in a single school. Where would the Jackson School be built? Can existing Jackson site be sold to offset costs?

Consistency and minimal disruption for families ought to be high priorities.

Enough funding MUST be available to offer competitive salaries for teachers.

I believe this survey omitted several important pieces of information that would have helped guide more accurate answers, such as how over enrolled Badger Middle School would be until the 29-30 school year. I would also be interested in hearing the School Board's thoughts on what would happen to the empty school buildings. We want to support a healthy education system and facilities for our children, but we also want to avoid more empty buildings that age and decay.

What is the district doing to "sell" the district good news to draw in enrollees? Not that long ago that other districts students were coming to West Bend!

I'm not sure about replacing Jackson. I do not have enough knowledge of the current building/maintenance needs/operating costs.

I AM sure facilities need to be combined & closed to respond to declining enrollment.

I understand the need to keep safety needs up to date.

My biggest issue is the district had a capitol projects list for the last 30 years and it is never followed. Projects completed that are not on list because others had adjendas and more import work wasn't done in the buildings. Decorah library, Jackson Library completed before work that was planned on capitol project list example upstairs section needing flooring, ceiling lighting, windows etc. That were not done is one of many items in district.

Could the Village of Jackson be removed from the WB School District and have its own? The village has been growing steadily and looks to continue to do so. Maybe it is time for it to stand on its own. That would cut the WB district cost by \$50M to \$75M in capital expense and ease the operating cost budget. I realize this would not be an easy transition (staff, facilities, etc.) If not totally, maybe a hybrid system.

Jackson is large enough to have their own school district. Also with reductions in number of students first reduce administrative costs/staff and the number of teachers. Then come up with a plan to improve buildings.

I'm mostly opposed to closing the elementary schools. I believe we should be adding 5th grade back to the elementary schools and eliminating so many transitions from elementary to Silverbrook to Badger. Also the cost to make all those changes is too large. And if this plan is implemented I feel it would drive enrollment even lower and we would lose valuable teachers to other districts. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration!

Combine the two high schools.

the problem of declining enrollment.

I 100% support replacing Jackson elementary with a K-8 school because I believe that is a wonderful move for their community.

I don't think the bussing problem has been well addressed, though. Even with declining enrollment, closing all the elementary schools on the East Side of town will leave more students in need of bussing.

I also can *not* support any referendum to close the schools without a guarantee that the fate of the buildings and grounds will involve community feedback and decisions. As a community member I would very disappointed in the district if making the right decisions for education meant losing any say in maintaining a quiet neighborhood environment.

Get your educational standards up first. Why would any parent want to put their children in this school district. Might want to look at the Slinger school district. They are doing things RIGHT. Just a bunch of spenders on the WB school board and the quality of education is really lacking.

Loose some admin positions to save money

Right size this whole operation like you keep talking that you want to do.

Stop the dancing around it. Get it done now.

Show some leadership.

I would support the referendum if our Fair Park community remained in tact at another building. I want my kids to go to a school led by Mr. Hayes and with the teachers that we know and trust. I would vote yes if you told us that Mr. Hayes would be the new Silverbrook principal and our Fair Park teachers would all be there, too. And of course, if we could choose to go there regardless of what the boundaries end up being. I am very concerned about the weird transitions this plan will create in my kids' educations unless we keep our Fair Park community together as much as possible.

What is optimal for the 5th grade class?

This changing locations every few years makes no sense.

Is closing schools, pushing the time line as enrollment decreases, causing less than optimal capacity at those remaining schools.

How is school choice impacting your future plans ?

I believe that the Village of Jackson can brake off and form its own district.

I do not think closing Fair Park and Decorah elementary would be a great "fix" at all. The enrollment numbers are down because of parents moving their kids to private schools or a different district because of current issues that are not being addressed. Work on the current issues to make it a better district and more this doesn't benefit a child who goes to decorah elementary school

This may not be the place for this, but West Bend overall needs to take a hard look at why our enrollment is plummeting. We should be talking about building new facilities to accommodate growth. Instead we're talking about spending millions to account for people fleeing our community. There is a waiting list in Slinger right up the road. Not a school district issue, a political issue, I recognize. But those two are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

With the way Jackson is growing they need their own school. We have really only been involved with the schools for the last 3 years and it seems as if Jackson Elementary is forgot about especially when it comes to the building.

Thank you for your thoughtful, well-planned, and multiple options to make improvements in our schools. I plan on relocating in 5 years and would like our school system and community offerings to draw families, not deter.

Do NOT get overzealous and try for a referendum that is too big to be accepted. You previously ignored a preliminary study that recommended against pursuing a very large referendum and it failed. Stick with option one to increase the odds for success! It is badly needed.

Again, I support higher taxes to keep all schools open and updates made or new schools built. I'm worried that the district will be over capacity in the future if enrollments increase again. There are numerous multi-family building construction projects underway or recently completed across the city. Will those be without I know sports are an important part of the High School years. I would rather see more dollars put into education.

the board), where is the care for my child's education? this is all just an additional ploy to add money to facilities that aren't needed, and quite frankly, it smells like "sports are more important than SEL."

if more people on the board had HAD SEL in their formative years, maybe we wouldn't have people making decisions for the literal future of our county, state, and country dismissing developmental curricula in exchange for vague notoriety of having successful athletes (and those kids should be celebrated! they're very talented! but that's not the point!).

what exactly is going to be done with schools that would close? will we have any say on that matter? will that be equally political, or might we actually do something productive with the space?

We need to tighten the belt and spend money wisely. No fancy upgrades or improvements. Get back to the basics of what is needed to provide an education under the law. Start expelling kids that misbehave and bring more order into the classroom.

I would support the full Jackson project as long as kids in West Bend are not bussed down to Jackson for school. The students attending there should be in the I took this survey because I got the mailer. I am also somewhat knowledgeable about the proposed changes already. This was a great way to get more information to me. How else can you explain this level of detail to others without kids in the district and explain the minimal financial impact? The financial

Just do not know enough

The entire process hinges on West Bend investing in building a K-8 building in Jackson. What is ur backup plan??

remove gun free zones at school parking lots & areas near schools for people with permits. so law abiding citizens can drop off & pick up children while armed.

as it stands now innocent folks can be victims while driving to & from schools.

It's not smart to wait, cost always goes up.

I would support the best plan for that the school district feels necessary. I don't know enough about the capacity and needs for the k-5 vs k-8.

Jackson must be replaced now but not from these options. There's no reason Badger would be over capacity. Silverbrook is also a middle school.

Declining enrollment should lead to Staff, Administration and facility reductions

Bottom line.....get me data that ensures that any of these changes are needed to improve student learning and how you will measure the effect of those changes.....any business that is in need of less space because of loss of activity does it through cost reduction measures to cut cost, not added expenditures for reduced activity. Show me the data that this district has kept up with reduced expenditures, especially administration, equal to reduced enrollment, ie activity,

I am in favor of all changes except that of closing neighborhood schools, and making a new Jackson school K8. Populations dip, and increase again.

I believe Jackson should be it's own school district.

I didn't have a strong opinion

I would like to reiterate that we need coordination about what happens to closed properties. An abandoned elementary school will quickly become a hub for meth use/distribution and kill property values without an immediate plan. I recognize the Board cannot unilaterally act, but it's hard to vote on something that might tank my home value and bring crime to my street if it takes years of further wrangling to do something with a closed school.

I will also add that it is disappointing to see physical ed/athletics mentioned as the only subject receiving investment in this survey. Our kids should have social studies and science daily in elementary, but I guess MAGA zealots are scared of kids learning. And foreign language would be so valuable at that level. I don't see why watching kids get concussions is a point of any town's pride.