

TO: School Committee

FROM: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

DATE: December 9, 2025

RE: Statement of Interest Survey Results

In advance of the December 10 School Committee meeting, we distributed a survey directly to families and staff in the district, asking them to share their opinion about which survey should be prioritized for the submission of a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) this spring. In addition to sending it directly via email, the survey link was also shared through the district's social media platforms in an effort to reach additional members of the community.

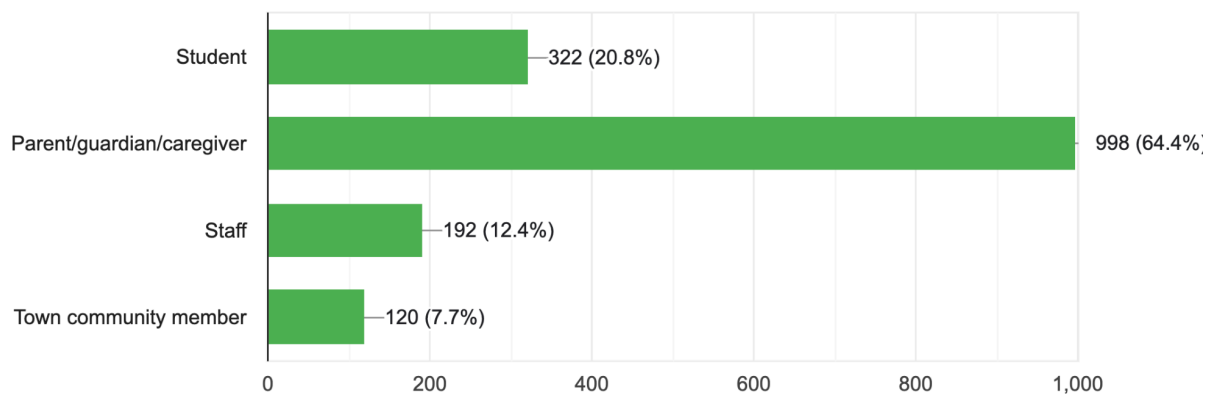
The survey opened on Tuesday, December 2 and closed on Monday, December 8. I am incredibly pleased to share that during that time, we received 1,550 responses from across the community, and I am grateful to all that took the time to respond. Below, please find the results of the survey, first in the aggregate, and then compared across respondent groups.

Please note that for the first two questions (role and school affiliation), respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, so the totals add up to more than 1,550.

Question 1:

What is your role in relation to Westwood schools?

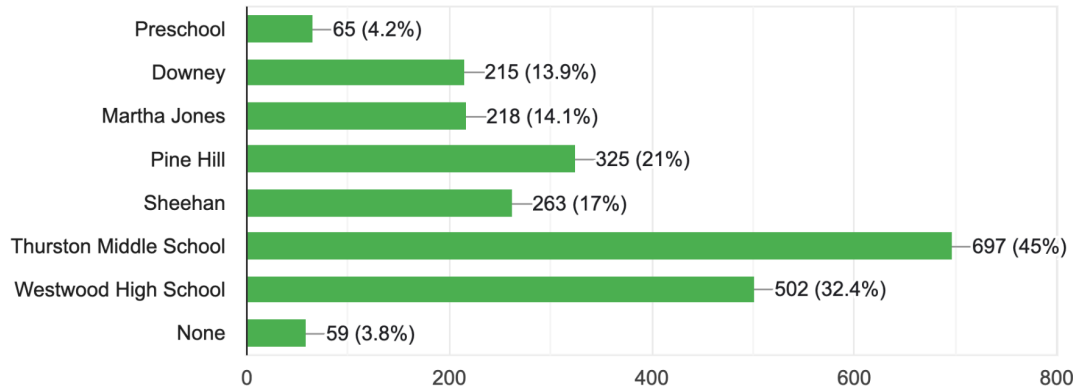
1,550 responses



Question 2:

Which school are you affiliated with? (Select all that apply.)

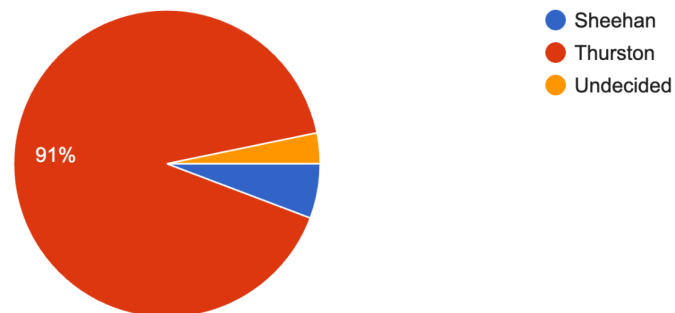
1,550 responses



Question 3:

Which school do you think the district should prioritize for its potential next building project?

1,550 responses



Response	Total (%)
Thurston	1,411 (91.0%)
Sheehan	89 (5.7%)
Undecided	50 (3.2%)

Question 3 by Role/School:

To further understand the responses to question 3, the responses are broken out below by role and school.

Question 3 by Role

	<u>Thurston</u>	<u>Sheehan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Student	301	17	4
Parent/guardian/caregiver	932	40	26
Staff	162	20	10
Town community member	91	17	12

Question 3 by School

	<u>Thurston</u>	<u>Sheehan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Sheehan only	112	35	6
Thurston only	561	17	9
Sheehan and Thurston	93	11	6
All others	645	26	29

Question 4 (Optional): If you'd like to share more, please tell us why you selected your choice.

There were a total of 746 responses to Question 4; a summary of these responses, as generated by Gemini, is below:

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The document is a collection of open-ended public comments that overwhelmingly advocate for the **Thurston Middle School (TMS)** project to be the top priority in the Facilities Study.

The comments center around the following key points:

1. Thurston Middle School Needs are More Urgent and Impact All Students

- **Greater Impact:** A majority of the comments state that TMS should be prioritized because it is the town's only middle school, meaning **all students (grades 6-8) will**

attend it, thus benefiting the entire community as opposed to just the fraction of students served by Sheehan Elementary.

- **Building Condition:** TMS condition was concerning to a significant number of respondents.
 - **Frequent Disruptions:** The building's condition has led to **repeated disruptions to learning**, including **school closures and early dismissals**.
 - **Health and Safety Concerns:** Respondents identified a variety of specific health and safety issues.
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2. Comparison to Sheehan Elementary

- While Sheehan is acknowledged as old and in need of renovation or replacement, commenters consistently argue that it is **not as bad as Thurston**.
 - One comment contrasts the two, noting that Sheehan students have not had their day interrupted or been sent home due to facilities issues, while Thurston has.
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