New Glarus School District
Fall 2019
SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize and use data to make strategic decisions.

• Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
• Conducted over 10,000 surveys for school improvement
• Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process
Survey Summary

- The survey was conducted in October of 2019.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 654 (195 paper)
- Participation rate = 27%
- Margin of error = +/- 3.9%
Respondent Information
What is your age?

- Under 18: 0%
- 18-25: 1%
- 26-34: 11%
- 35-54: 59%
- 55-64: 12%
- 65 and over: 17%
Do you live in the New Glarus School District?

- Yes: 90%
- No: 10%
In which municipality do you reside?

- Village of New Glarus: 42%
- Town of New Glarus: 31%
- Town of York: 10%
- Do not live in the School District: 7%
- Town of Exeter: 5%
- Town of Primrose: 3%
- Town of Washington: 1%
- Town of Perry: 1%
- Town of Montrose: 0.20%
- Town of Adams: 0.20%
Are you an employee of the New Glarus School District?

87% No
13% Yes (n=80)
Do you have child(ren) attending school in the New Glarus School District?

- Yes (n=380) 61%
- No 39%
How would you like to receive District information?

- Email: Non-Parents (76%), Parents (77%)
- District newsletter: Non-Parents (69%), Parents (77%)
- District/school website: Non-Parents (43%), Parents (51%)
- Facebook: Non-Parents (31%), Parents (31%)
- Post Messenger: Non-Parents (51%), Parents (0%)
- Skyward Family Access: Non-Parents (20%), Parents (0%)
- Text message: Non-Parents (18%), Parents (18%)
- Parent/teacher organizations: Non-Parents (16%), Parents (16%)
- Attend meetings at school: Non-Parents (16%), Parents (16%)
- Automated phone notification: Non-Parents (11%), Parents (11%)
- Attend School Board meetings: Non-Parents (8%), Parents (8%)
- Monroe Times: Non-Parents (9%), Parents (9%)
- WEKZ Radio: Non-Parents (8%), Parents (8%)
- Twitter: Non-Parents (1%), Parents (1%)
- Other: Non-Parents (2%), Parents (2%)
Facility Planning Background
We are very thankful for the ongoing support we receive from our community, including approval of two recent referendums. These funds were used to improve safety and security, renovate areas of our schools and update major building systems. In addition, the District purchased a 45-acre lot within the Village of New Glarus for future expansion.

Two years ago, 250 New Glarus community members signed a petition asking the District to explore additional facility updates. In response:

- The School Board conducted two surveys of parents and staff; both showed strong support for exploring various updates to our schools.
- The District hired Bray Architects to conduct a facility study and help develop a Long-Range Master Plan that will guide facility planning for the next 10 to 20 years.
- The District held a community listening session to help refine the projects presented in this survey.
School Taxes
The School Board has worked hard to be fiscally responsible in recent years by managing school taxes. The tax mill rate has remained flat (see chart) during the past five years. By the end of this year, the District will have saved taxpayers nearly $1 million in interest costs from debt prepayment, while planning for a potential future building project. The community now has an opportunity to invest up to $17.5 million in facility projects with no tax rate increase over the current level.

Given this situation and historically low interest rates, the District wants the community’s input about whether a referendum should be considered in the near future. More tax rate information will be available in the section of the survey entitled, "Tax Funding Support".
Would you support the District exploring a referendum for additional facility updates?

(New Glarus School District Residents Only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Residents</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Non-Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm not sure/need more information</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Residents | Staff | Parents (Non-Staff) | Non-Parents (Non-Staff)
Overall, what impact do you feel the quality of the New Glarus School District has on your home value?

(All Respondents)

- Positive impact: 71%
- Little to no impact: 17%
- Negative impact: 3%
- Do not own a home in the District: 9%
Potential Projects
The District would like the community’s feedback on each of the following projects:

**Middle/High School STEAM/Tech. Ed. (Shop) Areas**
There is a growing demand for skilled professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Agriculture and Math (STEAM). Many of our current STEAM, Agriculture and Tech. Ed. classrooms and labs are outdated, limiting our ability to provide real-world, hands-on learning opportunities. These rooms are also poorly located for middle school students, requiring travel through the high school to attend classes.
**Estimated cost: $7.2 million**

**Middle/High School Classrooms and Support Areas**
As middle- and high-school enrollments increased, 5th grade had to move from the middle school to the elementary. The current middle school configuration does not work well for grades 6-8, and many areas of the high school are used for middle school instruction, resulting in significant interaction between middle and high school students. As a result, there have been requests for more dedicated space and restrooms for middle school students. In addition, some areas of the high school have not been updated since originally built.
**Estimated cost: $4.6 million**
Middle/High School Kitchen and Cafeteria:
The cafeteria is undersized for the current enrollment, resulting in students waiting extended times in serving lines. Currently, four lunch periods are needed to serve all of the middle school and high school students, creating scheduling challenges. In addition, the District’s kitchen layout is inefficient for food preparation and serving, and the equipment is outdated.
Estimated cost: $3.1 million

Traffic Flow/Site Safety/Circulation
With only one road to access both schools, enrollment growth has increased traffic congestion. In addition, the current traffic patterns cause safety concerns for pedestrians. The District could improve traffic flow, safety and site circulation by:
- Adding vehicular access points
- Adding or extending traffic lanes
- Improving pedestrian walkways
- Moving and expanding parking lots
Estimated cost: $4.8 million
Middle/High School Music Areas /Auditorium
The choir and performing arts classes are currently held on the stage area of the cafeteria/auditorium. This space is also used for large group instruction, presentations and community events, which regularly disrupt class scheduling. Larger performances are held in the gym, which lacks proper acoustics and adequate seating.

The District could explore building an auditorium with a multi-purpose stage that would support music and performing arts instruction. The project would provide:
- Seating for up to 600 people
- Quality sound and lighting systems
- Space for large assemblies, concerts, musicals and other school and community events

Estimated cost: $12 million

Baseball and Softball Field
The Village currently owns and operates two fields, one for baseball and one for softball. The community conversation identified the need for an additional field for school and community use.

Estimated cost: $200,000
**Track and Soccer/Football Field**

The District does not have a track or regulation-sized soccer field. As a result, the middle school track program is without a space for both practices and competitions. The boys and girls high school soccer and track teams co-op with Belleville and therefore hold most of their home competitions in Belleville. At some point in the future, the teams will become too large, and the co-op will likely not be approved by the conference or the WIAA. At that point, the District will need to compete independently, requiring construction of a track and regulation-size soccer field. In addition, the current football field has significant drainage issues and is in need of repair.

**Estimated cost: $6 million**

If a new soccer/football field was built, the project could be expanded to include artificial turf, which would significantly increase the ability to use the field for soccer/football games and practices, as well as year-round for physical education classes and youth sports. In addition, the annual field maintenance expenses (watering, fertilizing, grass cutting, etc.) would decrease.

**Estimated cost: $1.2 million**
**Tennis Courts**
The District’s tennis courts, located in the middle of Veteran’s Memorial Park, are in poor condition and experience drainage issues.
*Estimated cost: $400,000*

**Swimming Pool**
The District does not have an indoor pool. Therefore, the District cannot offer water safety and swim instruction onsite. In addition, the girls swim team must co-op with Monroe. The District could explore building a swimming pool for school and community use as well as consider adding a boys swim team. The project could include:
- An 8-lane, 25-meter pool with diving well
- Spectator seating
- A dedicated community entrance
*Estimated cost: $12 million*

**Gym and Fitness Area**
The District could explore expanding the gym and fitness area, which would provide additional:
Space for physical education
- Practice space for school teams and youth programs
- Space to host youth sporting events
- Space for school and community use, especially in the winter months
- Seating with accessible bleachers to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues

The project would also remodel the locker rooms and restrooms, which are original to the building.
*Estimated cost: $11.8 million*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>All Residents</th>
<th>Staff Residents</th>
<th>Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>updating/expanding the STEAM/Tech. Ed. (Shop) areas in the near future? $7.2 million</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>2.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>addressing the capacity needs at the elementary school in the near future? $6 million</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>2.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>renovating the Middle/High School classrooms and support areas in the near future? $4.6 million</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>2.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>expanding the kitchen and cafeteria in the near future? $3.1 million</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improving pedestrian safety, traffic flow and site circulation? $4.8 million</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building a track around a soccer/football field in the near future? $6 million</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expanding the gym and fitness area in the near future? $11.8 million</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>1.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>adding a youth baseball/softball field in the near future? $200,000</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>1.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>building a multi-purpose music classroom/auditorium in the near future? $12 million</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>1.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>If a new soccer/football field was built, what priority would you place on adding artificial turf? $1.2 million</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>building a swimming pool in the near future? $12 million</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>1.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>replacing the tennis courts in the near future? $400,000</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elementary School
The current school was built nearly 70 years ago as a high school and was converted into the elementary school in 1995. The school now serves students in early childhood through 5th grade, is operating near capacity and additional space will soon be needed. A decision is needed on whether further investments should be made in this school or if a new school should be built in the near future.

Estimated cost to build a new elementary school: $34 million
Estimated cost to add/renovate classrooms at the existing site: $6 million

What advice would you give the District regarding the elementary school?
(New Glarus School District Residents Only)
In addition to the cost to build the pool, the District would need to spend approximately $150,000 each year to heat, clean, operate and supervise the pool.

If you would support a capital referendum to build the pool, would you also support an operational referendum to heat, clean and staff the pool?

*(New Glarus School District Residents Only)*

- 39% Yes
- 21% No
- 26% I'm not sure/need more information

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tax Funding Support
The cost to address all of the needs identified in this survey exceeds the District’s current borrowing capacity of nearly $45 million. Therefore, projects would need to be completed in phases, based on the priorities of the community and its willingness to financially support the projects.

The following table shows the tax impact for various referendum amounts. The District would like to know your level of support should it consider a referendum in the future. The following table shows the estimated tax increase over the current level for various amounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referendum Amount</th>
<th>$17.5 million</th>
<th>$22.5 million</th>
<th>$27.5 million</th>
<th>$32.5 million</th>
<th>$37.5 million</th>
<th>$44.5 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax increase per $100,000 of property</td>
<td>No increase over the current level</td>
<td>$57 per year $4.75/month</td>
<td>$114 per year $9.50/month</td>
<td>$171 per year $14.25/month</td>
<td>$227 per year $18.92/month</td>
<td>$307 per year $25.58/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How much of a tax impact would you support through a referendum in the near future, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?

(New Glarus School District Residents Only)

- Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
  - 8% would support 0% tax impact
  - 6% would support 20% tax impact
  - 9% would support 40% tax impact
  - 18% would support 60% tax impact
  - 13% would support 80% tax impact
  - 14% would support 100% tax impact

- Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
  - 33% would support 0% tax impact
  - 6% would support 20% tax impact
  - 12% would support 40% tax impact
  - 18% would support 60% tax impact
  - 8% would support 80% tax impact
  - 7% would support 100% tax impact

- Staff Residents
  - 37% would support 0% tax impact
  - 8% would support 20% tax impact
  - 14% would support 40% tax impact
  - 25% would support 60% tax impact
  - 4% would support 80% tax impact
  - 4% would support 100% tax impact

- All Residents
  - 25% would support 0% tax impact
  - 6% would support 20% tax impact
  - 11% would support 40% tax impact
  - 18% would support 60% tax impact
  - 9% would support 80% tax impact
  - 10% would support 100% tax impact

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

- I would only support a smaller referendum
- I'm not sure/need more information
- I would not support any referendum

$44.5 million
$37.5 million
$32.5 million
$27.5 million
$22.5 million
$17.5 million
$12.5 million
$7.5 million
$2.5 million
Thank you!