

June-July 2020

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# Survey Results

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JUNE – JULY 2020



LAVALLEE|BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

# Staff Survey

## Space Shortages

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-  Do not have enough Classrooms
-  Missing Special Education Space
-  Lacking Small Group Areas
-  Lacking Storage
-  Lack Common spaces outside classrooms for individual and small group learning
-  Lacking Art/Music Space

# Staff Survey

## Education Environment Issues

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-  Poor HVAC Systems (Air Quality / Comfort Issues)
-  Poor electrical infrastructure, access to power/technology
-  Lack Modern Educational environments (Collaborative Technology Rich Spaces)
-  Lighting is poor, non-dimmable
-  Acoustic Separation Issues
-  Many Classrooms are Undersized / AMS Triangle Rooms are challenging to teach in

# Community Survey

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## **MOST PRESSING NEEDS TO ADDRESS (RANKED TOP 3)**

1. Aging and Inefficient Facilities
2. Increasing enrollment and large class sizes and growing teacher/student ratios
3. Safety & Security

## **PRIORITIES RATED VERY CRITICAL OR CRITICAL**

-  Building Safety & Security
-  Updated Technology and Science Labs
-  Lower Student/Teacher ratios
-  Energy Efficient/Updated Mechanical Systems
-  Updated Special Education Space

# Community Survey

## QUALITY SCHOOLS

“School quality/ranking is #1 factor in property values. It is most affected by teacher quality, class size and parental involvement and support.”

## PROPERTY VALUE

“Amherstonians have long prided themselves on the great educational systems we've had in place for decades. It's attracted many residents in town and help drive up property values. However, that regional reputation for "great schools" is waning, not because of the education, but because of the facilities and being less desirable compared to surrounding communities. Therefore we face a challenge with holding strong property values, in large part supported by the reputation of Amherst Schools.”

## PRUDENT SPENDING

“Spend as if it were all your money. Wisely and prudent.”

## TIME FOR A SOLUTION

“These buildings are old, dated, in need of repair and too crowded in many grades. I went to Clark-Wilkins 30 years ago and the facilities my kids go to are essentially the same. (Just older and more crowded). Band aids like portables at Wilkins have to go if for no other reason than they are unsafe for many reasons. As currently situated, these buildings are not adequate to meet the needs of today's students. Failure to do something soon is going to impact the quality of education, the well being of our kids and at some point, everyone's property values.”

## NO MORE BAND-AIDS

“My hope is that any work/improvements done will not be a band-aid type fix but a truly thought out long term solution.”