

Referendum Advisory Committee Recommendation

November 20, 2018

Background on the Committee

As a quick refresher:

- The Advisory Committee is comprised of 64 community members representing teachers, PTO, and various community groups.
- The Committee has invested four evenings in a process of review and discovery designed to help them reach consensus on their recommendation to the Board of Education regarding the proposed referendum.
- The Committee considered four options for the referendum amount and the building construction or renovation items to be included in the referendum: \$107M, \$158M, \$185M, \$234M.
- The \$185M schedule of renovations was developed through Committee discussion and approved by the Board of Education as an option: the \$107M option was eliminated by the Committee.

The Charge from the Board of Education

The Referendum Advisory Committee will bring a recommendation to the Board of Education for their consideration that meet with the approval of at least 60% of the group.

Getting to Consensus

At the start of the meeting, we asked each participant to rank the three remaining options 1, 2, or 3.

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
\$158M Option	20	12	21
\$185M Option	25	27	1
\$234M Option	8	14	30

Based on the results of this polling we eliminated the \$234M option.

The First Vote

The Committee members were asked to vote for either the \$158M option or the \$185M option.

	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
\$158M Option	24		
\$185M Option	35		
Consensus Percentage	59.3%		

- Although we were near consensus, we asked for comments regarding whether this was our final answer.
- Individuals in the “\$158M camp” discussed their concerns.
- Individuals in the “\$185M camp” rebutted with why the community should invest in the schools.
- We then asked if another vote was warranted. The group agreed to take a second vote.

The Second Vote

The Committee members were asked again to vote for either the \$158M option or the \$185M option.

	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
\$158M Option	24	33	
\$185M Option	35	26	
Consensus Percentage	59.3%	55.9%	

- The swing in votes from the \$185M option to the \$158M seemed focused on concerns about what the community would pass versus what was included in the options.
- During discussion the Committee members asked to add the Grove mobiles to the \$158M option because of safety concerns.

The Third Vote

To try to reach a 60% consensus, the Committee members were asked to vote for either the \$185M option or the \$160 option (\$158M plus \$2M to replace the Grove mobile classrooms).

	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
\$160M Option	24	33	39
\$185M Option	35	26	20
Consensus Percentage	59.3%	55.9%	66.1%

The third vote netted a consensus around \$160M as a referendum amount.

Observations from the Chairmen

Although the Committee got to a consensus recommendation, there are some observations that don't come through in the counts:

- ✓ There was consensus around eliminating all mobile classrooms in the District because of security concerns.
- ✓ The Committee was concerned about picking an amount the community would support.
- ✓ There is a group that is passionate about Hough Street School's lack of parity regarding the kitchen, the multi-purpose room and the gym.
- ✓ Another group, including a kindergarten teacher, was passionate about classrooms for full day kindergarten.
- ✓ There were a number of other issues including STEM classrooms, the PE space and Sunny Hill School with supporters who spoke about the needs at these schools.