

Table 11:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Extent to Which School Facilities Meet the Needs of the Educational Program

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
All facilities meet needs	53	18.0
Most facilities meet needs	161	54.8
Some facilities meet needs	62	21.1
Few facilities meet needs	16	5.4
None meet needs	1	0.3
No response	1	0.3
Total	294	100.0

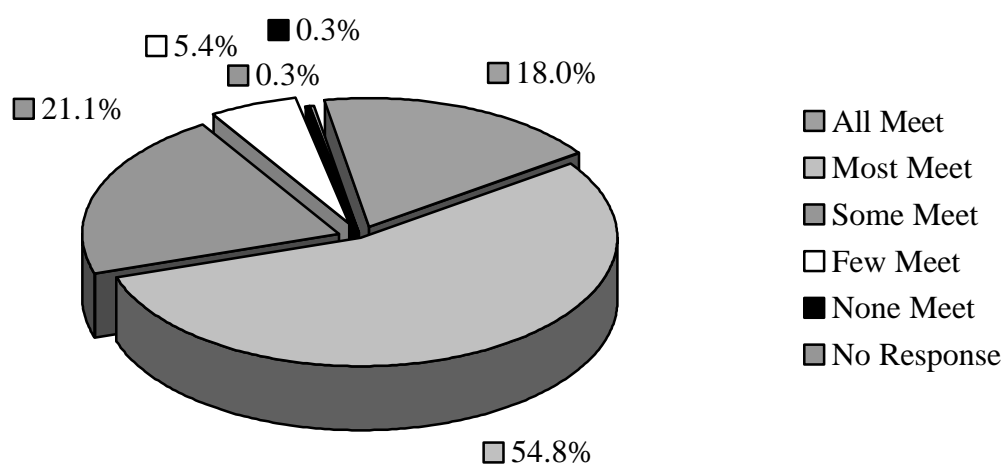


Figure 5: Distribution of respondents indicating extent to which facilities in their district meet the needs of the educational program

Table 12:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Extent to Which School Facilities are Technologically Adequate for the Future

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
All are adequate	66	22.4
More than half are adequate	129	43.9
Less than half are adequate	78	26.5
None are adequate	17	5.8
No response	4	1.4
Total	294	100.0

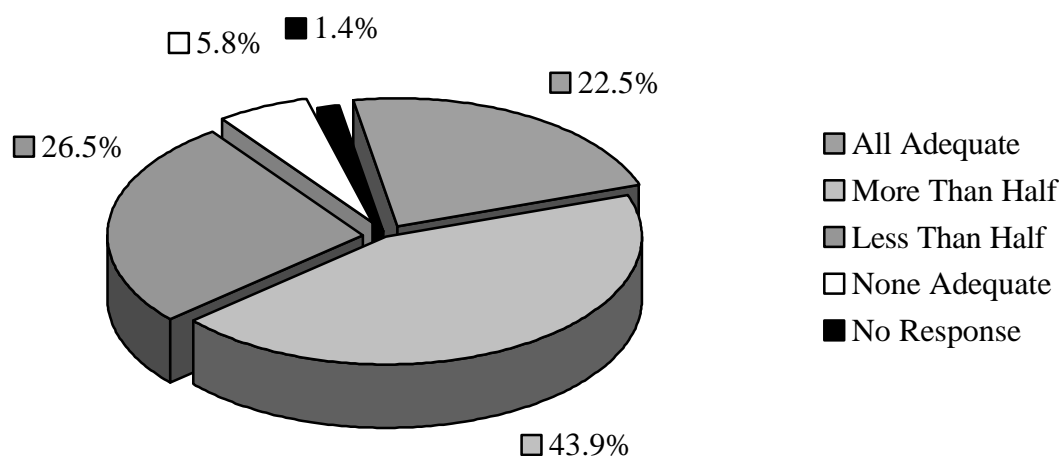


Figure 6: Distribution of respondents indicating extent to which school facilities in their district are technologically adequate

Table 13:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding Extent to Which Community is Proud of Condition of School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
To a great extent	82	27.9
To a significant extent	111	37.8
Somewhat	77	26.2
To a small extent	15	5.1
Not at all	5	1.7
No response	4	1.4
Total	294	100.0

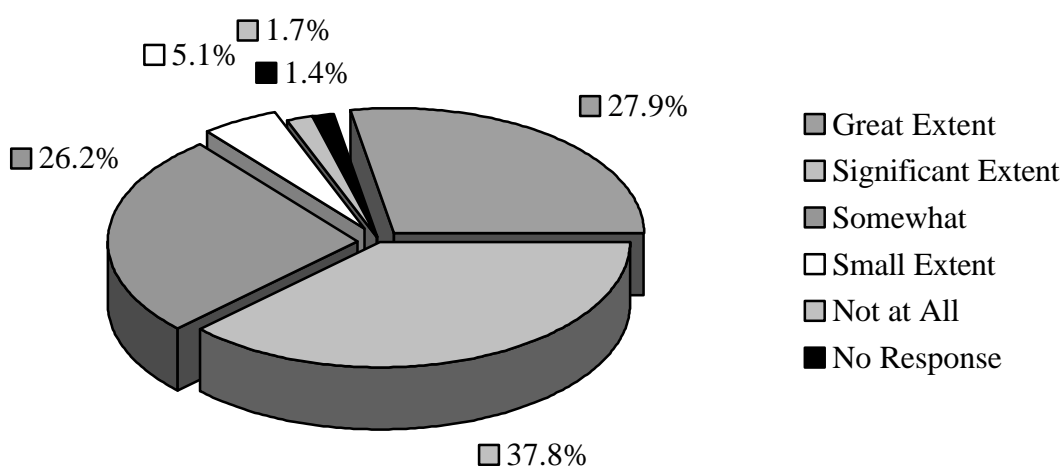


Figure 7: Distribution of respondents indicating the extent of pride in the overall condition of school facilities in their district

Research Question 2: How do selected school board members perceive the maintenance of existing public school facilities in their district?

The survey contained seven questions (8-14) that asked selected school board members to indicate their perceptions regarding the maintenance of existing public school facilities in their district. Almost three-quarters of the respondents ((73.8%) indicated that the maintenance of school facilities was one of their top priorities (Table 14). More than two-thirds (70.4%) reported that less than 5 percent of the total school system budget was designated for this purpose (Table 15). The majority of the respondents (56.1%) expressed the opinion that the amount of money spent on maintenance was adequate (Table 16). Almost two-thirds of the respondents (65%) characterized their school board as proactive in the maintenance of school facilities (Table 17). Nearly half the respondents (48.7%) indicated that responsibility for school facility maintenance belonged to the school district. The other half was equally divided in assigning that responsibility to either the school district and state (24.2%) or to the school district, state and federal government (24.2%) (Table 18). More than two-thirds of the respondents (68.7%) reported that school facility maintenance is more efficient and cost-effective when it is performed by a combination of school system personnel and outside contractors (Table 19). Lastly, the data show that 46.9 percent of the respondents believed that the use of outside contractors for maintenance purposes should result in a reduction in school system facility support personnel. Almost twenty-eight percent (27.9%) responding to this question indicated that re-deployment of these personnel within the school system should occur (Table 20).

Table 14:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Extent to Which Maintaining School Facilities is a School Board Priority

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Top priority	10	3.4
One of the top priorities	217	73.8
Middle priority	59	20.1
Low priority	6	2.0
Not a priority	1	.3
No response	1	.3
Total	294	100.0

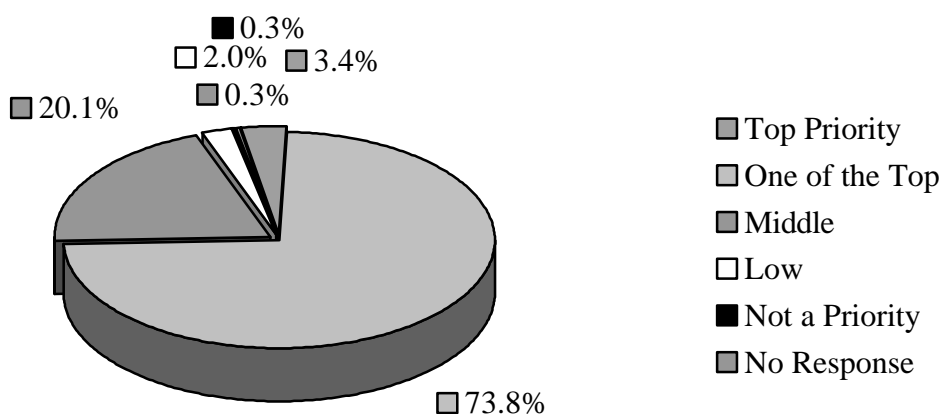


Figure 8: Distribution of respondents indicating the extent to which the maintenance of school facilities is a school board priority in their district

Table 15:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Percentage of Total School System Budget Designated for the Maintenance of Existing School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
More than 5%	64	21.8
3-5%	116	39.5
1-3%	85	28.9
Less than 1%	6	2.0
None	1	.3
No response	22	7.5
Total	294	100.0

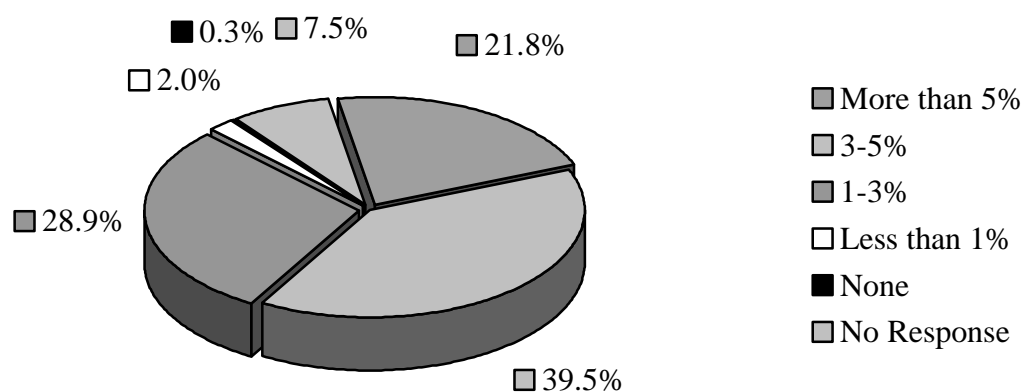


Figure 9: Distribution of respondents indicating the percentage of the school system budget designated for maintenance of facilities in their district

Table 16:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Extent to Which the Amount of Money Spent on the Maintenance of School Facilities is Adequate

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
More than adequate	21	7.1
Adequate	165	56.1
Less than adequate	105	35.7
No response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

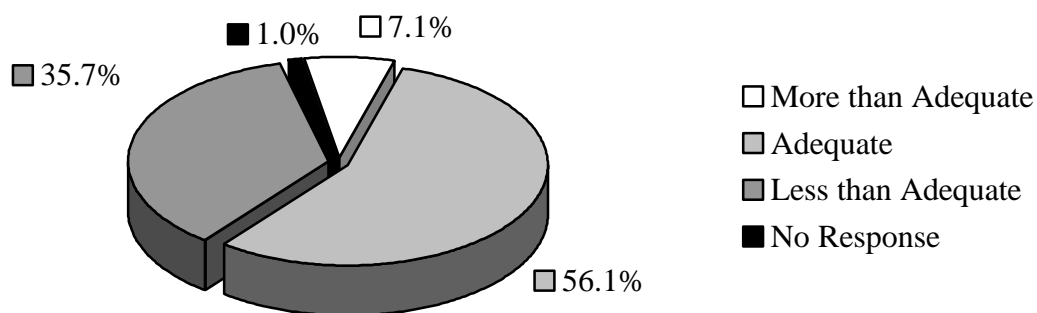


Figure 10: Distribution of respondents indicating perceptions regarding the adequacy of the school system budget spent on maintenance of facilities

Table 17:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding a Description of School Board Action in Maintaining School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Proactive	191	65.0
Reactive	88	29.9
Not involved	12	4.1
No response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

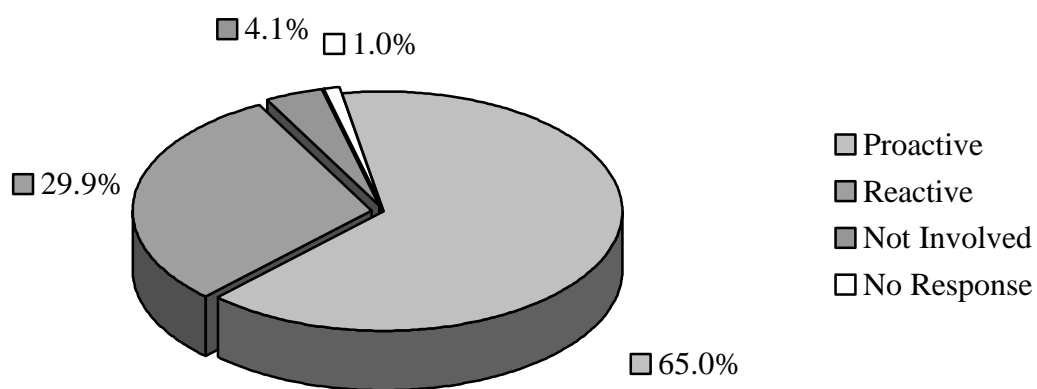


Figure 11: Distribution of respondents indicating the type of school board action taken in their district regarding the maintenance of school facilities

Table 18:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding Which Governmental Body Has Primary Responsibility for School Facility Maintenance

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
School district	143	48.6
State	3	1.0
Federal government	0	0.0
State and federal government	2	.7
School district and state	71	24.2
School district and federal government	1	.3
School district, state and federal government	71	24.2
No response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

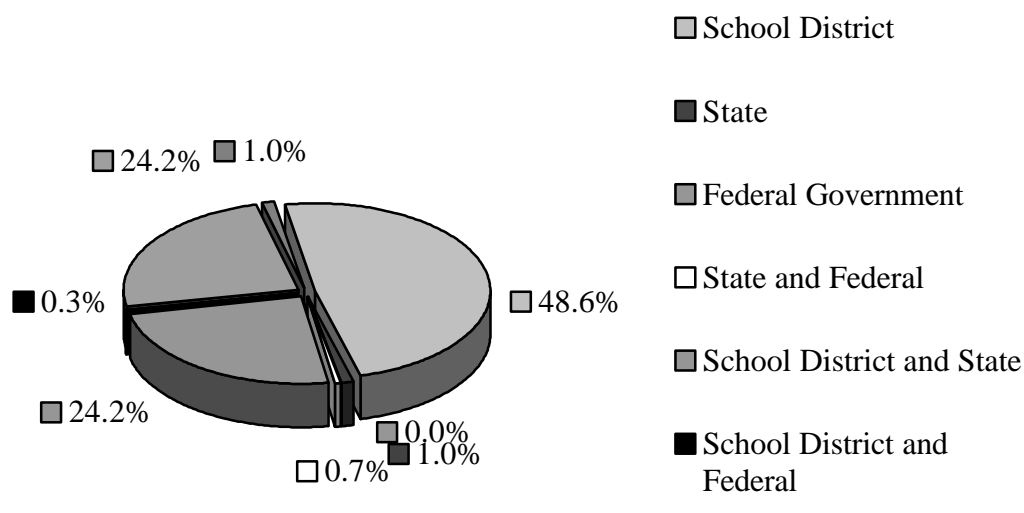


Figure 12: Distribution of respondents indicating perceptions regarding which governmental agency should have primary responsibility for school facility maintenance

Table 19:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding which Personnel Best Contribute to the Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness of Maintenance

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
School system personnel	85	28.9
Outside contractors	6	2.0
A combination of above	202	68.7
No response	1	.3
Total	294	100.0

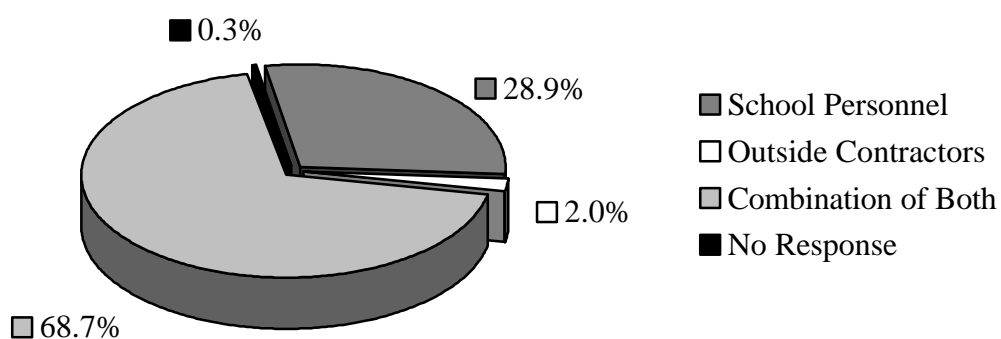


Figure 13: Distribution of respondents indicating which personnel best contributes to the efficiency and cost effectiveness of facility maintenance

Table 20:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Result of Outside Contractors for School Facility Maintenance

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Reduction in school system facility support personnel	51	17.4
Re-deployment of school system facility support personnel	138	46.9
No outside contractors	82	27.9
No response	23	7.8
Total	294	100.0

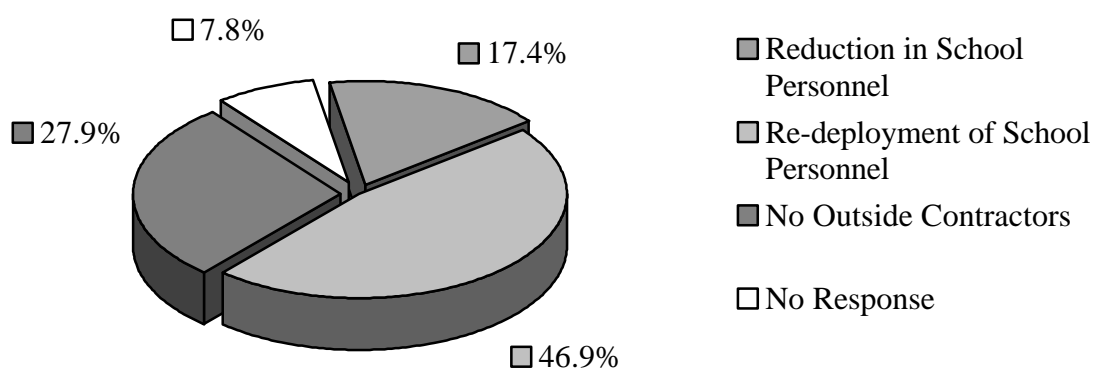


Figure 14: Distribution of respondents indicating the result of using outside contractors on school facility personnel

Research Question 3: What actions have been taken by selected school boards to address the improvement and renovation of existing school facilities?

The survey contained seven questions (15-21) that asked selected school board members to indicate their perceptions regarding actions taken by their boards to address the improvement and renovation of existing school facilities. The results in Table 21 clearly indicate that almost sixty percent (59.5%) of the responding board members believed that they received enough information about the need to improve and renovate existing school facilities in order to make effective decisions. Overwhelmingly, these respondents also indicated that it was the superintendent and school system staff who were the primary impetus for school board actions regarding the improvement and renovation of school buildings (82%) (Table 22). Again, almost sixty percent (59.5%) reported that their school board was implementing an approved plan to systematically address improvement and renovation issues in their district (Table 23). When asked to give their opinion regarding the adequacy of money spent on improvement and renovation, the respondents were divided between adequate funding (48.3%) and a less than adequate amount (41.2%) (Table 24). The majority of board members (56.1%) reported a variety of response combinations to indicate what factors are the primary impetus for decisions to improve and renovate school facilities in their districts. Within these combinations, the largest group of respondents (7.1%) expressed concerns about technology and school building quality and condition. Another 5.8 percent added changes in the educational program to enrollment issues, technology concerns and quality and condition concerns. Finally, 6.1 percent indicated that improvement and renovation decisions were a product of all of these categories, as were state and federal mandates. The two largest discrete response categories to this question indicated changes in enrollment (12.9%) or the quality and condition of existing facilities (30.1%) as the primary impetus for action. The data for this survey item is reported in Table 25. When asked to report how their school board has raised funds to improve and renovate school facilities over the years, 26.9 percent indicated that this was accomplished by proposing bond issues to the community. Fourteen percent reported that this was accomplished through additions to the baseline budget. A combination of bond issues and baseline

budget increases was reported by 18.4 percent of the respondents. Almost twenty-three percent (22.8%) indicated that bonds, tax increases and baseline budget additions were utilized for this purpose (Table 26). When asked to express an opinion regarding the proper role for federal funding of the improvement and renovation of existing school facilities, 41.5 percent reported that it should be provided in block grants without matching fund stipulations. Almost twenty-eight percent (27.6%) indicated that no federal funds should be provided, as this is not the business of the federal government (Table 27).

Table 21:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Receipt of Sufficient Information Needed to Make Effective Decisions Concerning the Improvement and Renovation of Existing School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
More than enough	77	26.2
Enough	175	59.5
Less than enough	40	13.6
None	1	.3
No response	1	.3
Total	294	100.0

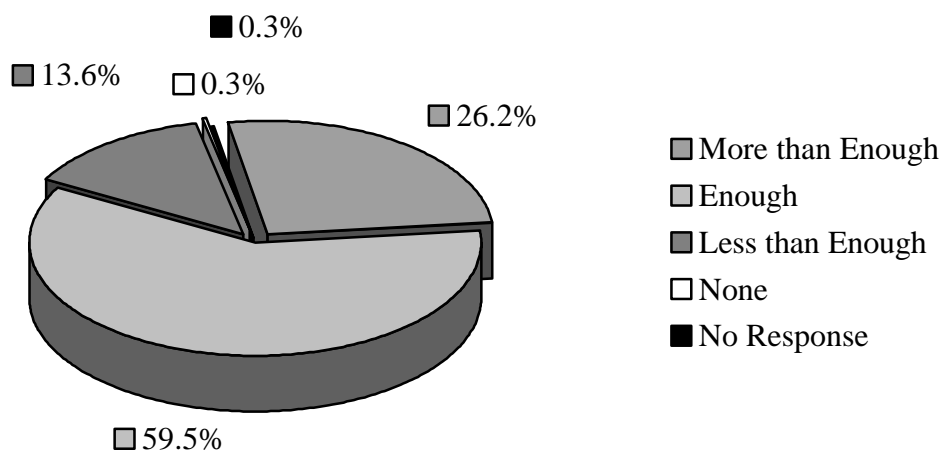


Figure 15: Distribution of respondents indicating the adequacy of information received in order to make improvement and renovation decisions

Table 22:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Primary Impetus for School Board Action Related to the Improvement and Renovation of School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Superintendent and school staff	241	82.0
State and/or federal requirements	7	2.4
Parental pressures and concerns	16	5.4
Municipal governing body	1	.3
Combinations of above	25	8.5
No response	4	1.4
Total	294	100.0

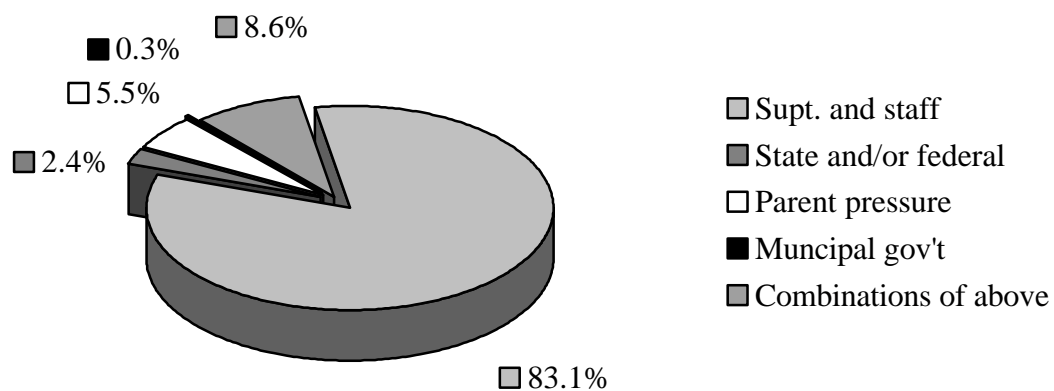


Figure 16: Distribution of respondents indicating the primary impetus for board action regarding improvement and renovation issues

Table 23:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Indicating Whether or Not Their School Board Has an Approved Plan to Systematically Address the Improvement and Renovation of Existing School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Currently drafting a plan	50	17.0
Implementing an approved plan	175	59.5
Responding to constituent demands on a case by case basis	32	10.9
Do not currently have a plan	32	10.9
No response	5	1.7
Total	294	100.0

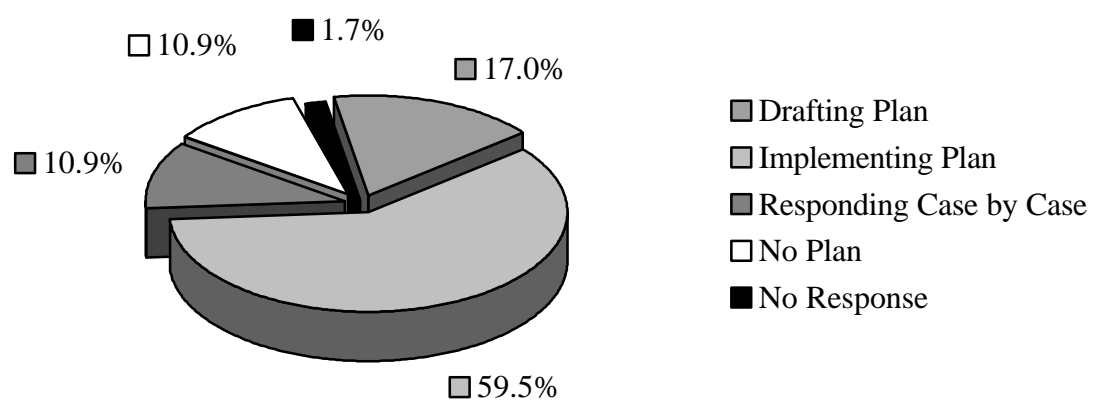


Figure 17: Distribution of respondents indicating the status of a plan for the improvement and renovation of school facilities

Table 24:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Indicating Whether or Not the Amount of Money Spent on the Improvement and Renovation of School Facilities is Adequate

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
More than adequate	28	9.5
Adequate	142	48.3
Less than adequate	121	41.2
No response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

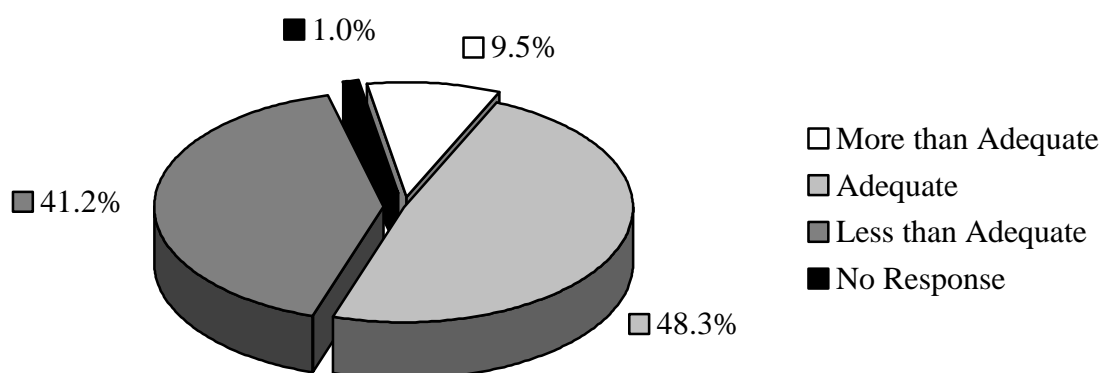


Figure 18: Distribution of respondents indicating the extent to which money spent on the improvement and renovation of school facilities is adequate

Table 25:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Indicating Which Factors are the Primary Impetus for Decisions to Improve and Renovate School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Changes in the educational program (1)*	8	2.7
Changes in enrollment (2)	38	12.9
Technology requirements (3)	12	4.1
Quality and condition of facilities (4)	91	31.0
State mandates (5)	2	0.7
Federal mandates (6)	2	0.7
Combination of (3) & (4)	21	7.1
Combination of (1), (2), (3) & (4)	17	5.8

Combination of (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), & (6)	18	6.1
All other combinations	82	27.9
No Response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

* () are for identifying combinations

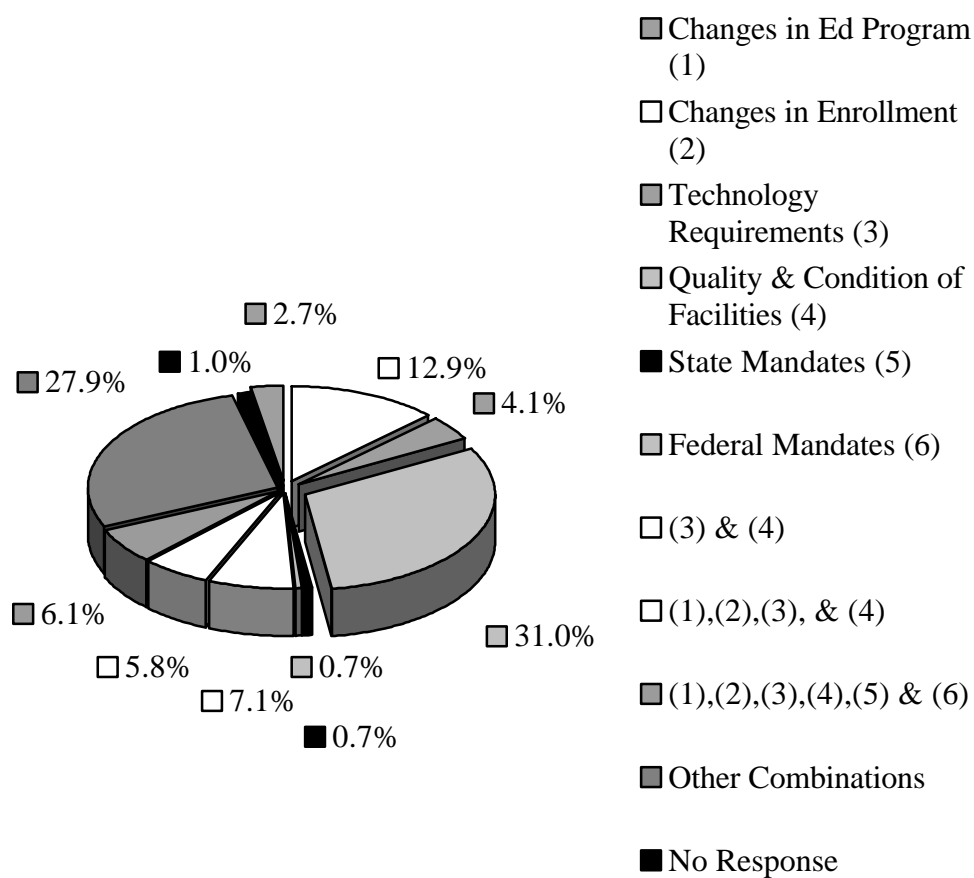


Figure 19: Distribution of respondents indicating the extent to which certain factors are the primary impetus for decisions to improve and renovate school facilities in their district

Table 26:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Indicating How Their School Board Has Raised Funds to Improve and Renovate School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
Proposing bond issues to the community (1)*	79	26.9
Supporting tax increases in the community (2)	11	3.7
Including improvement and renovation needs in the baseline budget (3)	41	14.0
None of the above	6	2.0
Combination of (1) & (2)	23	7.8
Combination of (1) & (3)	54	18.4
Combination of (2) & (3)	10	3.4
Combination of (1), (2) & (3)	67	22.8
No response	3	1.0
Total	294	100.0

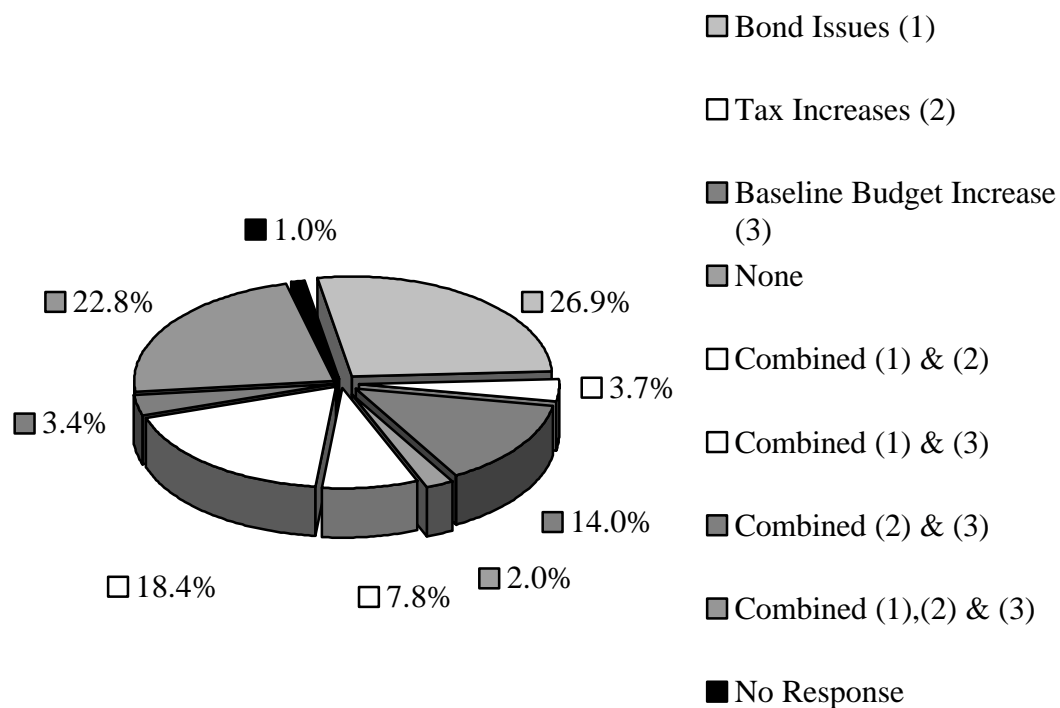


Figure 20: Distribution of respondents indicating how their school board raised funds to improve and renovate schools in their district

Table 27:

Distribution of Selected School Board Members Perceptions Regarding the Proper Role of Federal Funds for the Improvement and Renovation of Existing School Facilities

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent
No federal funds should be provided	81	27.5
Federal funds should be provided in block grants without matching fund stipulations	122	41.5
Federal funds should be provided in block grants with matching fund stipulations	77	26.2
No response	14	4.8
Total	294	100.0

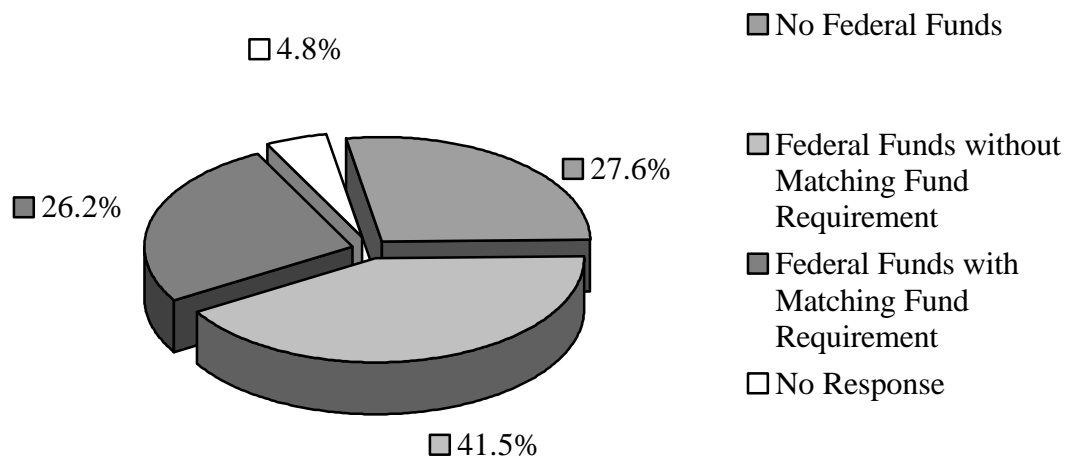


Figure 21: Distribution of respondents indicating perceptions regarding the proper role of federal funds for the improvement and renovation of existing school facilities

Summary

Chapter 4 provided selected demographic characteristics about the respondents to the survey and presented the findings related to the three research questions. The respondents to the survey were mostly male, Caucasian, and reported above average incomes and advanced college degrees. Slightly more than a majority reported having children in the public schools and categorized themselves as political conservatives who typically served four-year terms on an elected school board.

In response to the first research question, the data clearly indicate that the majority of the schools in the districts of selected board members who responded to this survey are between 25-50 years old. The data also show that despite the age of the schools, board members clearly perceive the quality and condition of their schools as adequate or better than adequate. They also indicate that their school facilities meet the needs of the educational program. More than half the respondents reported that their schools were safe and free from environmental hazards and that a plan to evaluate their quality and condition was in place. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents indicated that their communities were proud of the quality and condition of their schools.

In response to the second research question, most board members perceive themselves as proactive in addressing maintenance issues. The data show that almost three-fourths of the board members indicate that the maintenance of school facilities is a top priority that requires less than 5% of the baseline budget in their district. Most of the respondents say that this is an adequate percentage of funding needed to accomplish maintenance tasks. The majority also report that both school system personnel and outside contractors should be utilized to perform maintenance tasks with most indicating that outsourcing should result in a reduction of school facility personnel. Approximately half the respondents to the survey indicate that responsibility for school maintenance should be a school district function; the other half believe that the state and/or federal government should have responsibilities in this area.

Response to the third research question indicates that impetus for board action with respect to the improvement and renovation of existing school facilities is the result of input from the school division superintendent and staff. The data show that most school districts are implementing a plan to systematically address improvement and

renovation issues. However, board members are clearly divided regarding the adequacy of money spent on these projects in their district. The data also show that the greatest impetus for improvement and renovation projects in the school district is related to concerns about maintaining the quality and condition of existing school facilities. The second greatest impetus is related to changes in student enrollment. The majority of board members favor bond issues as a means of raising funds for improvement and renovation projects. They also are receptive to federal funding support in this area provided that it is delivered in the form of block grants without matching fund stipulations. More than one-fifth of the respondents reports that funding for these projects is not the business of the federal government.

Chapter 4 reported the study data that were collected through surveys mailed to a coded stratified random sample of sitting school board members. The chapter provided selected descriptive characteristics about the respondents to the survey, presented the findings related to the three research questions, and summarized the results.