

APPENDIX B – NARRATIVE COMMENTS FROM SURVEYS

At the conclusion of the survey, principals were invited to provide any additional information about the condition of their school building or classrooms as well as any comments they wished to make about the role school facilities play in student achievement. The following comments were provided by principals:

1. Health Concerns – walls in many classrooms have crumbling plaster which we believe, but have not proved, that (sic) contributed to teacher and student respiratory problems. Academic Concerns – Also bathroom space is not adequate. Students spend valuable extra minutes daily in line to use the bathroom. Over a period of the week this could add up to 30 to 40 minutes. Inadequate space to properly divide students in reading groups is also an issue. Increased absences because students in modular units are required move back and forth in the rain, snow, sleet, cold weather with no overhead canopy protection. These are but a few.
2. This school building is scheduled to be demolished and replaced by September, 2000.
3. We need electrical service upgrade and AC severely. Also, a larger office area.
4. We are undergoing major renovations and new additions beginning in May, 1999. Wiring and electrical system will be upgraded. When completed, our school will meet or surpass standards for elementary schools except for land.
5. The facility needs to be adequate, but the more important factor is to have good committed and capable teachers.
6. This is an outstanding building with a team of outstanding maintenance people who are only limited by the funds available for some cosmetic items. Only negative is an HVAC system that doesn't quite do the job.

7. The state specs. lack vision. 16 and 20 ft. blackboards are ridiculous! In planning for building new schools for elementary, I hope persons are considering new school community designs!
8. The HVAC system is scheduled to be replaced Summer 2000. This will be a much needed improvement.
9. All buildings should be air conditioned. Additional electrical power should be installed to meet increased technology needs.
10. All K-5 and Special Education rooms are small rooms without windows in a portion of the building constructed in 1908 and renovated many times. There is bad air circulating within the building over dirty dust filled air ducts.
11. I believe the (unreadable) and the facility plays a critical role – grouping classes, teacher morale, pride, etc.
12. This building is closing September, 2000.
13. This building offers very little space for flexible planning (labs, art room, theatres, pod areas, etc.) and frequently students are restricted in the types of activities in which they can engage. Additionally, the moveable partitions and lack of doors are not in the best interest of the students – many auditory and visual distractions.
14. Our maintenance department ... responds quickly to any repatch (sic) needs. The building was renovated 5 years ago and all aspects of facility were addressed. We are scheduled for a 10 room addition that is to begin in June of 1999.
15. Although the building was completed (sic) renovated 10-11 years ago, the rooms are too small for today's learning/teaching practices, which are experientially and activity-based. Old buildings lack flexibility due to old design techniques, e.g. massive load-bearing walls that can't be modified or cut.
16. This facility is being closed because of its age and no room for expansion. It is right in the midst of a residential area in the town ..., two blocks from all major business services and government related

- structures. It has the distinction of being the oldest facility. A school facility is important in facilitating instruction, but the most important factor is the personnel (human resources).
17. School facilities play a major role in student achievement. Schools that are not conducive to learning impacts or (unreadable) on children's learning greatly. Schools that are not wired for internet access greatly hinder a child's right to an education.
 18. Although 20 years old, our building is well-maintained. Even in lean budget years, our needs are addressed.
 19. Need storage area and bathroom facilities. Need electrical update. Needs new lighting. Needs space to work with small groups of students.
 20. Our school facility is "state of the art" and enhances our instructional program.
 21. The foundation was not properly moisture proofed. We have heavy rains, there is groundwater seepage in certain classrooms. Also moisture under the foundation causes tiles to mildew frequently.
 22. We are scheduled to undergo major renovation – January, 1999.
 23. Have recently been updated on electrical for computers, roof will soon be replaced. Areas of need are for spaces such as a clinic, copy/work room, conference room, and storage esp. for cafeteria.
 24. Our building is not air conditioned and heated utilizing an ancient boiler thus our building is either to (sic) hot or to (sic) cold. Children cannot learn in an environment that is not conducive to learning.
 25. There is no separate gym which means the cafeteria must serve as a gym and auditorium. The media center is too small. The lack of classroom space has required us to use the teacher workroom as a classroom. Resource teachers must work in hallways due to lack of classroom space. Art teacher must roll a cart from room to room. Front office space is too limited. Parking lot is too small – no guest parking. Seven classrooms have no air conditioning.

26. Our music and art teachers do not have a room of their own and must travel class to class. This severely (sic) limits their use of instruments and medias which in turn limits their instruction. It is not possible to have chorus or band. Special Education and Title I teachers use health room, conference room and old guidance office – all are very cramped.
27. Our open-space school has not had any interior additions made since its opening. I am grateful. This type of structure is very functional and gives me flexibility as I prepare the rooms each year. Our accoustic (sic) are very good.
28. A new school is scheduled to open in September, 1999 to relieve our overcrowding.
29. We are currently undergoing a major renovation. Rooms that are completed are great, but the others are just ok. They will be renovated during the remainder of this year.
30. The building is well cared for and has been over time. Our only “plague” is one common to most buildings with flat roofs – leaks! They are, however, quickly repaired until the next strong downpour.
31. Building received major addition in Summer of 1998. This was needed to resolve over-crowding and facilitate the removal of portable classrooms.
32. Our facility does not provide adequate space for individual and small group instruction such as remedial reading and math, speech, guidance, and gifted instruction. We also do not have resource areas such as a gym and art room.
33. Classroom space, with the additions of technology, current auxillary (sic) instructional aides, etc. is not suited for class sizes in excess of 24 students. This is a problem at several grade levels.
34. Classroom lockers are in poor condition. Parts are not available. Windows do not open or have missing hardware, screens, etc.

35. The school was built in a flood zone. Water/drainage problems after it rains. Pools of water sit for days – students can't go outside for activities.
36. All of my responses were for the main building we consider our school. It is currently under renovation (June 98 – December 99). We are housed in 2 8-room trailers and an old closed school - 9 classrooms, no gym – during the reconstruction. As you can imagine, we are eager to return to our school building.
37. We would like to install walls between classrooms but due to regulations have found it to be quite cost prohibitive.
38. ... Elementary is a very old school but has been well maintained by the school personnel and by the community. The school is in a rural setting and is the center of many of the community's activities. The community has tremendous pride in keeping the school attractive, yet educationally functional.
39. All doors/windows need to be replaced. AC desperately (sic) needed – 2 story building – upstairs hallway extremely hot at certain times of the year.
40. Asbestos plays a major role in wiring the school for computers. Building is brick with little exterior trim for painting. School system has a paint schedule for district. Classrooms are both open (no walls) and self-contained. Principal's office has no windows.