Community Survey Results

Killdeer Public School District

Winter 2020
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 staff, student, parent, and community surveys for school improvement
• Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process
Survey Summary

• The survey was conducted in late February through mid-March of 2020.

• 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 = 442 (169 paper)

• Response rate = 17%

• Margin of error = +/- 4.7%
Respondent Information
What is your age?

- 18-25: 2%
- 26-35: 21%
- 36-45: 23%
- 46-55: 14%
- 56-64: 20%
- 65 and older: 20%
Do you live in the Killdeer Public School District?

- Yes: 88%
- No: 10%
- Don't know: 2%
In which municipality do you reside?

- Killdeer: 69%
- Dunn Center: 18%
- Manning: 13%
Do you own property within the School District that is taxed as agricultural land?

- Yes: 47%
- No: 53%
Are you an employee of the Killdeer Public School District?

- Yes (n=79) - 18%
- No - 82%
Do you have children attending our schools?

- Yes (n=172)
- No
If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend?

- Killdeer Elementary School: 66%
- Killdeer Junior/Senior High School: 48%
- Other: 9%
- Public school outside of District: 4%
- Homeschool: 4%
- Private/parochial school: 1%
- Online/virtual school: 1%
How do you prefer to receive information regarding the Killdeer Public School District?

- School mailings: Non-Parents 71%, Parents 70%
- Email: Non-Parents 21%, Parents 65%
- Facebook: Non-Parents 24%, Parents 41%
- District/school website: Non-Parents 24%, Parents 36%
- District newsletters: Non-Parents 27%, Parents 36%
- Attend informational meetings: Non-Parents 14%, Parents 25%
- The Beulah Beacon: Non-Parents 19%, Parents 40%
- The Dickinson Press: Non-Parents 10%, Parents 18%
- School Board meetings: Non-Parents 6%, Parents 7%
- Local TV: Non-Parents 6%, Parents 14%
- Radio: Non-Parents 7%, Parents 4%
- Twitter: Non-Parents 2%, Parents 1%
The District is Growing
SCHOOL CAPACITY
District K-12 enrollment has increased by nearly 250 students in the past 10 years. In addition, there are 70 students enrolled in the District's Pre-K program. As a result, Killdeer Public School is operating over capacity. There are currently more students in classrooms than recommended, and the school is using spaces and rooms for functions other than their intended purposes, including using hallways and storage spaces for instruction. In addition, the District is renting space from the adjacent Lutheran Church this year and intends to do so again in the upcoming school year.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH
An enrollment analysis was conducted by RSP in May of 2018. The District’s 2018-19 enrollment exceeded the enrollment projections for the 2020-21 school year.

In addition, there is a significant amount of land in the District available for housing developments, which could further increase student enrollment growth. The District’s new projections anticipate another 125 students by the 2022-23 school year.
The Need to Build
Killdeer Public School is currently operating over capacity. As a result, the school is using spaces and rooms for functions other than their intended purposes, including using hallways and storage spaces for instruction.

The District explored expanding the current building:

- Horizontally; however, the current site is too small
- Vertically by adding a second and/or third floor; however, this option was found not to be feasible because the school could not be used during construction, and the cost would be more than that of building new

Given enrollment projections, the District will need to build a new school.
The Right Time
The School Board believes now is a good time to consider building a new school because:

- Interest rates remain historically low.
- The District’s current school tax levy is one of the lowest in the state.
- Dunn County can provide a grant to help offset the cost of the project.

It is important to note:

- It will take two years after a referendum is approved before any school construction is completed and spaces are available for students.
- Given the current state-imposed bonding limitation, the District can only borrow $44.2 million.

If the public supports building a new school, the primary way to obtain funding is through a referendum.
What advice would you give the District?

*(Killdeer Public School District Residents Only)*

- Pursue a referendum to build a new school: 70% (All Residents), 100% (Staff), 83% (Parents (Non-Staff)), 51% (Non-Parents (Non-Staff))
- Seek other options to alleviate the school’s overcrowding: 19% (All Residents), 0% (Staff), 12% (Parents (Non-Staff)), 29% (Non-Parents (Non-Staff))
- Not sure/need more information: 11% (All Residents), 0% (Staff), 0% (Parents (Non-Staff)), 5% (Non-Parents (Non-Staff))
New School Site
If a new high school is built, the District would need to purchase land. A parcel of land has been selected approximately ¼ mile west of the water tower as an extension of High Street. The District has negotiated a purchase agreement for this land should a referendum be successful.
New High School
The District explored various new school options and determined it was in the best long-term interest of the District to build a new high school. The existing school would remain for the PreK–6th grade students.

The new high school would be approximately 105,000 square feet and designed:

- To serve the current enrollment of students in grades 7–12 and be easily expandable for future growth
- With flexible classrooms and spaces for student collaboration and project-based learning
- With a modern technical education (shop) to support class offerings in agriculture, woods, and welding
- With a competition gym with seating for up to 1,200 (Note: The existing high school gym can seat approximately 700)
- With sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic
- With energy efficient systems and natural lighting

The estimated cost of a new high school is $38 million.
Thirty-nine percent of the cost of the project could be funded by sources other than local taxes including:

- The District would be eligible for an $8.5 million grant from Dunn County to support this project.
- Oil and Gas Gross Production Tax (GPT) revenue would contribute $6.5 million to the project.

Therefore, voters would need to approve a $23 million referendum.
Would you support a $23 million referendum to build a new high school?

Representing an annual tax impact of:
- $162 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.
- $180 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.

All Residents

- Definitely yes: 46%
- Probably yes: 19%
- Undecided: 11%
- Probably no: 5%
- Definitely no: 19%

65% Yes

24% No
Would you support a $23 million referendum to build a new high school?

Representing an annual tax impact of:
- $162 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.
- $180 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.

Staff Residents

- Definitely yes: 67%
- Probably yes: 26%
- Undecided: 2%
- Probably no: 2%
- Definitely no: 3%

93% Yes

5% No
Would you support a $23 million referendum to build a new high school?

Representing an annual tax impact of:
- $162 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.
- $180 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)

Definitely yes: 54%
Probably yes: 16%
Undecided: 14%
Probably no: 5%
Definitely no: 11%

70% Yes
16% No
Would you support a $23 million referendum to build a new high school?

Representing an annual tax impact of:
- $162 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.
- $180 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)

- Definitely yes: 35%
- Probably yes: 19%
- Undecided: 11%
- Probably no: 7%
- Definitely no: 28%

54% Yes
35% No
Additional Analysis for Support for

Percent of Resident Population Assumptions:
- Non-parent/non-staff = 75%
  - Parents = 25%
  - Staff < 1%

Of those responding either Definitely yes, or Probably yes:

\[ .75(54\%) + .25(70\%) = 58\% \]

Assuming carrying 1/3 of undecided

\[ .75(57\%) + .25(74\%) = 61.25\% \]
Additional Projects
Would you support expanding the referendum to include any of the following projects?

*Yes (10), No (1)*

<table>
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<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>
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| **Expand Career and Technical Education Labs and Classrooms:** The labs and classrooms could be expanded to allow for course offerings in agricultural, engineering, manufacturing, and electronics.  
*Est. cost: $2.2 million*  
*Representing an additional annual tax impact of:*
  *$16 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.*  
  *$18 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.* | 7.56          | 8.88            | 8.09                          | 6.82                              |
| **Add Second Gym:** A second 2-court gym could be added for physical education classes and practices.  
*Est. cost: $3.9 million*  
*Representing an additional annual tax impact of:*
  *$27 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.*  
  *$29 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.* | 5.55          | 7.28            | 6.50                          | 4.26                              |
| **Add a Performing Arts Center:** The District could build a 400–450 seat auditorium for plays, musicals, recitals, concerts, large group activities, and presentations for both school and community use.  
*Est. cost: $6.25 million*  
*Representing an additional annual tax impact of:*
  *$44 for every $100,000 of a home’s value.*  
  *$49 for every $100,000 of commercial property/agriculture land.* | 4.97          | 6.54            | 5.92                          | 3.77                              |
Thank you!

Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys
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