



MIDDLE SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING  
Report to the Board of Education 12.9.19

# Steering Committee Members

- Sarah Lidy
- Tim Peasley
- Staci Doolin
- Max Berry
- Stephen Jacobs\*
- Mary Cassell
- Angie Woodhall
- Rebecca Williams
- Jim Hobac
- Jeff Holmes
- Kris Kahler
- Keith Garner
- Lindsey Wise
- Issac Zuniga
- Kristi Harjung
- Jeremy Shaw\*
- John Ahlemeyer
- Niki Young
- Cara Pryde
- James Keith\*
- Aaron Meador
- Nick Bradon
- Amanda Giles
- Reed Sullivan\*
- Tangy Hackelman
- Madhu Jyothinagarim
- Blake West

\* = Chairpersons

# Charge:

To provide the **BEST middle school** educational environment, in the most **cost-effective** manner, that will garner **community support.**



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE



**CES #1**

—  
"Assessment,  
Programs, Initial  
Solutions"



**CES #2**

—  
"Analysis of  
Revised Solutions"



**CES #3**

—  
"Select Solutions"

All sessions 6:30–8pm | Optional building tours 6pm  
Location: Maroa-Forsyth Middle School

# M-F District Building History





# How do you think a visitor to Maroa-Forsyth Middle School would describe our current facility?



How would  
you like a  
visitor to  
describe our  
facility?





# Classrooms



Maroa-Forsyth Middle School



Charles City Middle School  
Charles City, IA

# Media/Library



Maroa-Forsyth Middle School



Jacksonville Middle School  
Jacksonville, IL



# Technology



Maroa-Forsyth Middle School



# Caf/Commons



Maroa-Forsyth Middle School



# FLEX / Breakout

- Variety of seating options
- Variety of space configurations
- Easily convertible by staff



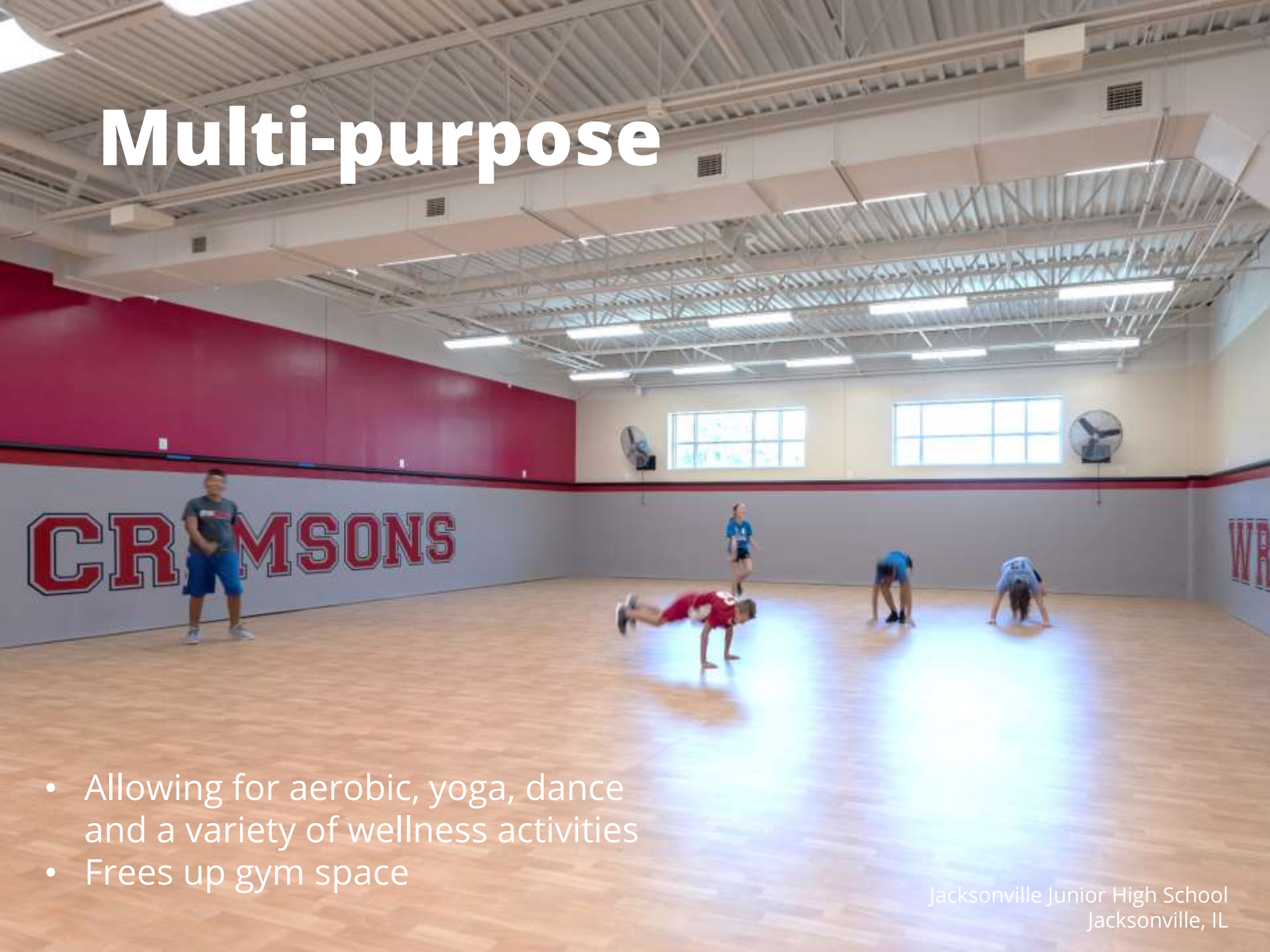
# Interdisciplinary

- Located to encourage cross-curricular instruction
- Equipped for a variety of projects and “making”
- Foster creativity and problem-solving

Jacksonville Junior High School  
Jacksonville, IL



# Multi-purpose



- Allowing for aerobic, yoga, dance and a variety of wellness activities
- Frees up gym space

Jacksonville Junior High School  
Jacksonville, IL



# Performance

The image shows a wide-angle view of a large, modern theater or auditorium. The seating is arranged in a semi-circle, with the front rows featuring black seats with green and yellow patterned upholstery. The stage is at the far end, illuminated with blue and purple lights, and has a dark curtain backdrop. The ceiling is high and industrial, with exposed ductwork, pipes, and numerous stage lights hanging from it. A large speaker is visible on the right side of the stage area.

- Builds important skills that support creative competencies
- Community venue

Meridian Jr./Sr. High  
Macon, IL



# Security

- Welcoming environment
- Enhanced building access control
- Visibility

JACKSONVILLE  
  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EST. 2017

Jacksonville Junior High School  
Jacksonville, IL



# PLANNING PRINCIPLES

*Developed by Steering Committee*

- Safe & Secure
- Student-centered
- Maintain Existing Grade Configuration
- Operationally Efficient
- Up-to-date & Accessible Infrastructure

# Capital Funding Opportunities

## KNOWN:

- \$35,600,000 Bonding Capacity
- County-Wide 1% Facilities Sales Tax
  - \$700,000 / yr revenue
  - \$250,000 / yr committed to existing district capital needs
  - \$400,000 / yr for MS
- Building Bonds
  - \$16.3 million expiring in 2021
- Forsyth .5% sales tax extension (if MS is in Forsyth)
  - Grade School bonds paid off in 2027
  - \$1,000,000 / yr revenue

## UNKNOWN:

- IL Capital Bill
  - \$900M state-wide
  - Priority to districts with plan in place
- TIF financing available
  - Usable for site extensions



MAROA-FORSYTH  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

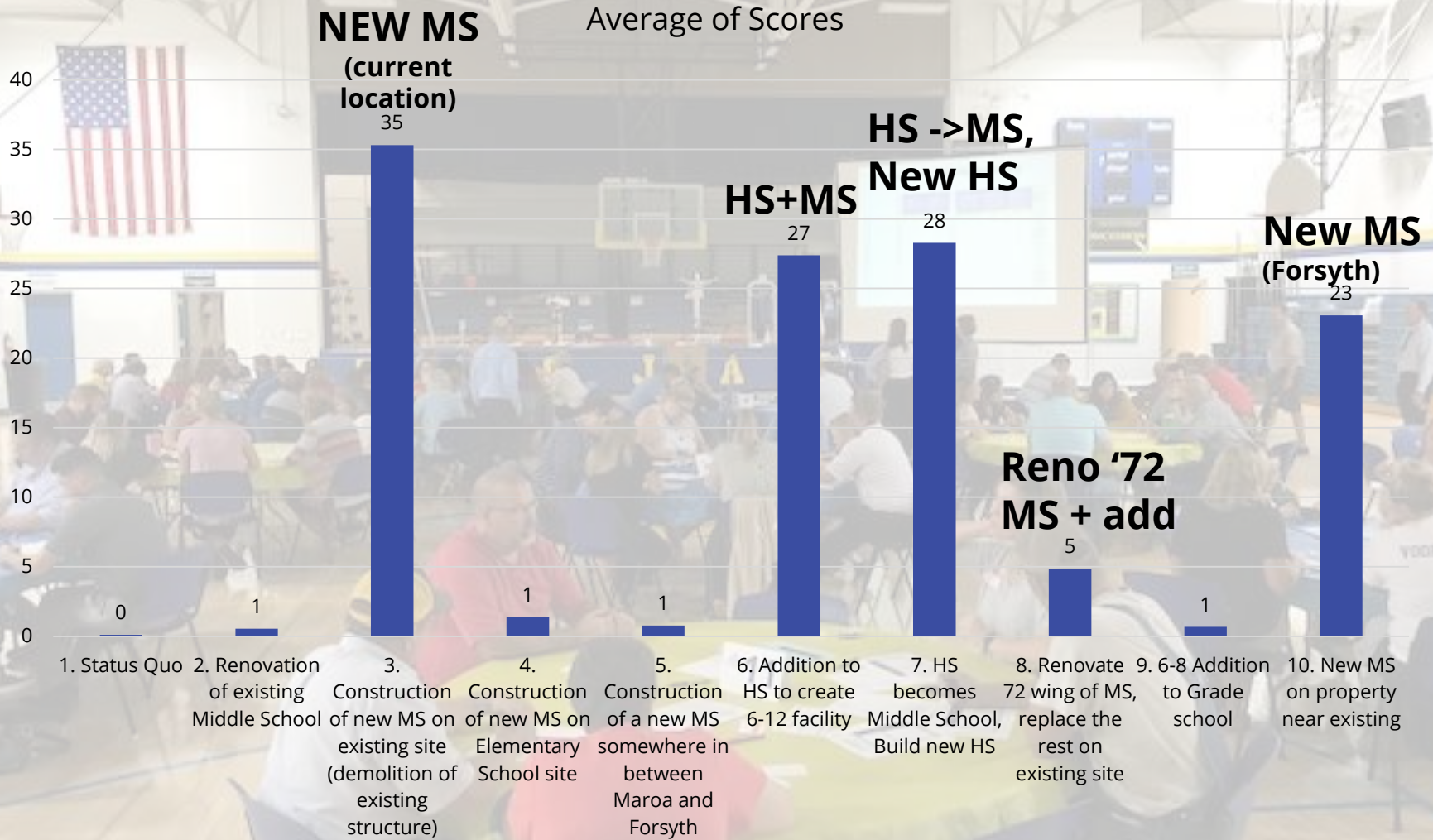
# Potential Scenarios



# CES #1 POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

1. Status Quo
2. Renovate of existing Middle School
3. New MS on existing site (demo existing)
4. New MS on Grade School site
5. New MS between Maroa and Forsyth
6. Addition to HS to create 6-12 facility
7. HS becomes MS, build new HS
8. Renovate '72 wing of MS, replace the rest on existing site
9. MS (6-8) addition to Grade School
10. New MS on property near existing

## Average of Scores



## Community Engagement Session #1 Results

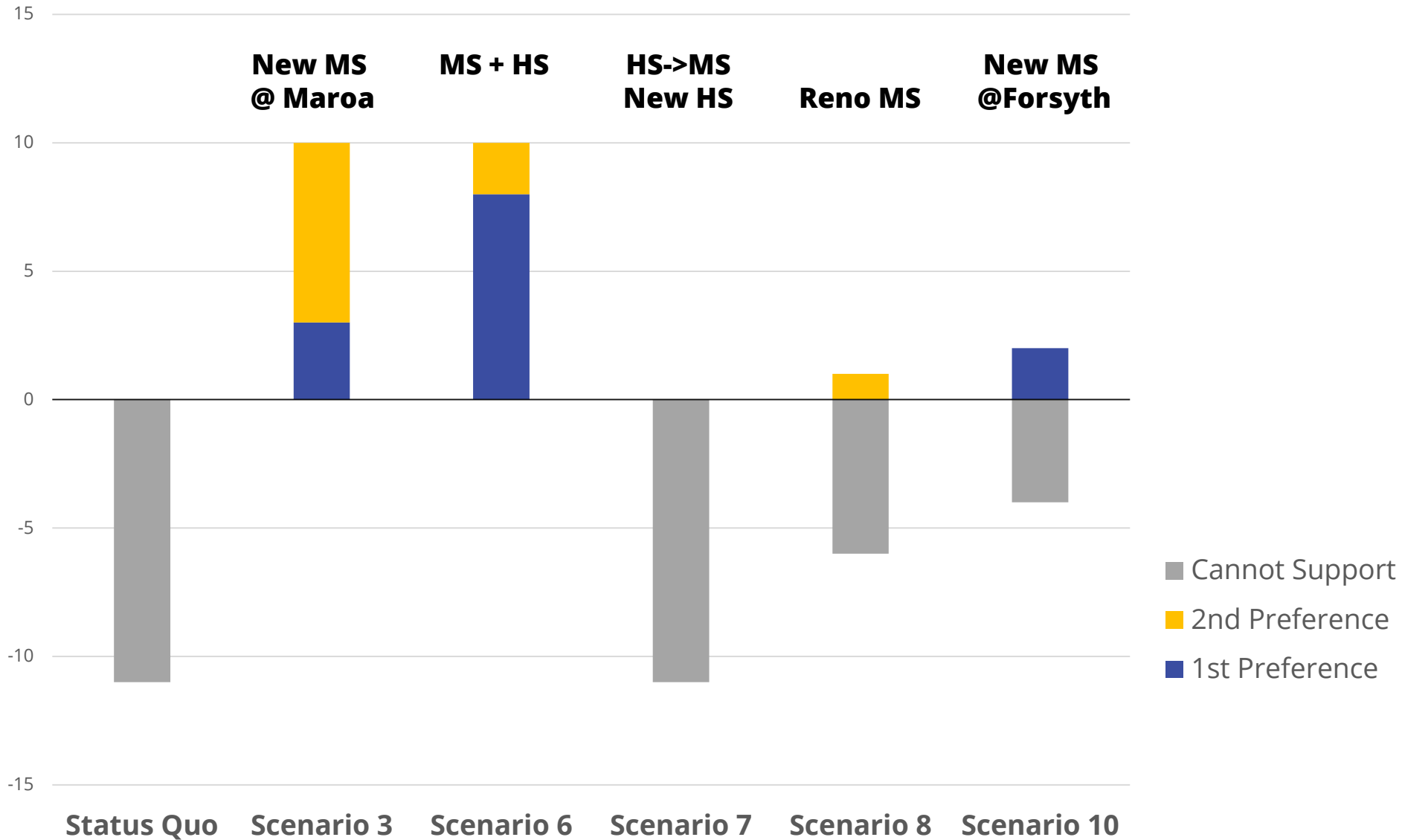
# CES #2

## Potential Scenarios





# CES #2 Scenario Preferences



# Teacher input

## Why should we keep the middle school in Maroa?

- It's not a good idea to have middle school kids on the same bus as grade school kids. (And the alternative, having MS kids with HS kids, is already happening - without much issue)
- Our math students now have access to the high school for advanced math classes. We also have some kids in our MS that are participating in the HS marching band.
- We would like to offer more opportunities for our ENCORE classes.
- We have teachers that we share with the HS.
  - We would have to hire another band and choir director.
  - We would also need another school counselor.
- If the schools are connected, a new auditorium would be added.
- We share the football field and track.
  - The MS track team would have to be bussed up to Maroa for practice. (History says this would take 2 buses to do) and the students that have detentions, or participate in scholastic bowl would no longer be able to get to practice since we would be a different locations with no transportation. Not sure track and scholastic bowl would actually be compatible as we generally share time.
- HS PE uses MS intermediate gym each year for Hockey unit.
- MS softball and baseball teams occasionally practice on turf if bad weather prior to school starting.
- I see potential issues with HS teachers coaching MS or MS Coaches coaching HS - (HS Bball, MS Volleyball, MS softball and MS track right now). No access to their athletes and will have to deal with the loading and unloading of equipment issues that need transported to meets and back to the HS for practice. Will also mean these coaches will need relieved earlier than they are now for away events which means the school will have to cover their absence. Also this just adds another issue for coaches to resolve or deal with regarding getting themselves to practice on time or having to start practices later due to working in another town and managing the equipment headaches.

- HS Coaches and Activity sponsors come over and meet w talk with 8th grade several times a year.
- FFA occasionally has had presentations or programs that t for our MS kids.
- We attend assemblies. And we share our MS musical in the HS role and been allowed to participate in.
- Homecoming Pep Rally and Parades are things MS has always i There is a greater opportunity for MS and HS teachers to collabor in the same city. Even more so with the buildings connected.
- 8th grade year. This opportunity would be lost if the MS moved with. (Open gyms, after school working with our MS students during MS allows track athletes to lift weights...)
- Practice time is split on those days. While this will still be vel time will definitely affect the length of time they can My gut says this will be a very negative impact on ches will have to extend practice time to
- Expansion and updates to the high school that population continues to grow.
- Students if connecting the two buildings and go up tremendously because all e to be bussed to Forsyth.
- The first meeting that 6-10
- So need another s
- an PK-8.
- tation of a new
- MS), how

# NEW MS <sup>3</sup> (@ current site)

**First Cost:**  
**\$28,216,000**

**Square Feet:**  
**73,194**  
(MS only)

**\$**  
**+ \$29/year on**  
**\$200,000 home**

DEMO EXISTING MS

FUTURE  
EXPANSION

FUTURE  
EXPANSION

NEW  
PARKING

EXISTING  
HIGH  
SCHOOL

NEW  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

Functional  
Adequacy:  
**92.4**  
(MS 97.6, HS 87.2)

## General Ed:

Classrooms

Media/Library

Special Ed

STEM

Flex

Exploratory

Tech-Infused

## Fine Arts:

Band

Choir

Art

Performance

## Phys Ed:

Gym

Multi-Purpose

## Support:

Dining

Security

# NEW MS (@ current site)

## PROS

- Proximity to HS creates opportunities for enhanced programs
  - students optimally grouped to meet their developmental needs,
  - shared services to students, athletic fields, economies
  - Shared staffing, flexibility, and economies
  - Possibility to add additional parking to meet HS needs

## CONS

- Construction will occur while students are on site
  - Increasing site congestion
  - Potential impacts to learning during construction
  - Inconvenience and interruptions to programs and activities
  - Construction will require students to locate to a portion of the existing MS during construction
  - Potential increase in construction time
- No enhancement to HS educational learning environments
- Potential property tax increase \$29/year on 200K home



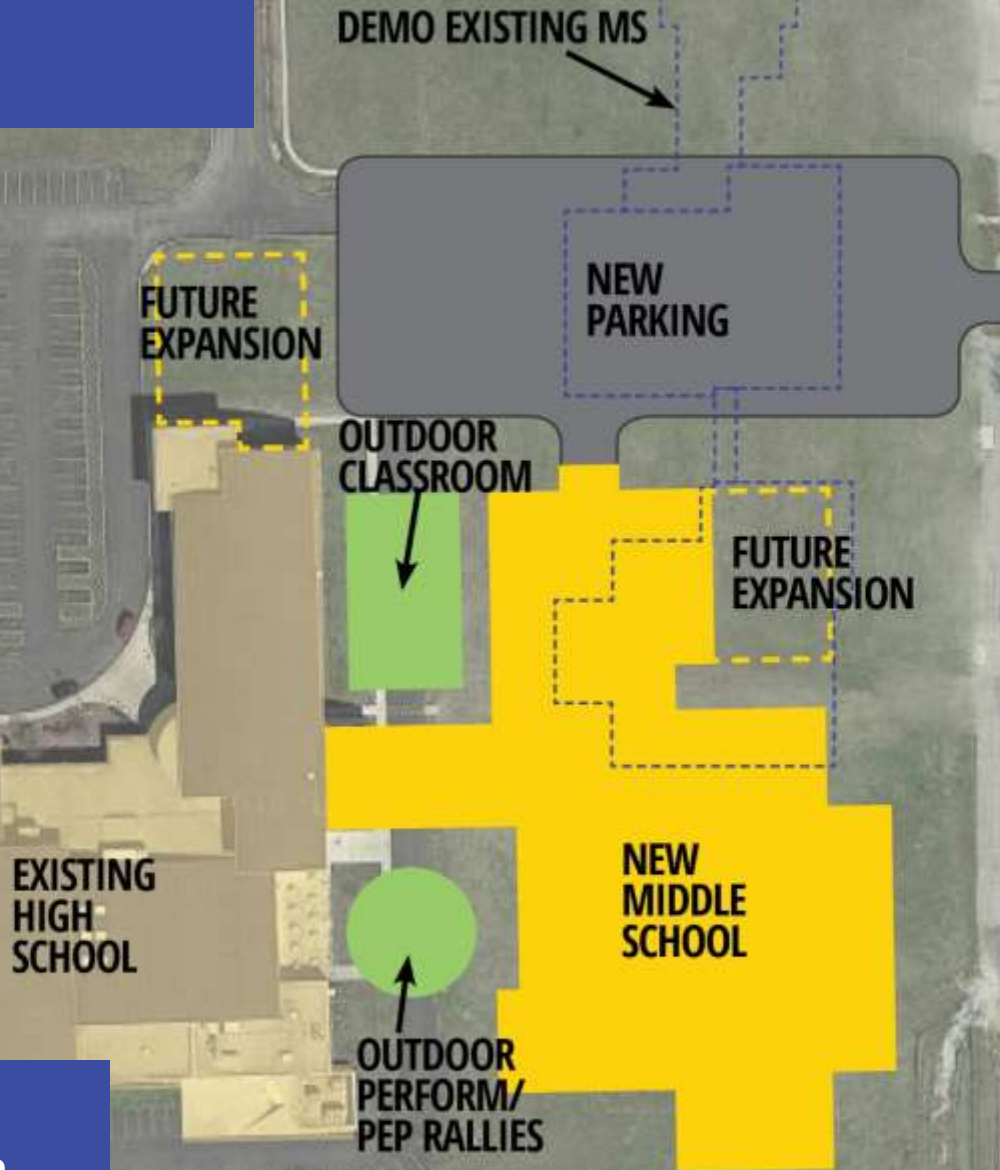
# MS + HS @ HS

6

**First Cost:**  
**\$33,109,000**

**Square Feet:**  
**181,606**

**\$**  
**+ \$108/year on**  
**\$200,000 home**



Functional  
Adequacy:  
**94.9**  
(MS 97.6, HS 92.2)

## General Ed:

Classrooms	
Media/Library	
Special Ed	
STEM	
Flex	
Exploratory	
Tech-Infused	

## Fine Arts:

Band	
Choir	
Art	
Performance	

## Phys Ed:

Gym	
Multi-Purpose	
Practice Gym	
Weight Room	

## Support:

Dining	
Security	

# MS + HS @ HS

## PROS

- Proximity to HS creates enhanced program opportunities & economies
  - Students optimally grouped to meet their developmental needs
  - Shared services to students, shared athletic fields, and economies
  - Requires smallest addition to meet HS/MS needs
  - Shared staffing, flexibility, and economies
  - Possibility to add additional parking to meet HS needs
- Includes High School environments (Auditorium, Scene Shop, some future-focused learning environments)

## CONS

- Construction will occur while students are on site
  - Increased site congestion
  - Potential impacts to learning during construction
  - Inconvenience and interruptions to programs and activities
  - Construction will require students to relocate to a portion of the existing MS during construction
  - Potential increase in construction time
- Likely property tax increase \$108/year on 200K home

# New MS 10 (@ Forsyth GS)

**First Cost:**  
**\$28,975,000**

**Square Feet:**  
**73,194**  
*(MS only)*

**No property tax rate increase. In 2028 (when GS bonds paid), option to lower tax rate or use available funds for other district needs.**



**Functional Adequacy:**  
**92.6**  
*(MS 98, HS 87.2)*

## General Ed:

Classrooms

Media/Library

Special Ed

STEM

Flex

Exploratory

Tech-Infused

## Fine Arts:

Band

Choir

Art

Performance

## Phys Ed:

Gym

Multi-Purpose

## Support:

Dining

Security



## **NEW MS (@ Forsyth)**

### **PROS**

- Lowest cost to taxpayers, high functional adequacy, high value
- No instructional or program interruptions for MS students during construction
- Increased site areas for HS facilities expansion
- Additional funds available for improvements in 2027

### **CONS**

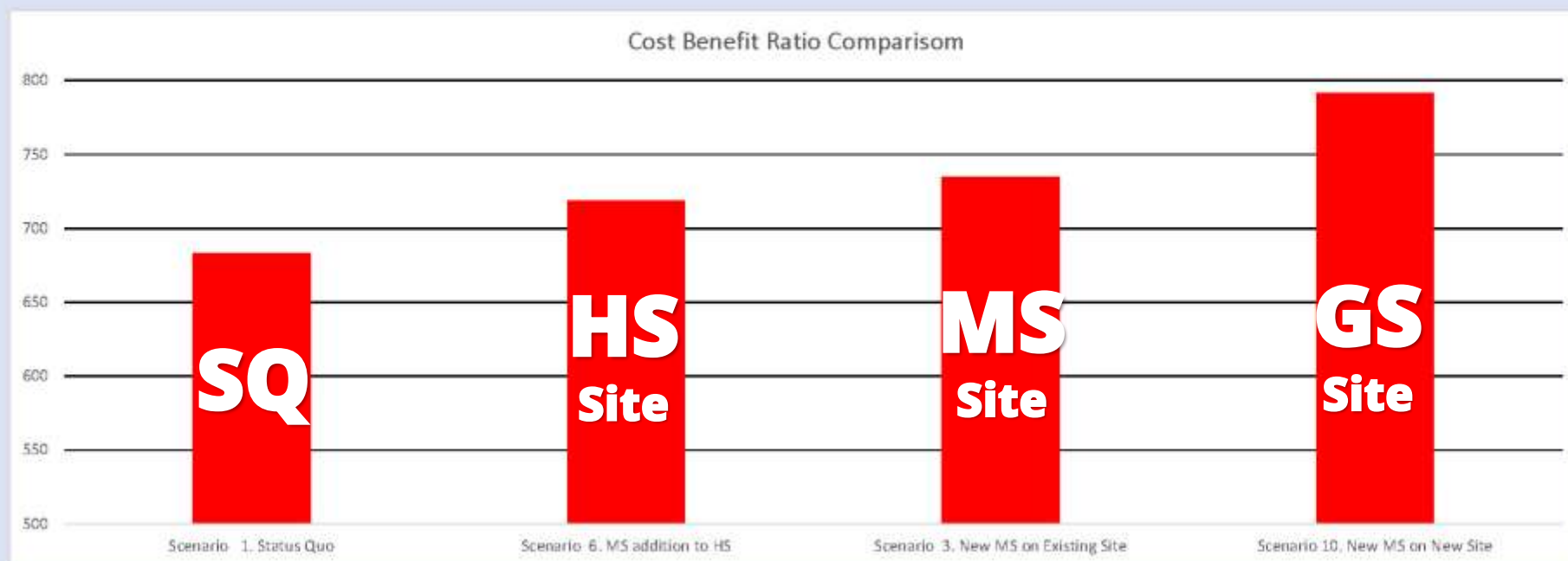
- Fewer opportunities for enhanced programming and grouping to meet developmental needs of MS students
- Lack of shared services and staff students
- Increase in operating and staffing costs
- No immediate enhancement to HS learning environments

**New MS  
(@ Forsyth)**

# **Yearly Operating Cost Additions**

- \$90,000 Transportation year 1 (no more walkers in grades 6-8 from Maroa), \$40,000 in subsequent years
- \$50,000 Buildings & Grounds Demands/Custodial Staffing (new site/square footage/currently some shared)
- \$50,000 Social Worker Position (currently shared 6-12)
- \$30,000 Nurse Position (currently shared 6-12)
- \$25,000 Fine Arts Staffing (due to scheduling)

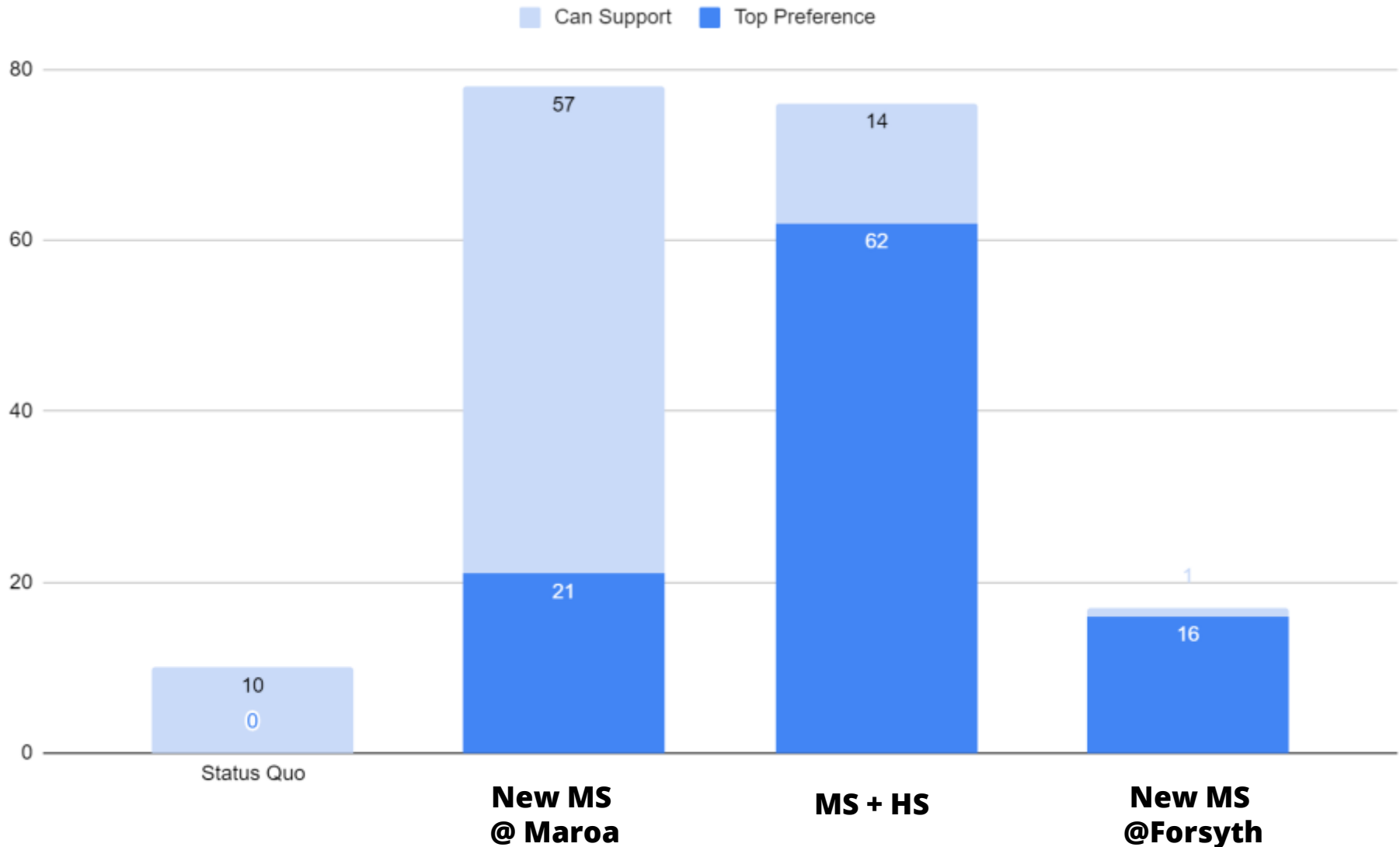
# COST/BENEFIT COMPARISONS



Scenario Name	Construction Costs *escalated	Operation Costs	Life Cycle Costs	Square Footage	Functional Adequacy	CBR
Scenario 1. Status Quo	\$ 8,067,302	\$ 62,436,324	\$ 70,503,625	179,213	68.8	683.09
Scenario 3. New MS on Existing Site	\$ 28,216,319	\$ 66,066,435	\$ 94,282,755	181,606	92.4	735.02
Scenario 6. MS addition to HS	\$ 33,108,734	\$ 65,898,979	\$ 99,007,714	171,994	94.9	718.88
Scenario 10. New MS on New Site	\$ 28,975,672	\$ 58,753,931	\$ 87,729,604	171,994	92.6	791.64



# CES #3 Scenario Preferences



# Community Public Opinion Survey



# Methodology

- Electronic Survey
- Heavily publicized
- Went “live” on November 20
- 542 completions
- Tabulated on December 2
- Results “weighted” by gender and parent status to reflect community demographics



# Grading

## Maroa-Forsyth Schools

A	41.5%
B	40.1%
C	9.7%
D	2.2%
Fail	1.4%
Other, don't know	5.2%

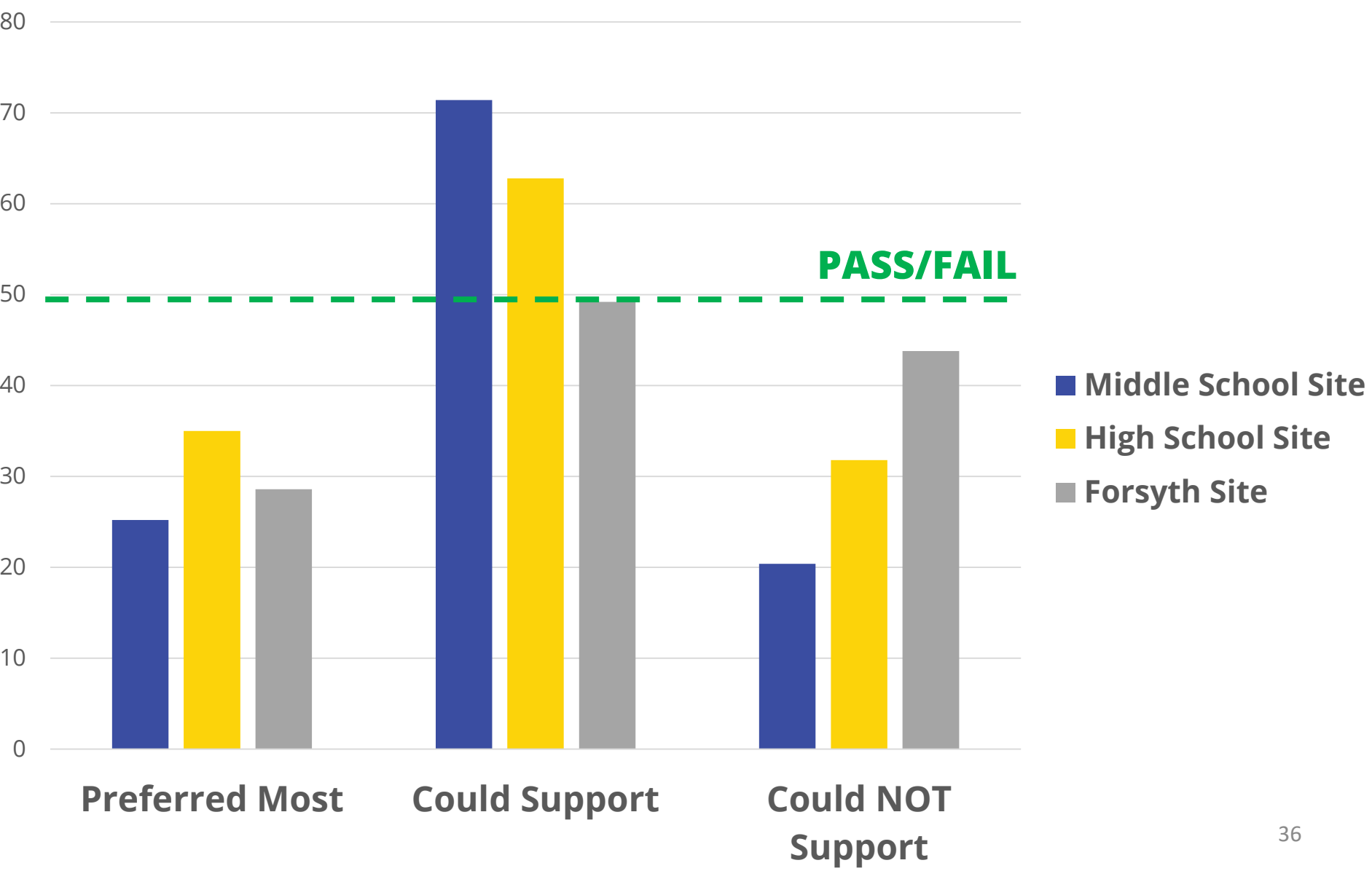
# Position on Options

	Preferred <u>Most</u>	Could <u>Support</u>	Could Not <u>Support</u>
Middle School Site	25.6/ <b>24.9</b>	70.2/ <b>72.6</b>	20.8/ <b>20.0</b>
High School Site	37.1/ <b>32.8</b>	61.6/ <b>63.9</b>	33.8/ <b>28.4</b>
Forsyth Site	30.3/ <b>26.9</b>	47.1/ <b>51.3</b>	47.1/ <b>40.4</b>

First Time Question was asked — in black

Second Time Question was asked — in red

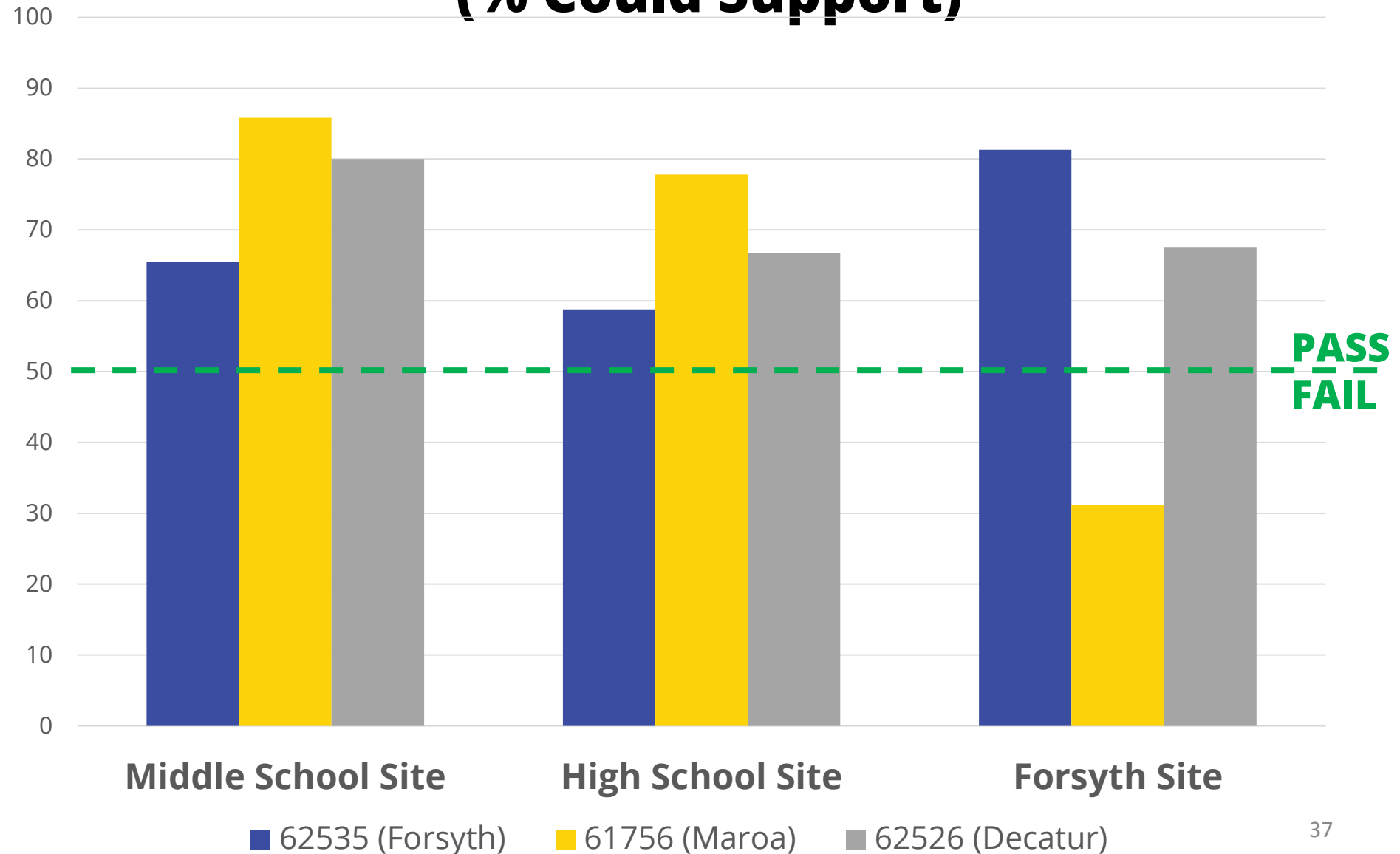
# Position on Options *(average, by percent)*



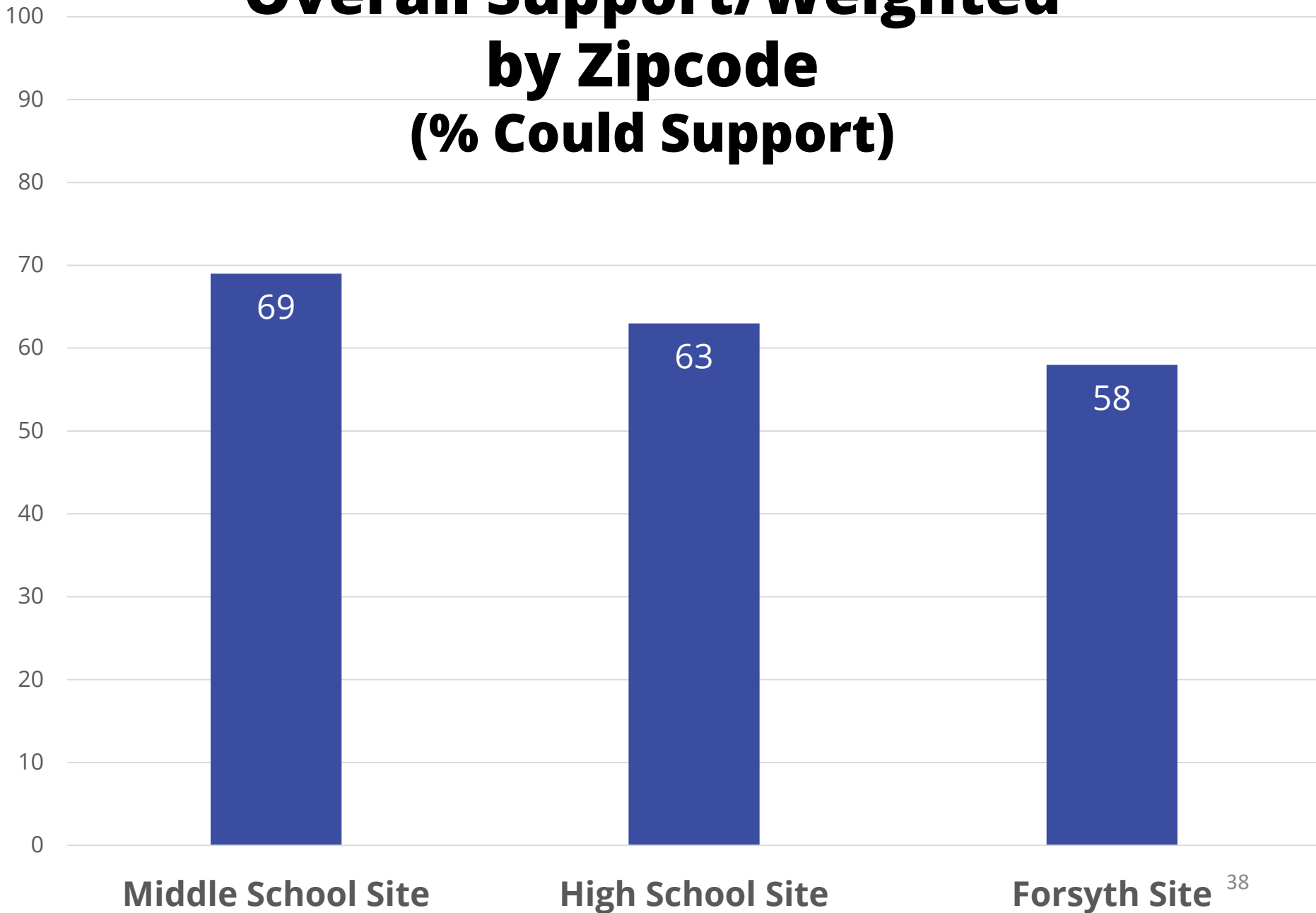


# Support By Zip Code

## (% Could Support)



# Overall Support/Weighted by Zipcode (% Could Support)



# Need for New Middle School

- 81.0% great or moderate need for a new middle school
- 14.0% agreed nothing needs to be done beyond normal maintenance and repair
- 11.6% agreed school are fine they way they are
- 22.5% agreed people need tax relief more than better school facilities
- 80.4% agreed that the middle school is old and beyond repair and that the community needs a new middle school

# Location for New Middle School

- 73.2% very or moderately important to keep the middle school in Maroa to allow the high school and middle school to share resources
- 85.1% very or moderately important to maximize educational programs for students
- 35.1% very or moderately important that the middle school should move to Forsyth where the larger population is located



# Summary/Conclusion

- Survey results align with input from engagement sessions
- Majority support for Maroa location from all zipcodes — but not case for Forsyth location
- Survey indicates a strong base of support on which to move forward

# OUR RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the information gathered throughout the course of the engagement process, as well as through the public opinion survey and much discussion among the steering committee, we recommend the board consider moving forward with a **Middle School addition to the High School as the preferred scenario.**

The group believes this option would garner the most support and best meet the goals of our charge.

This recommendation, while not unanimous, represents agreement of 91% of the group.



MAROA-FORSYTH CUSD #2



THANK YOU!