

The Wakefield Board of Education held a special meeting at the Educational Service Unit #1 on Feb. 3, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to share information with the public and also receive feedback regarding the facility needs of our district. There were thirty-eight persons in attendance, including representation from the Wakefield Republican and the Wayne Herald.

Tim Bebee, Building and Grounds Chairman, presented the facility priorities and estimated costs which included: Safety/Security: \$20,000-\$30,000; 15 Passenger Van Replacement: \$60,000; Main Gym Air Movement and Floor Replacement - \$150,000 - \$200,000; Bus Barn: \$100,000; and Track and Field: \$550,000 - \$650,000. The cost estimate for the track project includes site preparation, 8-lane track, football practice field, utility infrastructure and fencing. It does not include a pressbox, bleachers, lighting, or concessions/restrooms. The track is included on the priority list due to the safety concerns for students who run on the streets and country roads for Physical Education classes and track practice.

With the exception of the van replacement, which is required by law, the Board has not committed to any of these projects. The meeting was held to gain feedback from the public before undertaking any of these projects. Information was also shared on how these projects will be financed. The district's General, Depreciation and Special Building Funds will be utilized and no public bond issue should be necessary. The time frame for most of these projects may be 1-3 years depending upon available funds.

There was a question and answer session and participants were asked to complete a survey. The survey results, with individual (unedited) comments are included. The next step in the process will be a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to the full board to consider project priorities. If you have questions or comments regarding these projects, please contact me or a member of the board of education.

Survey Information	Yes	No	Undecided or no opinion
1. Agree with board priorities			
a. Safety/security	31	0	2
b. Air movement in Gym	24	4	5
c. Main Gym Floor	24	3	6
d. Bus Barn Facility	22	4	7
e. Track Facility	29	1	3

Comments from the surveys (unedited):

1. Safety of the students should be the first priority of our facilities/grounds improvement. With that in mind, the track facility should be first on the list.
2. All are important as we look to the future of maintaining our school as we see districts declining in other communities. It's important to secure the safety of the students and general public and to continuously make improvements as needed.
3. I feel that all of the priorities are important. We are long overdue for improvements to our track/practice field though. Every year we risk tragedy during track season and

- injury during football season. We need to address these first I believe. If the decision is to not go through with the facility some work at least needs to be done to get a good start of grass and soften the ground up there for track and football practices.
4. Thanks for taking time to inform the community.
 5. From a safety standpoint the track facility is a no brainer to me. This Facility will not only provide safety for the students of the district, but also another resource for PE classes to use within the PE curriculum.
 6. Nice to see the board proactive. Before you know it the future will be here.
 7. I feel our students are most at risk running on the streets. An 8 lane track Would be a great addition to our facilities for safety and improving the program.
 8. My concerns are for the kids. I have circled "yes" on the things that directly effect the children now.
 9. All items are needed, those circled I see as TOP priorities. But I also know the financial boundaries will dictate the board's actions.
 10. If we can build a pool we can build a track!!
 11. To avoid too much opposition and confusion, it needs to me made very clear to the people that their tax burden is not increasing due to any of this.
 12. If you lived on a street the students have to run on (and the country roads they run their mile on) you would want the track to be a first priority.
 13. Not a full-scale track complex, but enough of a track to get kids off the street. However, getting infrastructure is wise for possible improvements in the distant future.
 14. I have coached at 3 high schools that have not had a track as a head coach I have tried to structure workouts to keep the kids as safe as possible, but in the end when you send kids out onto the streets they are put at risk. I feel the district has dodged this bullet long enough. How much longer are we willing to put our kids lives at risk?
 15. Track facility but after the other projects are taking off.
 16. Practice track facility.
 17. (Air movement) A simple exhaust fan in the peak.
 18. If new busses won't fit in the barn-where will they be serviced?
 19. Wants north terrace along the street by the playground made into parking.