

Stanwood-Camano School District
Listening Session
February 23, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

What are key issues that may have prompted individuals to support the February 8 levy? (<i>What are our strengths within the community?</i>)	What are key issues that may have prompted individuals to vote “no” on the February 8 levy? (<i>What are our community’s concerns?</i>)
<p>Support of technology, wanting to keep up.</p> <p>One example of money being saved is having the buses parked at the south end of the island instead of taking them back to town.</p>	<p>People don’t understand and feel administrator pay is out of line.</p> <p>People don’t understand that money is needed to update Chromebooks.</p> <p>People are afraid their taxes are going to go up.</p> <p>Someone said as soon as the superintendent of public instruction gives up half his salary, they’ll vote yes.</p> <p>Concerns about the cost of school supplies.</p> <p>People may not understand this is a replacement and taxes will stay level.</p> <p>Feels there is a lack of trust. People may believe the money schools/district have is not being managed well.</p> <p>Feels it is a bad lesson for kids that the money is not being managed well so the district just asks for more.</p> <p>Concerned about the old superintendent’s salary and the first year superintendent salary. Feels they are outrageous. Why are the salaries so high when things like PSMS band has to fundraise for things they need. Why do they have to fundraise for things like music stands? Why aren’t things like that in the school budget?</p> <p>How is the current budget managed and why are we falling short?</p> <p>Feels there is not a lot of transparency as to how the funds are being spent. More transparency would be helpful.</p>

Inflation of taxes, gas, groceries and now the schools are asking for more. Maybe the schools should tighten their belts just as families are.

Possibly a communication issue that may be a problem with the whole levy~ example is that many folks may not have known about tonight.

Possibly negatively impacting is a general lack of transparency, involvement, and engagement.

Concerns about student behaviors in schools; how are we handling things like ACES and Trauma Informed practices.

Concerns about the message the high school gave about increasing presence in the hallways and supervision in the halls. Feels her students are well behaved and now they are being watched closely even though they are not rule breakers. Feels it creates a negative environment. Feels the request for information is just for show and the school moves forward with the original plan anyway. Feels kids are going to be "jumped on"...feels like they can't turn any corner without someone watching them.

People don't understand what is really wrong with things. People need more clarification so they better understand. Explaining more detail about what is wrong with something like the sprinkler system. Why did it go bad? Is it the fire system or an outdoor system? What's wrong, how much to fix?

Why do the Chromebooks need to be replaced? What is the problem with them? This needs to be clear to the public.

Why are students unhappy going to school? Why do they become more unhappy as they move up in grades?

What does the district intend to do about the results of the survey? That info should be shared with the community.

How is technology used in the classroom?

Why is the technology there?

Perhaps people don't understand how technology is used.

Pen and paper learning - get back to this. May be better to use textbook curriculum vs. technology

Concern about the over-reliance on technology. Example, student flying through work so they can get to play games or use some sort of social media

Question about COVID money - where did it go, how is it being used?

People don't understand what this pool of money is for vs. general pool of money

"They have this brand new high school."

Technology isn't just a Chromebook... people don't know that.

"I don't have kids in school and I'm not going to pay for this."

The district used to think about showing the community what is going on with technology.

"TRI fund" - what precisely is this paying for? I go to church and the people say they don't know what this will go to.

People are strapped, taxes are going up, people can't afford basic things right now. More of the tax dollars should be getting back here vs. pulling from a levy.

Administration - how much is going there versus instruction? Administrators make almost twice as much. Why are we spending \$1.3 million on HR for instance?

I'm not necessarily happy with how they've spent their money so far.

Having come from a different industry I'm still not understanding where this money comes from

This ask is for something completely separate from everything else, and people don't understand that

Maybe they should pull from one pool of money to spend it in another.

Who is checking with Olympia on how the spending structures are happening?

People don't understand and feel administrator pay is out of line.

People don't understand that money is needed to update Chromebooks.

Why do the Chromebooks need to be replaced? What is the problem with them? This needs to be clear to the public.

Why are students unhappy going to school? Why do they become more unhappy as they move up in grades.

What does the district intend to do about the results of the survey? That info should be shared with the community.

Property Taxes--Taxes keep going up. Explain how taxes generate and are determined.

Income of the new superintendent (if levy doesn't pass the salary would be negotiated)

How does the superintendent's salary connect to the levy passage? Would the salary be renegotiated to a lesser amount?

People are unclear how each pot of money is spent (i.e. EPO levy, Capital Projects/Technology levy, Bonds, state levy)

Links to budget (revenue/expenditure) potentially not active or easy to find

Spending habits in general (e.g. new logo, strategic plan); priorities around spending

Ensure that money isn't being wasted. Instead of a new logo, put that money towards some of the items identified in the logo

Transparency regarding cost saving measures or budgetary matters

People don't get much information about what is going on. District is not telling the story about the vision and purposes.

Technology's purpose may not make sense to "older population." Tell it in a way that makes sense. Lots of people don't get the school/district messages. Need to reach the retired population with no connection to schools

Conveying the message in a way that is comprehensive and non overwhelming (Carl Sagan) not too academic

School district not ahead of the message--more of a presence in social media

Parent sentiment that kids might be hindered by too much technology. Not able to use books, (e.g. reference books).

	<p>Kids aren't learning as well using technology</p> <p>Tactile learning is important.</p>
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What may have prevented people from voting on February 8?	What other information would you like to share?
<p>Maybe remind people to vote in the newspaper.</p> <p>Nothing else on the ballot... maybe consider a time when there would be a higher turnout.</p> <p>One person was inactivated on her vote.</p>	<p>Question~ Will tax rates go up if they vote yes?</p> <p>How many people show up for monthly school board meetings?</p> <p>How did people know about the meeting? Maybe it should be in the newspaper?</p> <p>The listening session was down at the bottom of the page</p> <p>When will the next listening session be? How far in advance will the date/time be published.</p> <p>What does the school board think? Why do they think so many people voted no?</p> <p>Questions about the survey and how much of that comes from problems in the home. Some kids are unhappy.</p> <p>People don't know how money is being spent.</p> <p>Most information comes from Facebook (CES; Stanwood Camano Community Page, Stanwood Involved, Stanwood Evolved, emails from school).</p> <p>Layout of website; not up-to-date; use IT students to help with site</p> <p>Finance tab on website might be helpful (graph)</p> <p>Why do books go out of date so quickly? Why do we need new history books when history doesn't change?</p> <p>How has the district arrived at how they use technology? How much tech is used versus</p>

	other methods?
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