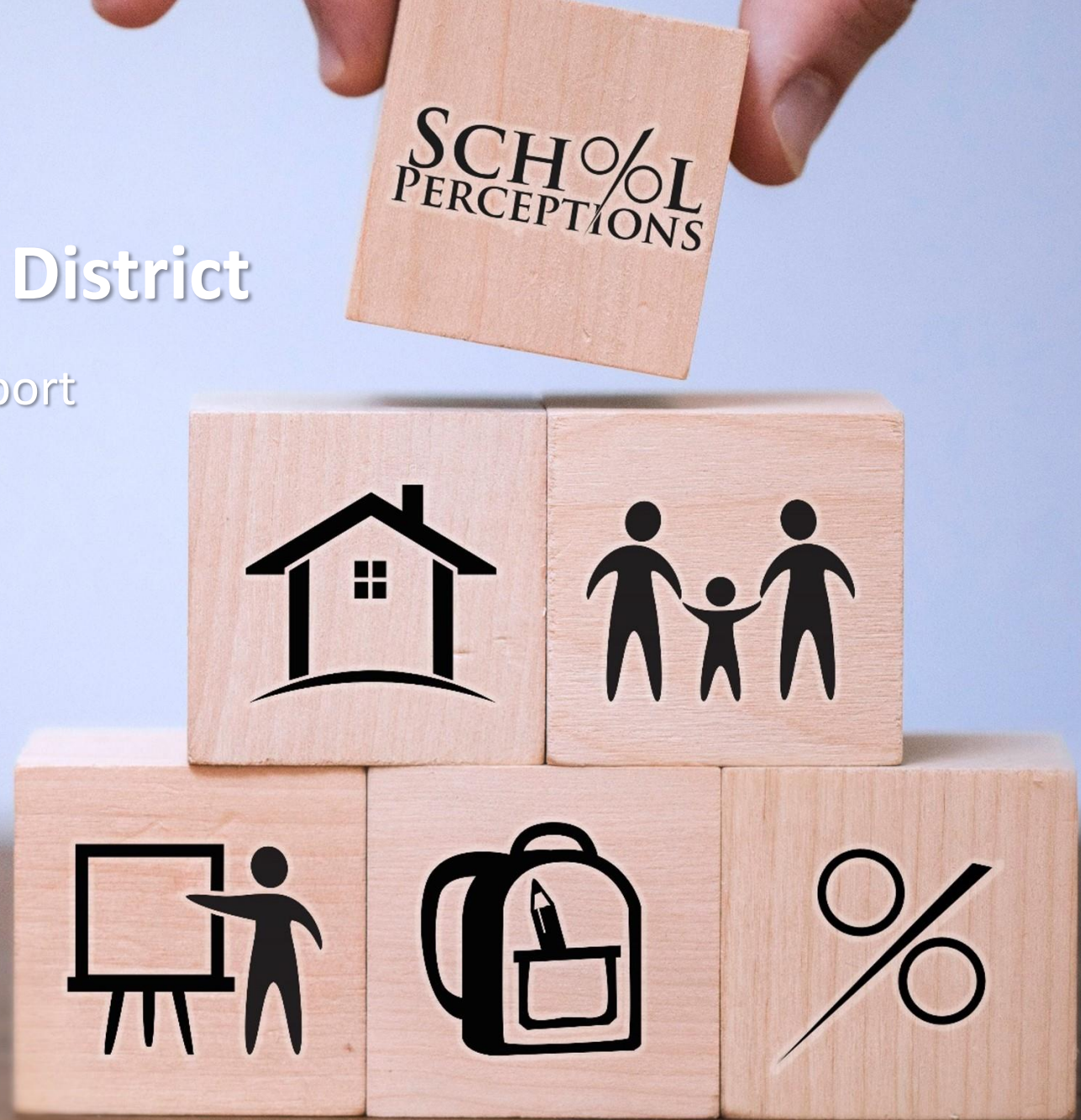


Stoughton Area School District

Community Survey Preliminary Report

Spring 2022





Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Report Contents



Background Info



Survey Information



Results & Analysis



Wrap-up/Questions



Our Process



Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.
Respondents could:

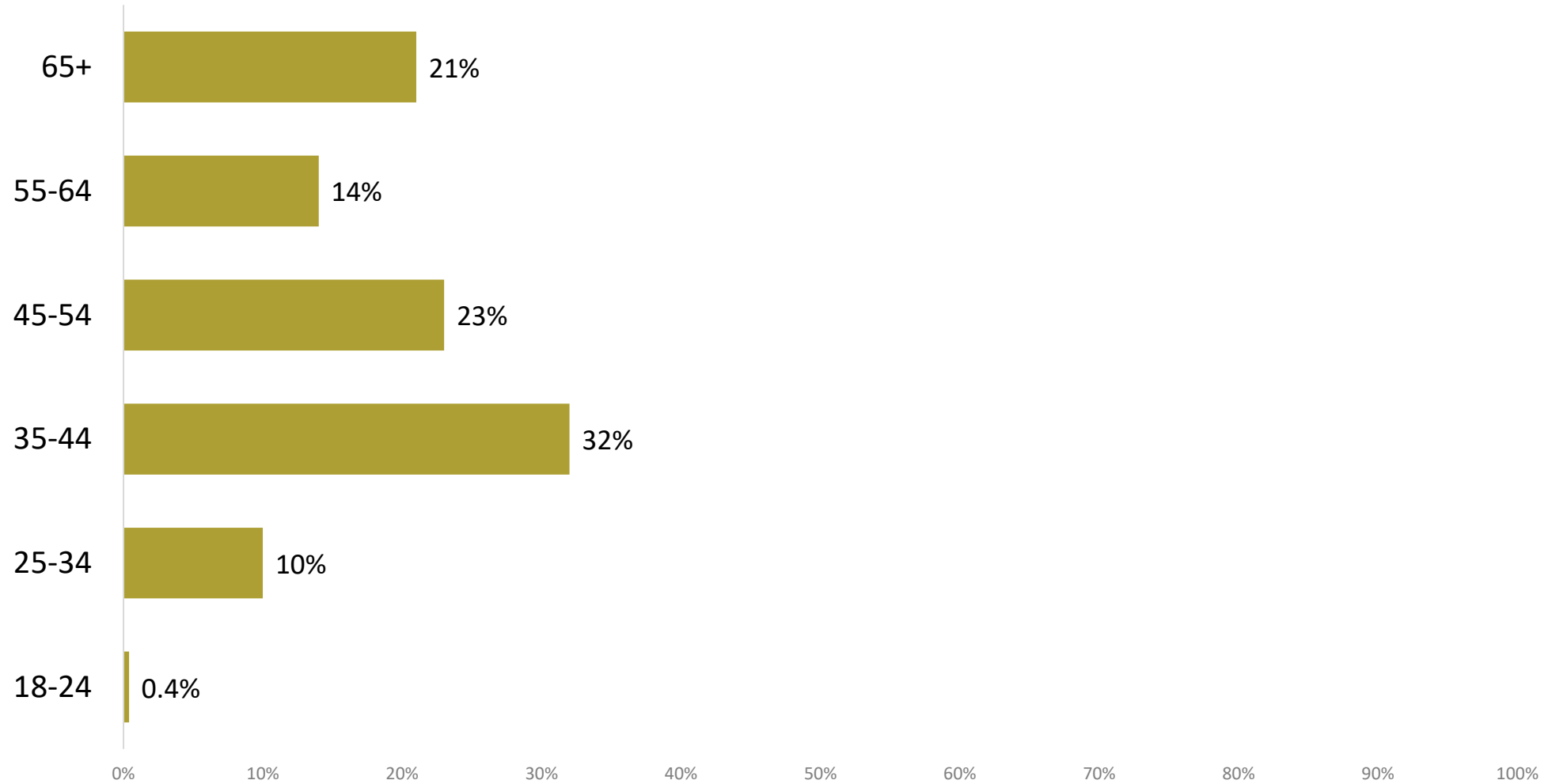
- 1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions
or
- 2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

Survey Information

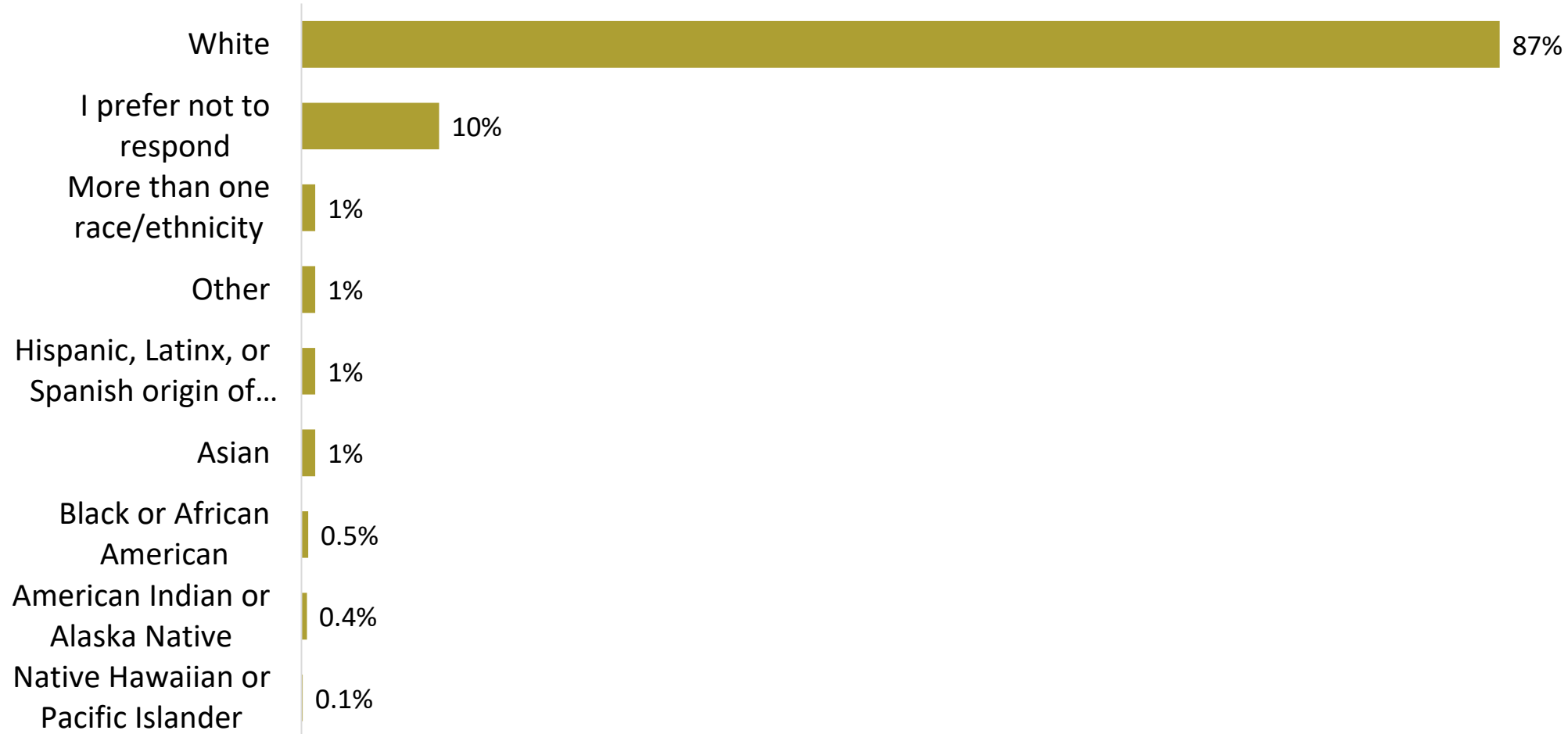


- **May 2022** survey window
- **1,563** total respondents (386 paper)
- **18%** participation rate
- +/- **2.53%** margin of error

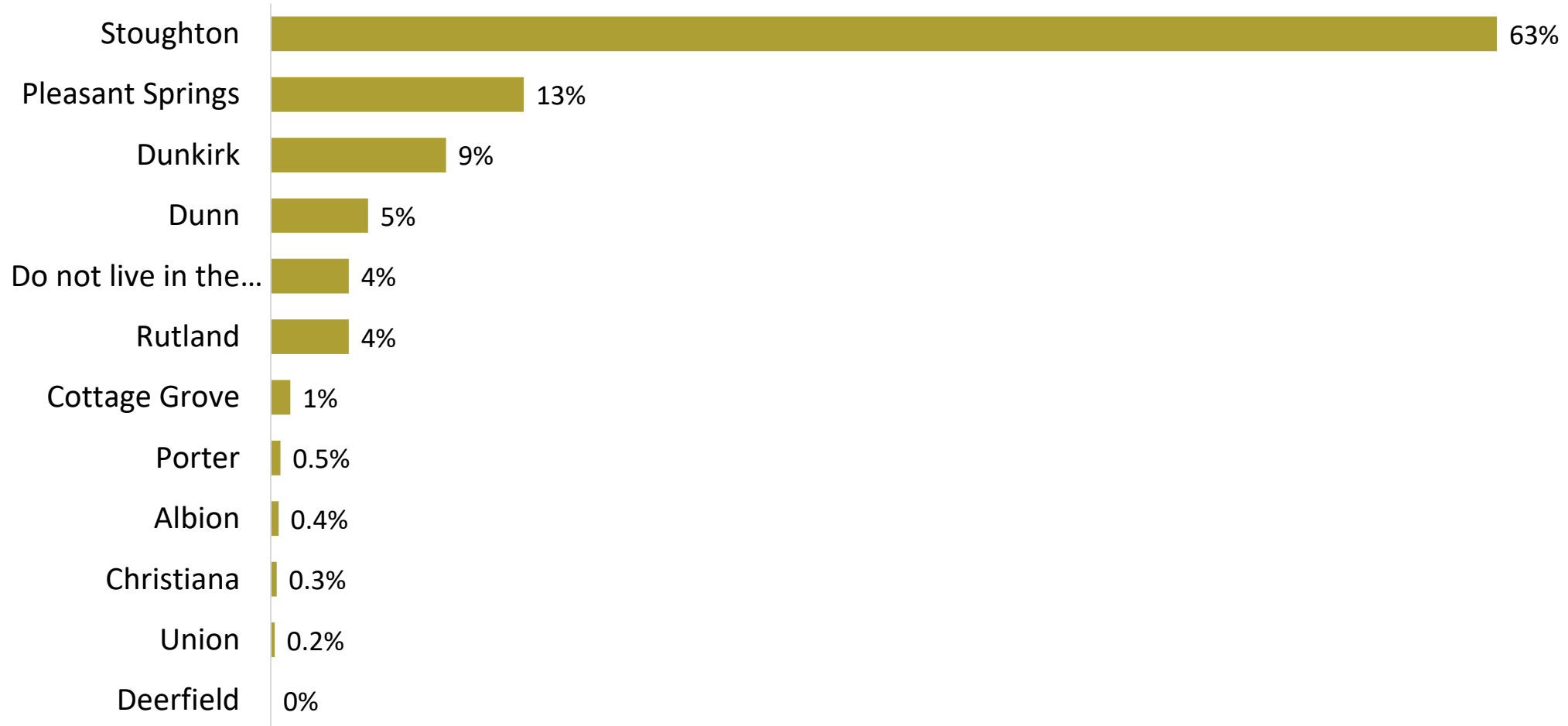
What is your age?



I identify as:



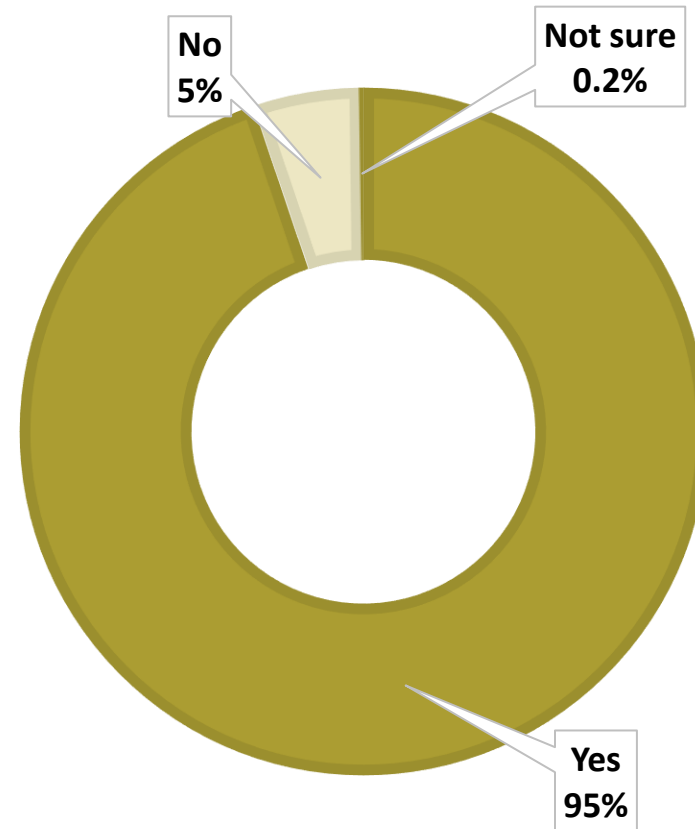
In which community do you live?



Respondent Information



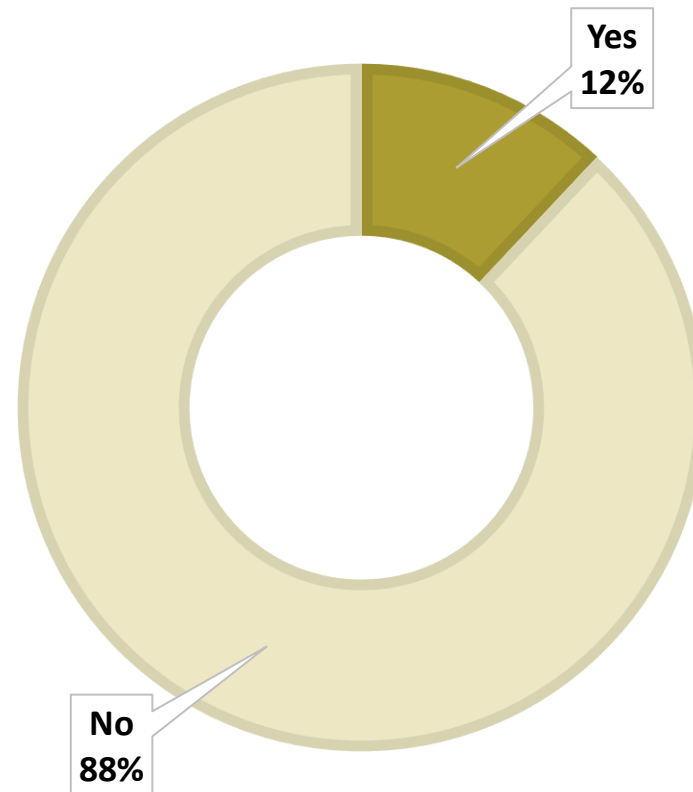
Is your primary residence in the
Stoughton Area School District?



Respondent Information



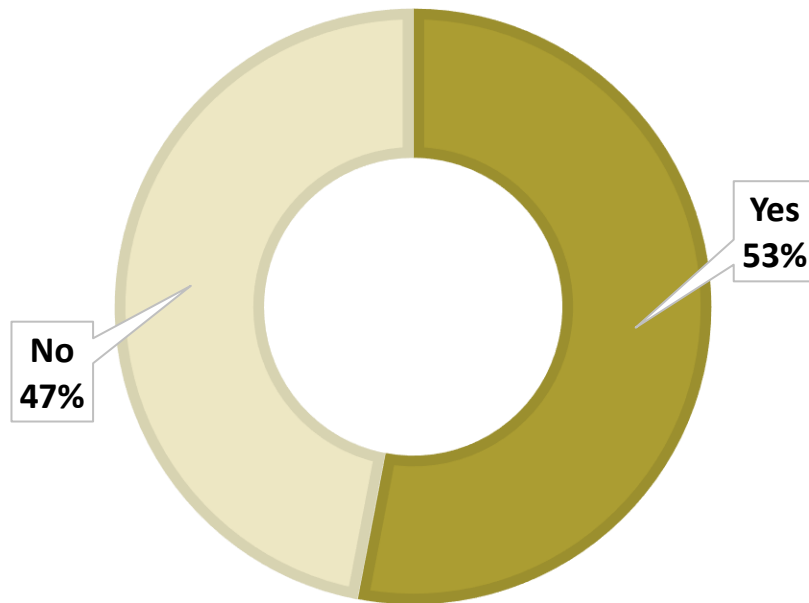
Are you an employee of the District?



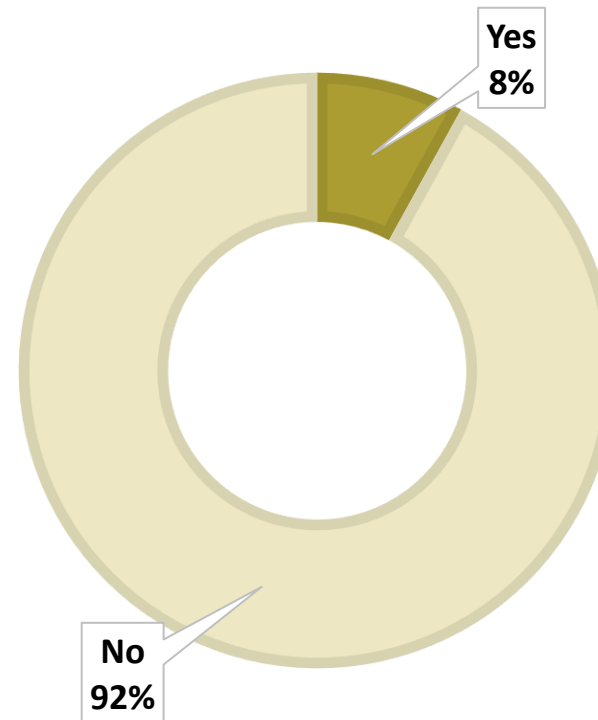
Respondent Information



Do you have children attending school in the District?



Do you have grandchildren attending school in the District?



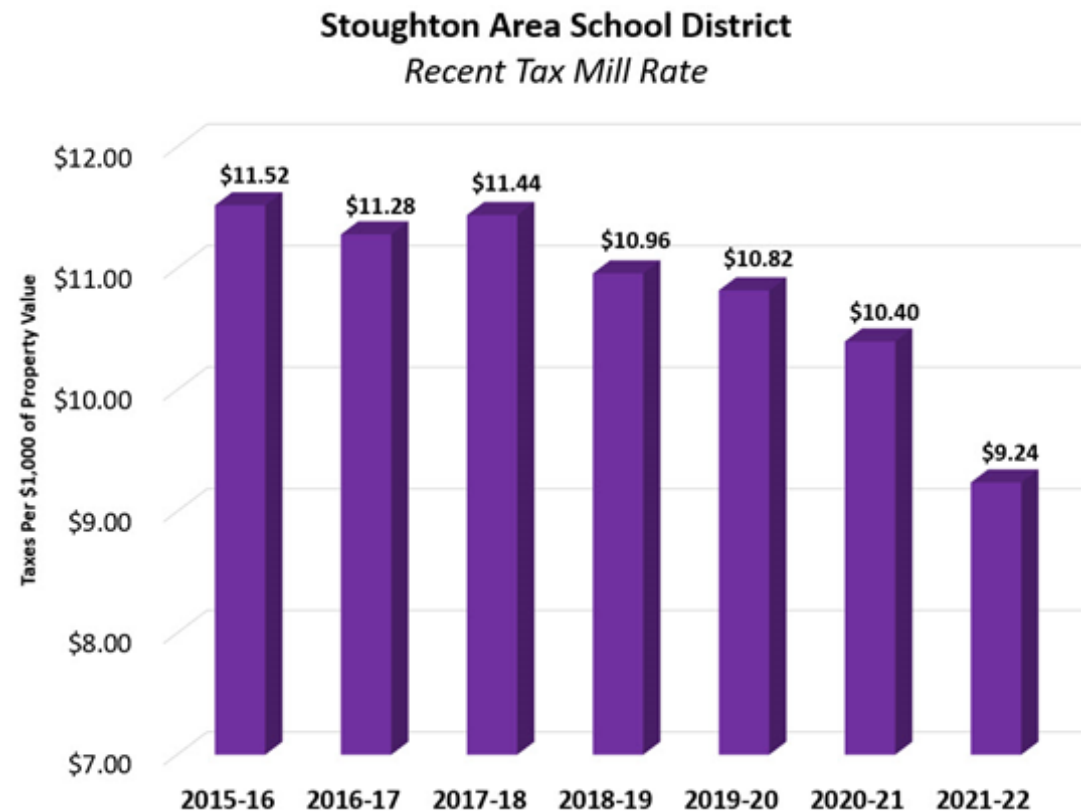
Financial Background



The District's share of property taxes is calculated using a mill rate. As seen in the chart to the right, **our tax mill rate has dropped nearly 25 percent since the 2015-16 school year.** We anticipate the mill rate will drop next year, as well.

The Board of Education has also taken the opportunity to refinance debt, when possible, to save interest expenses. In 2023, the District will have paid off all loans that funded past building projects.

These actions will allow our community to invest up to \$20 million in facility upgrades without increasing the tax mill rate over the current level.



Highest Priority Needs



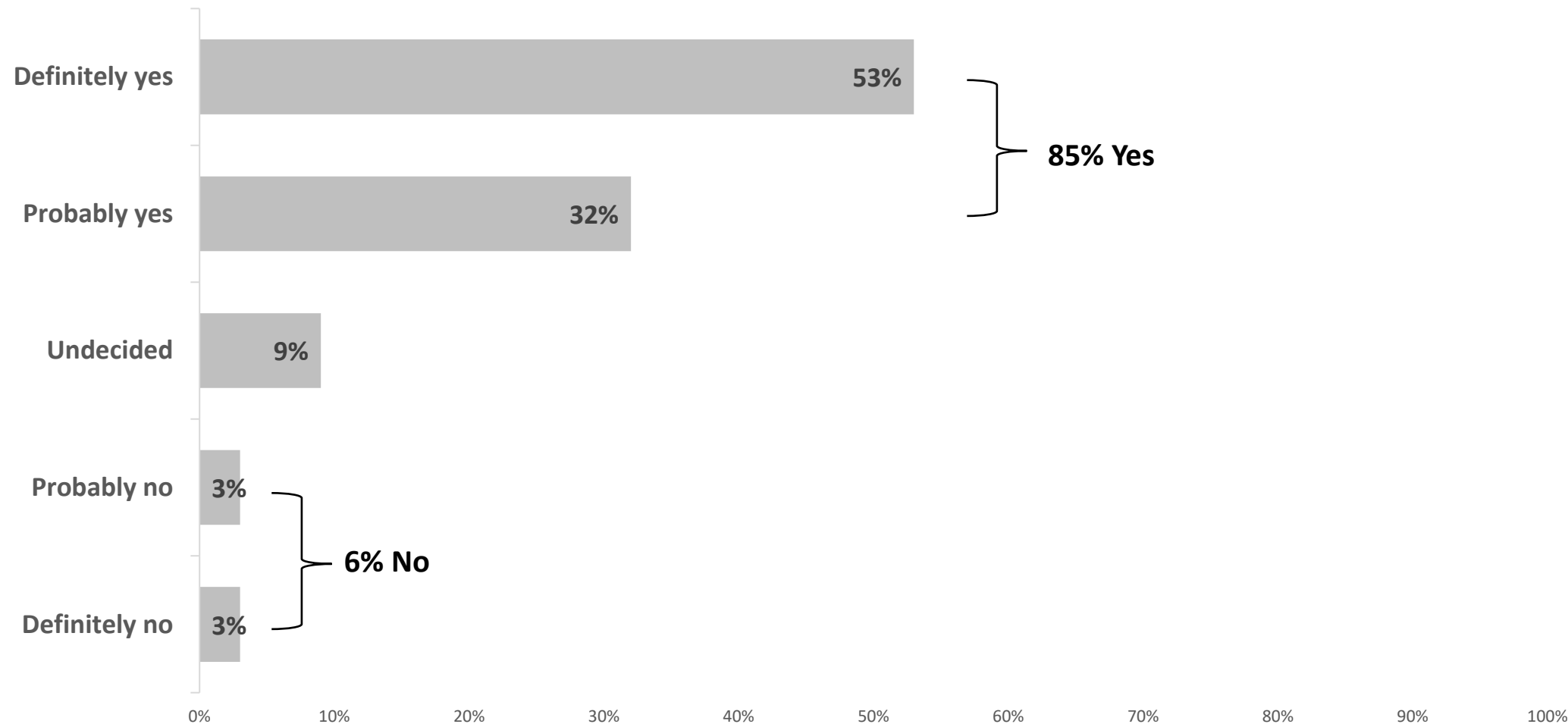
The Board of Education reviewed our facility assessment, toured the schools, and listened to the feedback gathered through the community and staff workshops this spring. Based on this information, the following projects were identified to address the most pressing issues across the District:

- ✓ Update mechanical systems, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, which are at the end of their service life.
- ✓ Upgrade electrical systems and lighting with more energy-efficient units.
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections, as needed.
- ✓ Repair/replace cracking asphalt parking lots and roadways.
- ✓ Replace worn flooring and inefficient windows.
- ✓ Update/expand the high school kitchen and cafeteria, which is outdated and too small.
- ✓ Replace the maintenance building.
- ✓ Demolish the Yahara building, which was closed in 2009 and will be vacant after next year.

Would you support a \$36 million referendum to fund the highest priority needs?



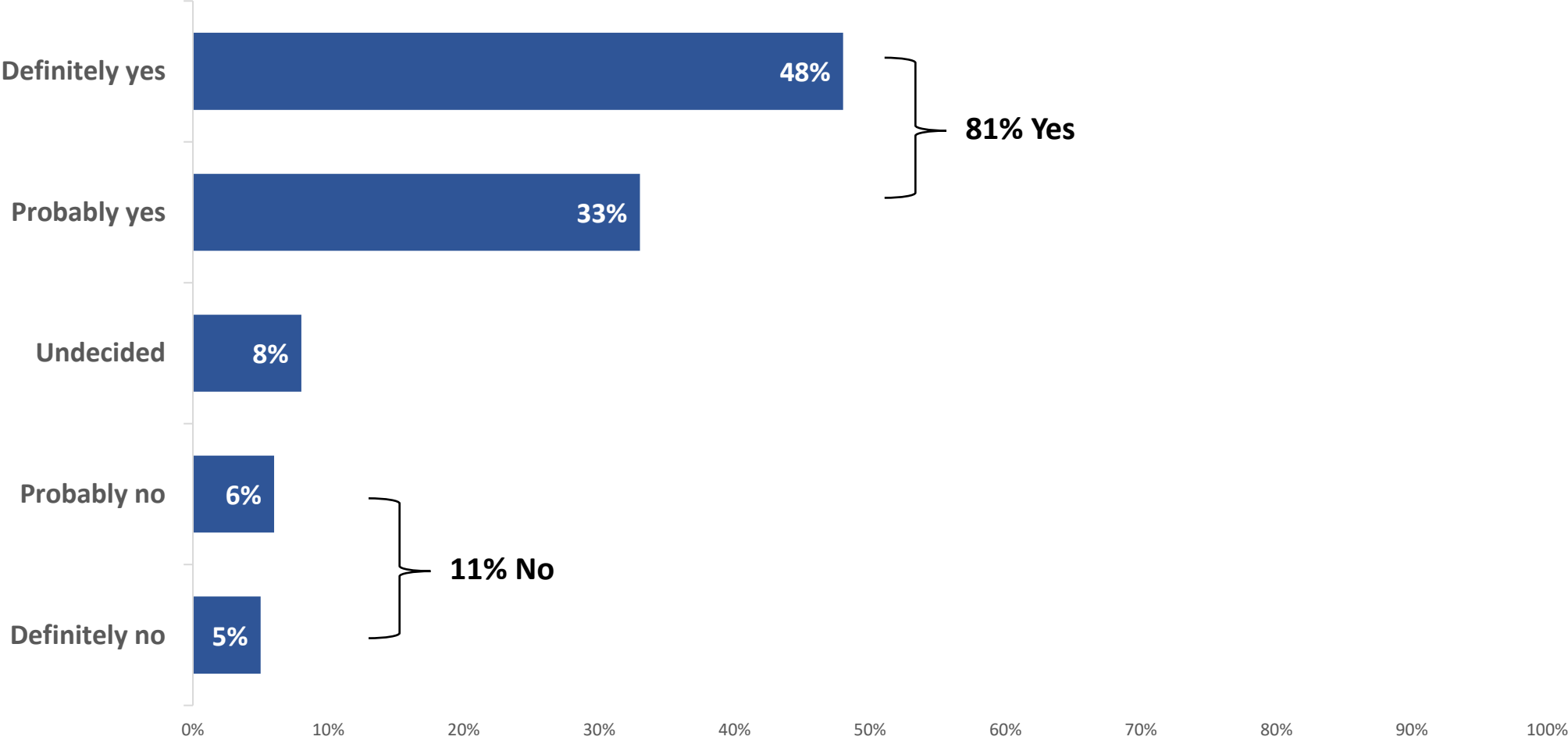
Staff Residents



Would you support a \$36 million referendum to fund the highest priority needs?



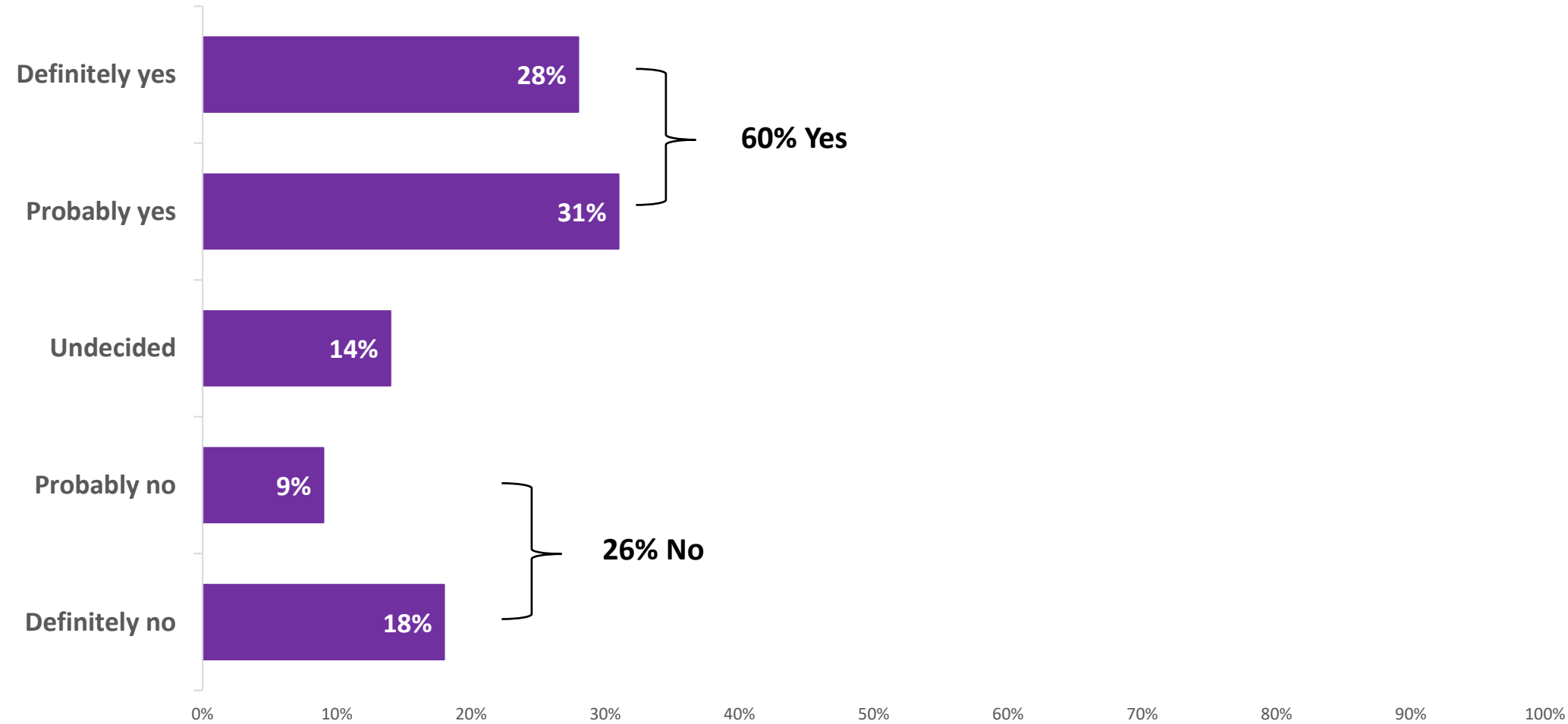
Parent Residents



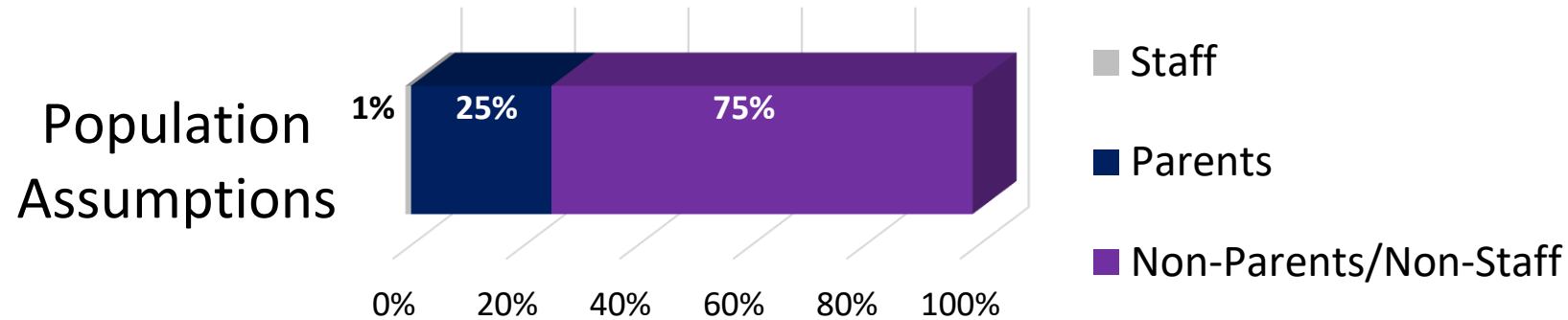
Would you support a \$36 million referendum to fund the highest priority needs?



Non-parent/Non-staff Residents



Would you support a \$36 million referendum to fund the highest priority needs?



Weighted support for referendum:

$$0.75 (60\%) + 0.25 (81\%) = \underline{\underline{65.25\%}}$$

Kegonsa Elementary



The District's facility assessment identified the following issues at Kegonsa, which is our oldest active school. Soon, we will need to:

- Replace portions of the heating/ventilation system, flooring, windows, lighting, and ceilings.
- Build a gym to create a dedicated physical education and cafeteria space to improve class scheduling and increase space for school and community use.
- Modify the student drop-off and pick-up to better separate pedestrians and vehicles.
- Address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.

In addition, many classrooms are too small, and additional room is needed for small-group instruction. Because of the large number of load-bearing walls, remodeling options are limited.

Thus, some community members have asked if it makes sense to continue to spend money at Kegonsa. **In response, two options were developed for community feedback.**

Kegonsa Elementary



Option 1: Continue to maintain and update Kegonsa Elementary:

- ✓ Update the major building systems (electrical, plumbing, and heating).
- ✓ Create an appropriately sized art room.
- ✓ Update the restrooms.
- ✓ Add a gym with restrooms and storage.
- ✓ Address ADA compliance issues.

Estimated cost: \$7 million

This funding would extend the service life of the building by 15 to 20 years but would not create modern learning environments or larger classrooms.

Kegonsa Elementary



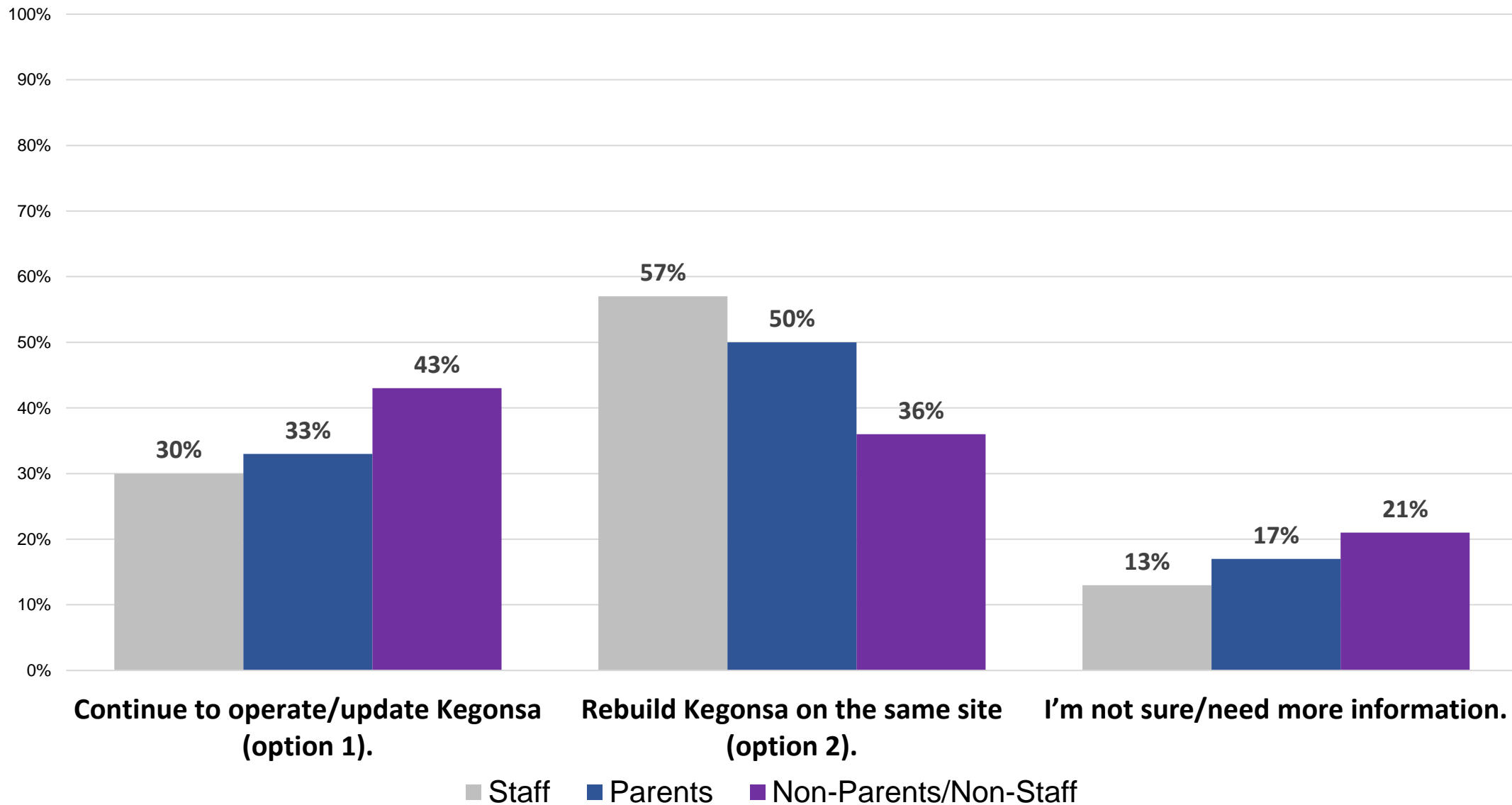
Option 2: Remove the current building and rebuild a new modern school on the same site:

- ✓ Capacity to serve 350 elementary students and room for future expansion.
- ✓ Classrooms and support areas designed with flexibility for small- and large-group instruction.
- ✓ Modern learning environments to support our courses.
- ✓ A dedicated cafeteria and gym.

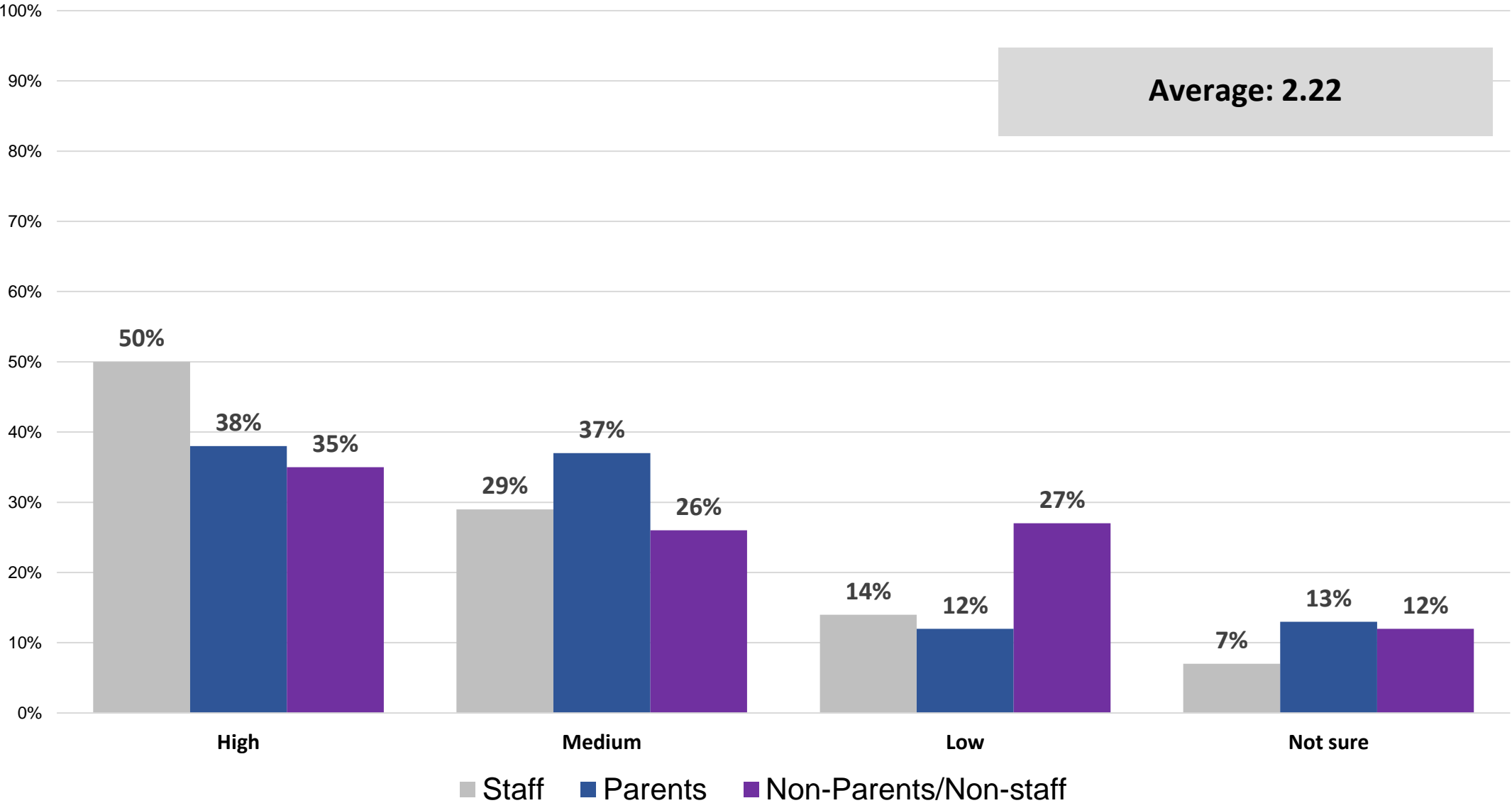
Estimated cost: \$27.6 million

This new building would have a service of life of at least 40 to 50 years. Option 2 would eliminate the need to spend any more money on the current Kegonsa facility.

Kegonsa Elementary: What advice would you give?



Kegonsa Elementary: What priority would you place on updating or replacing Kegonsa Elementary?



Additional Projects

The following projects could be addressed now or in a future phase.



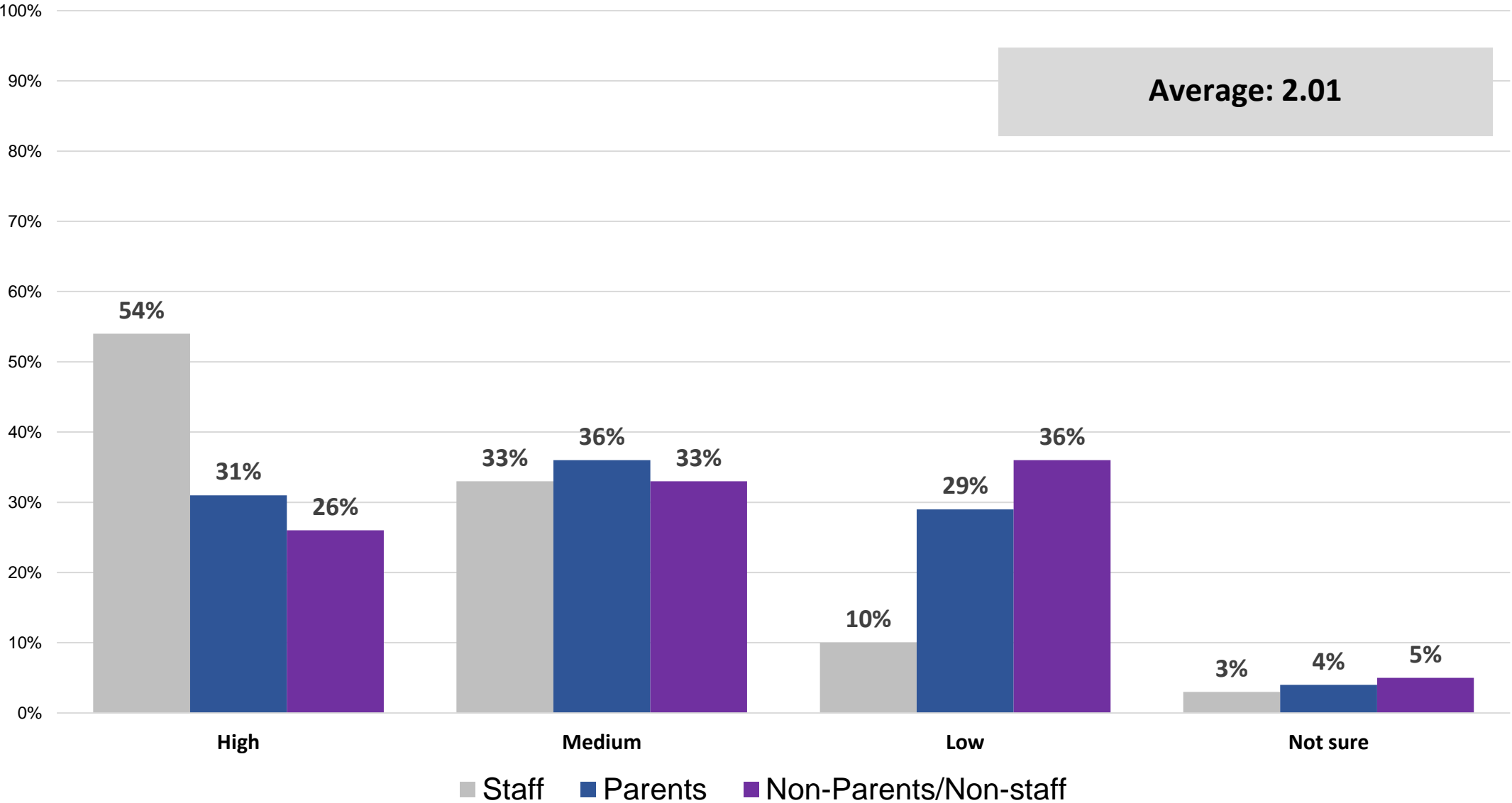
Fox Prairie Gym & Cafeteria: Fox Prairie Elementary does not have a dedicated cafeteria. Lunch is served in the gym, which creates scheduling challenges. A new gym would allow the current space to be used as a cafeteria, provide needed space for physical education classes, help address scheduling issues, and create an area for student performances and community use. *Estimated cost: \$3.5 million*

Fox Prairie Classrooms & Restrooms: This project would update interior finishings (ceilings, floors, cabinets, paint). Restrooms would be renovated to comply with ADA regulations, and locker rooms would be repurposed. *Estimated cost: \$3 million*

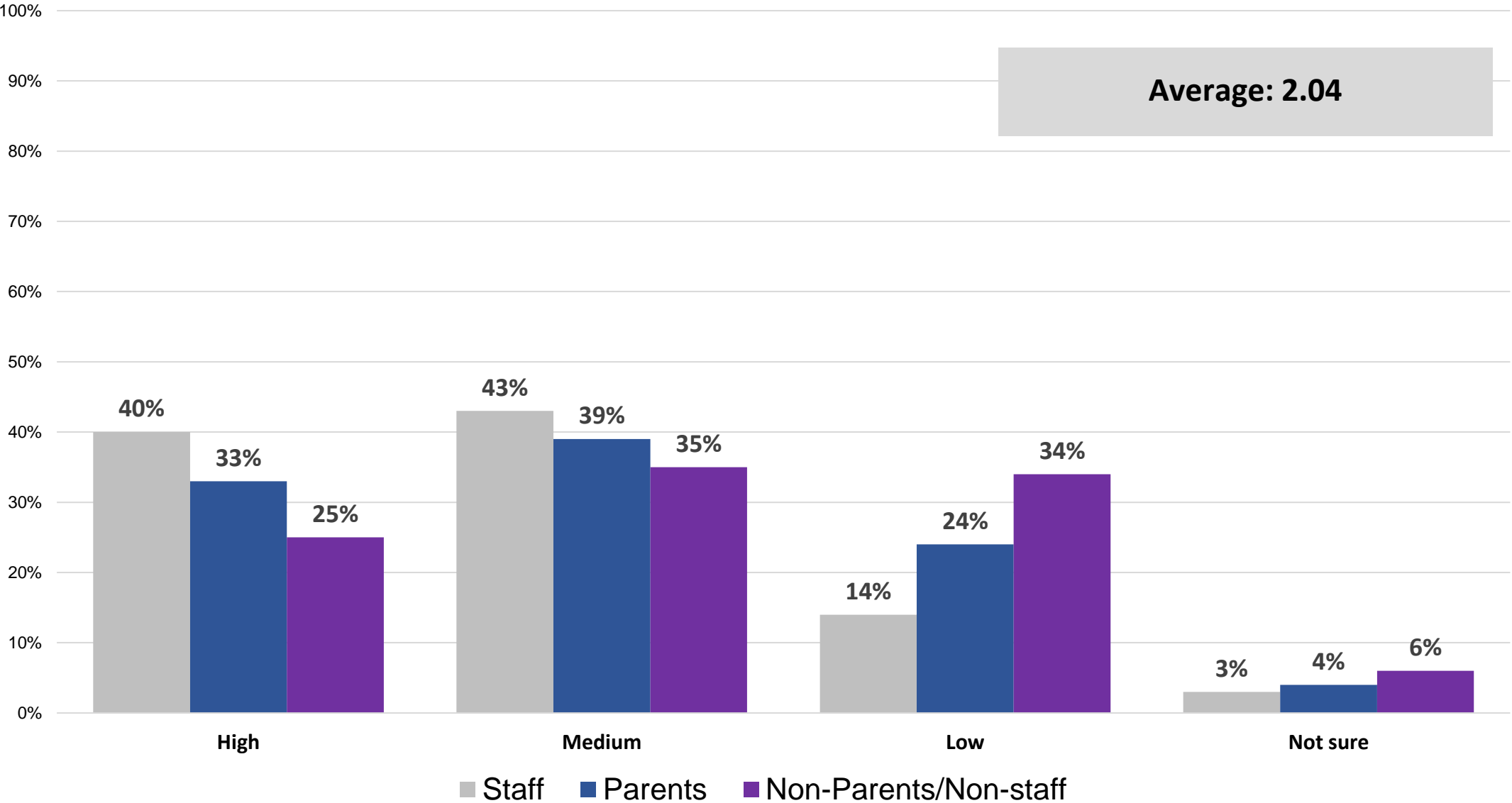
High School Library & Classrooms: This project would renovate the library and nearby classrooms to create modern learning environments and student collaboration space. *Estimated cost: \$2.8 million*

Sandhill Classrooms: This project would update interior finishes and renovate underutilized spaces throughout the building. *Estimated cost: \$1.3 million*

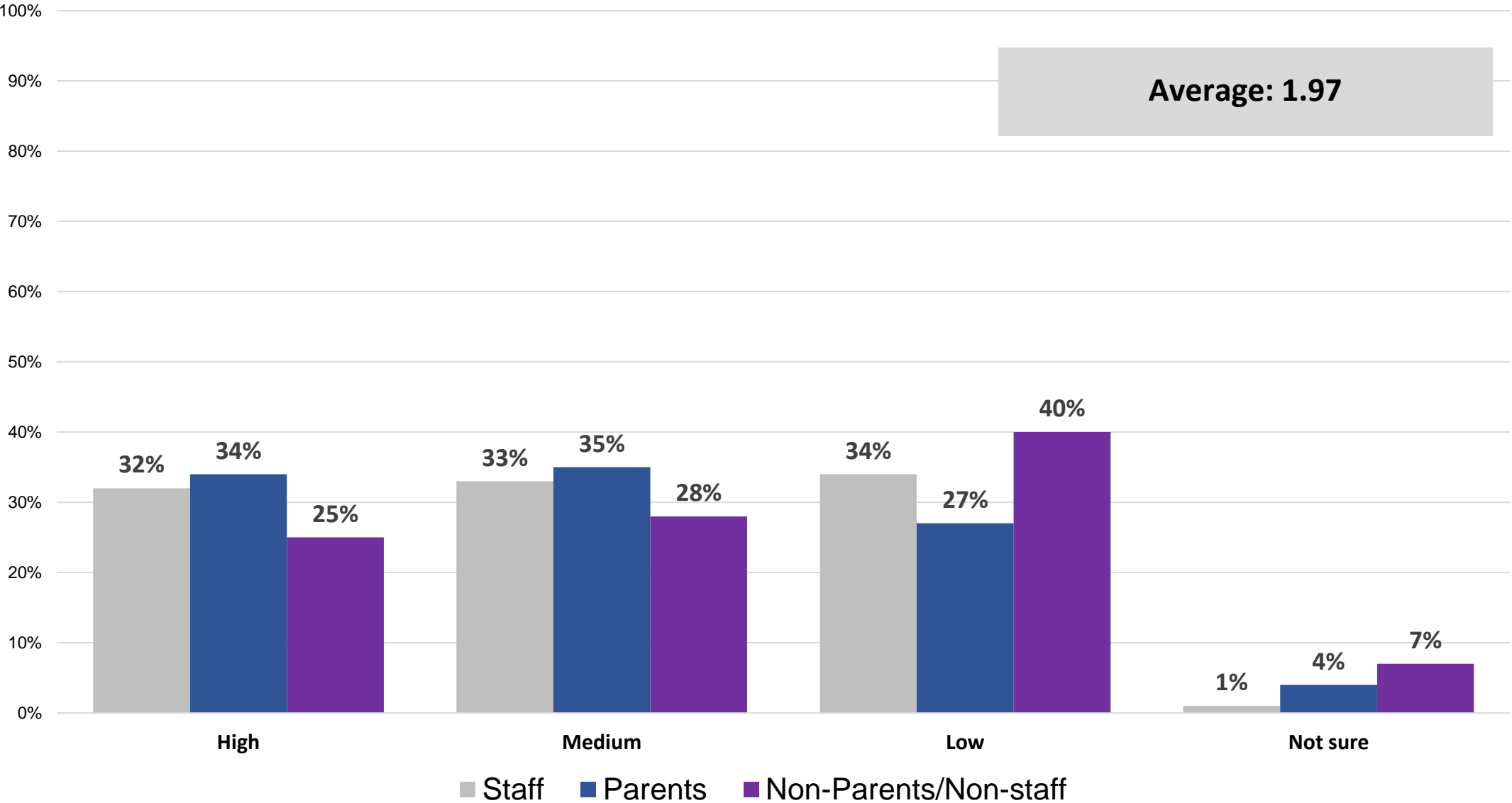
Additional Projects: What priority would you place on creating a dedicated gym and cafeteria at Fox Prairie Elementary?



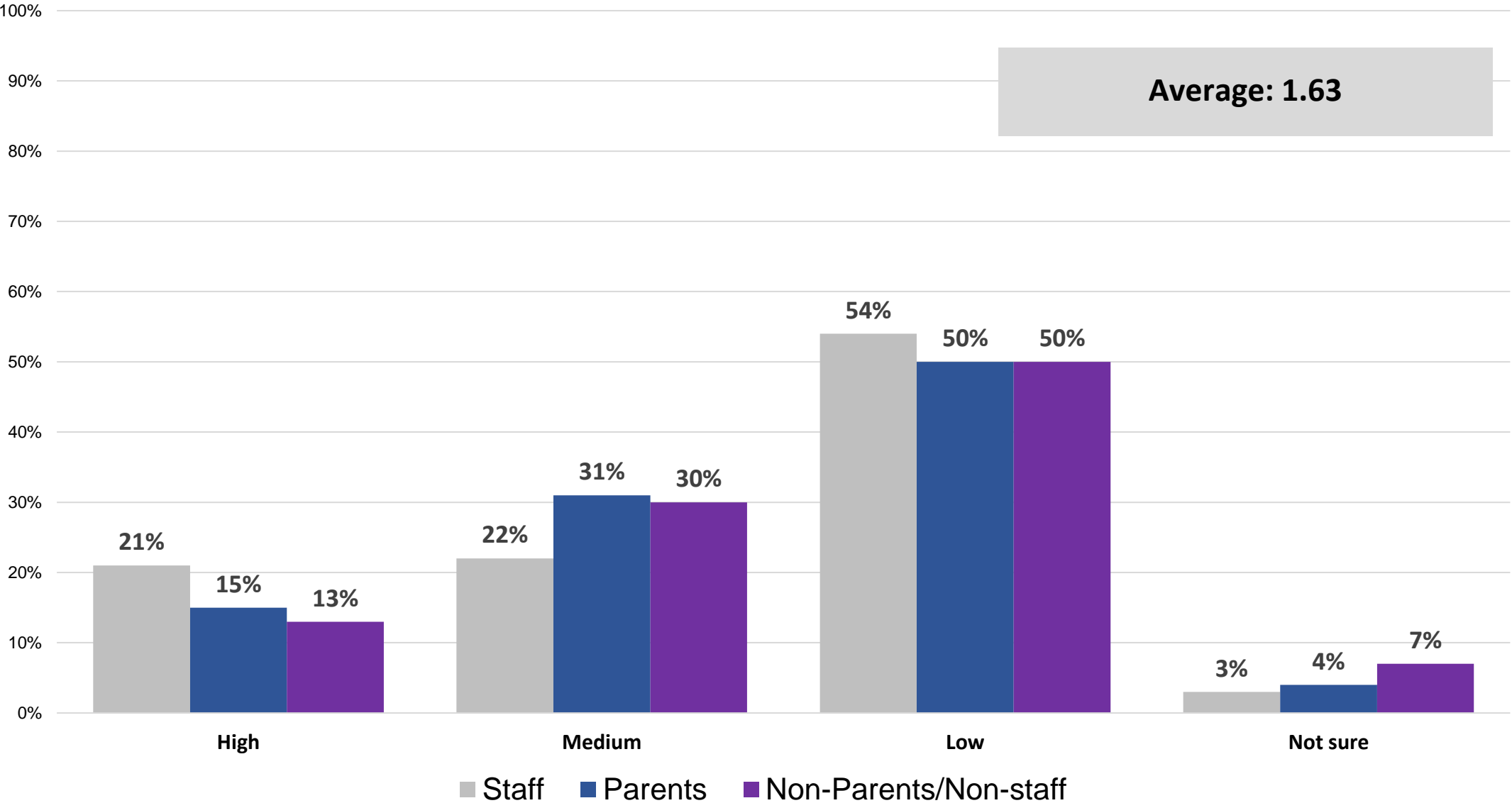
Additional Projects: What priority would you place on updating and renovating Fox Prairie Elementary?



Additional Projects: What priority would you place on the library and classroom project at Stoughton High School?



Additional Projects: What priority would you place on classroom updates at Sandhill Elementary?



Additional Projects at the River Bluff Campus: Community Gym

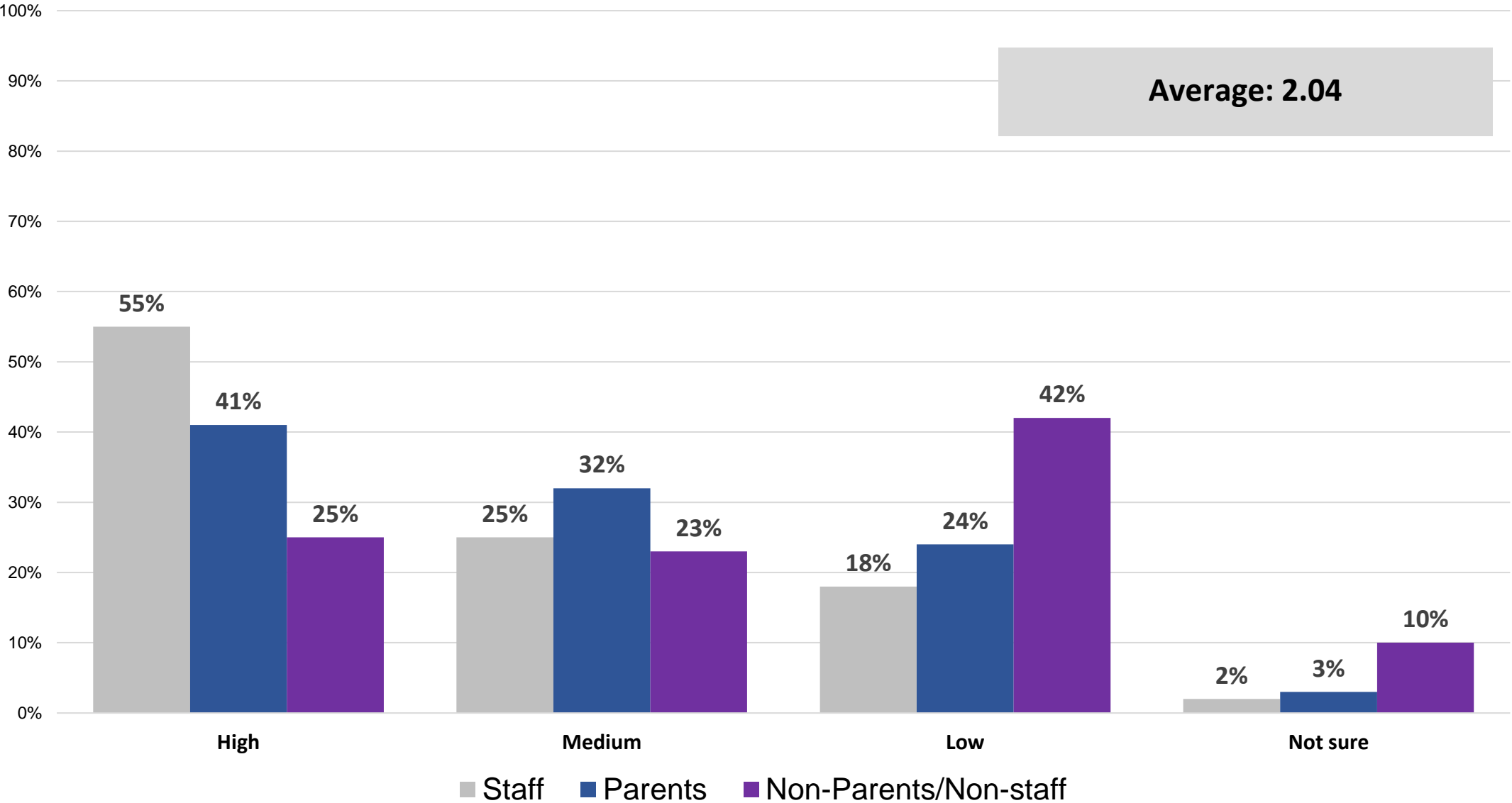


The Community Gym was built in 1941 and is located on the River Bluff campus. Because the River Bluff gym is too small, middle school students use the Community Gym for physical education classes. This requires those students to walk across a parking lot and driveway. In addition to safety concerns, this setup creates supervision, security, and scheduling challenges, especially during the winter months.

The Community Gym will require a significant investment (up to \$7.5 million) to update HVAC systems and repair/replace floors, windows, plumbing, roof sections, and portions of the building's exterior. The District is recommending replacing the Community Gym by adding a gym and fitness area to River Bluff Middle School.

Estimated cost: \$10 million

Additional Projects at the River Bluff Campus: What priority would you place on replacing the Community Gym?



Additional Projects Rank

The following averages are calculated based on High=3, Medium=2, Low=1.
Those responding “not sure” were not included in the calculations.



Item	Average
Updating or replacing Kegonsa Elementary.	2.22
Updating and renovating Fox Prairie Elementary.	2.04
Replacing the Community Gym.	2.04
Creating a dedicated gym and cafeteria at Fox Prairie Elementary	2.01
Update library and classrooms at Stoughton High School.	1.97
Update classrooms at Sandhill Elementary.	1.63

Additional Projects at the River Bluff Campus: 1892 Building

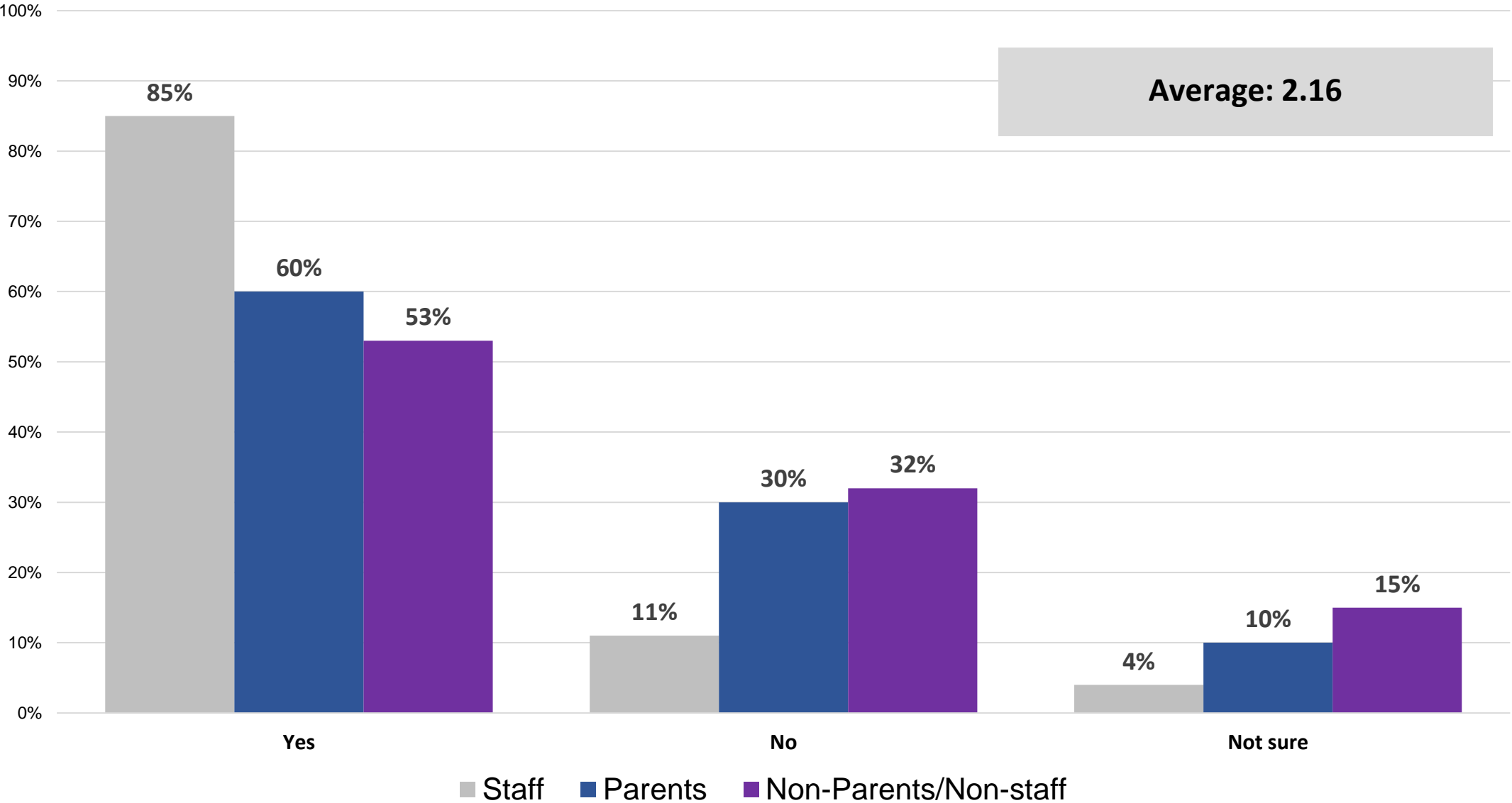


This building is on the River Bluff campus and was originally built as a high school in 1892. It has been vacant for the past 25 years.

A significant investment would be needed to occupy the building. However, at this time, the District does not have any use for the building other than storage. The building's historical significance will require special approval to demolish it. If removed, the area would provide needed greenspace, playground, and/or parking.

Estimated cost: \$400,000

Additional Projects at the River Bluff Campus: Would you support the District exploring a process to remove the 1892 building to reduce congestion at the River Bluff campus?



Facilities Funding Support

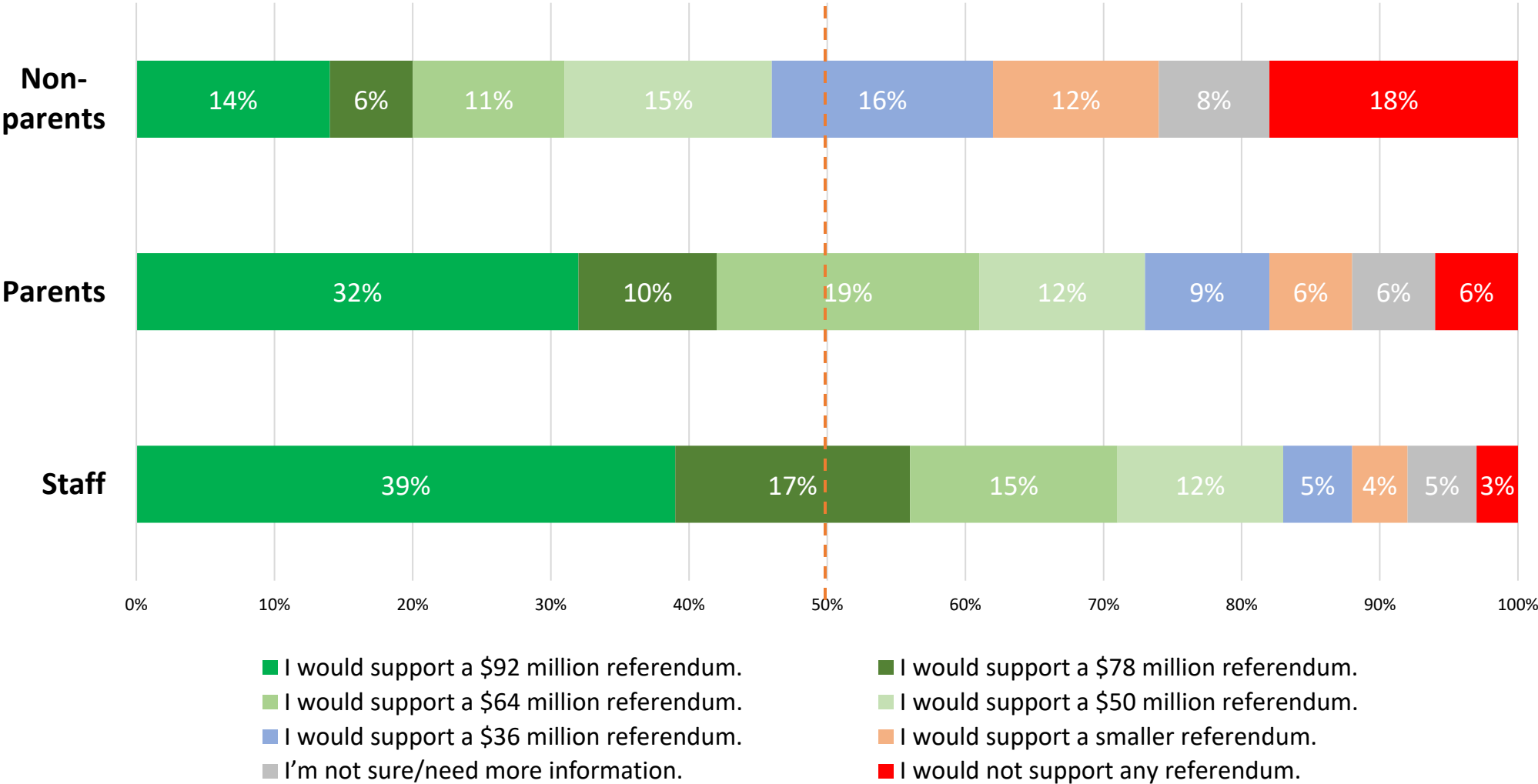


The SASD Board of Education will finalize a plan based on the input and priorities of our taxpayers. Therefore, we need to know your level of support, should a referendum be pursued for any of these potential projects:

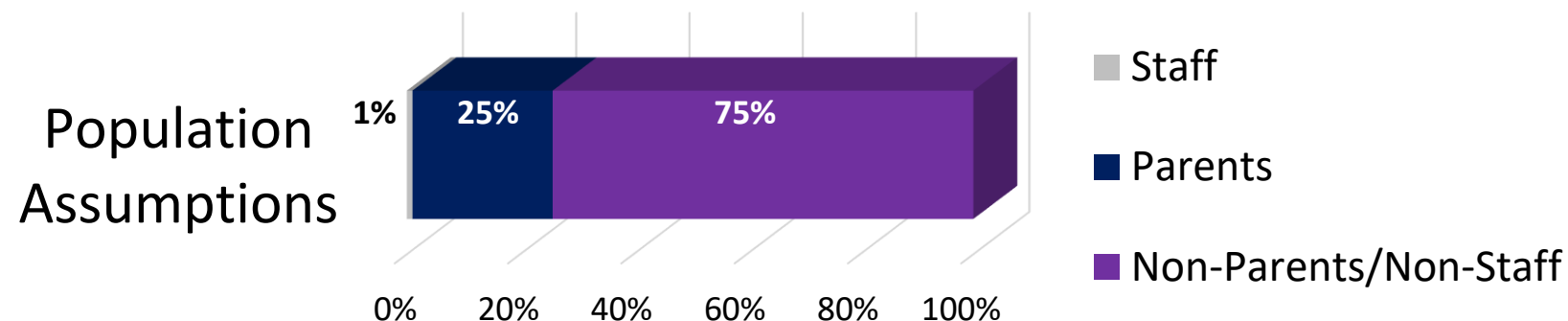
Highest Priority Needs (District-wide)	\$36 million*
Update or Rebuild Kegonsa	Up to \$27.6 million
Fox Prairie Gym & Cafeteria Renovations	\$3.5 million
Fox Prairie Classrooms & Restrooms Renovations	\$3.0 million
High School Library & Classrooms Renovations	\$2.8 million
Sandhill Renovations	\$1.3 million
Community Gym Replacement	\$10 million
1892 Building Demolition	\$400,000

Referendum amount	\$36 million* (Highest priority needs)	\$50 million	\$64 million	\$78 million	\$92 million
Tax increase per \$100,000 of property value	\$45 per year (\$3.75/month)	\$87 per year (\$7.25/month)	\$129 per year (\$10.75/month)	\$171 per year (\$14.25/month)	\$213 per year (\$17.75/month)

Facilities Funding Support: How much of a tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?



Additional Analysis



Weighted support for a \$50 million referendum:

$$0.75 (46\%) + 0.25 (73\%) = \underline{\underline{52.75\%}}$$

Operational Funding



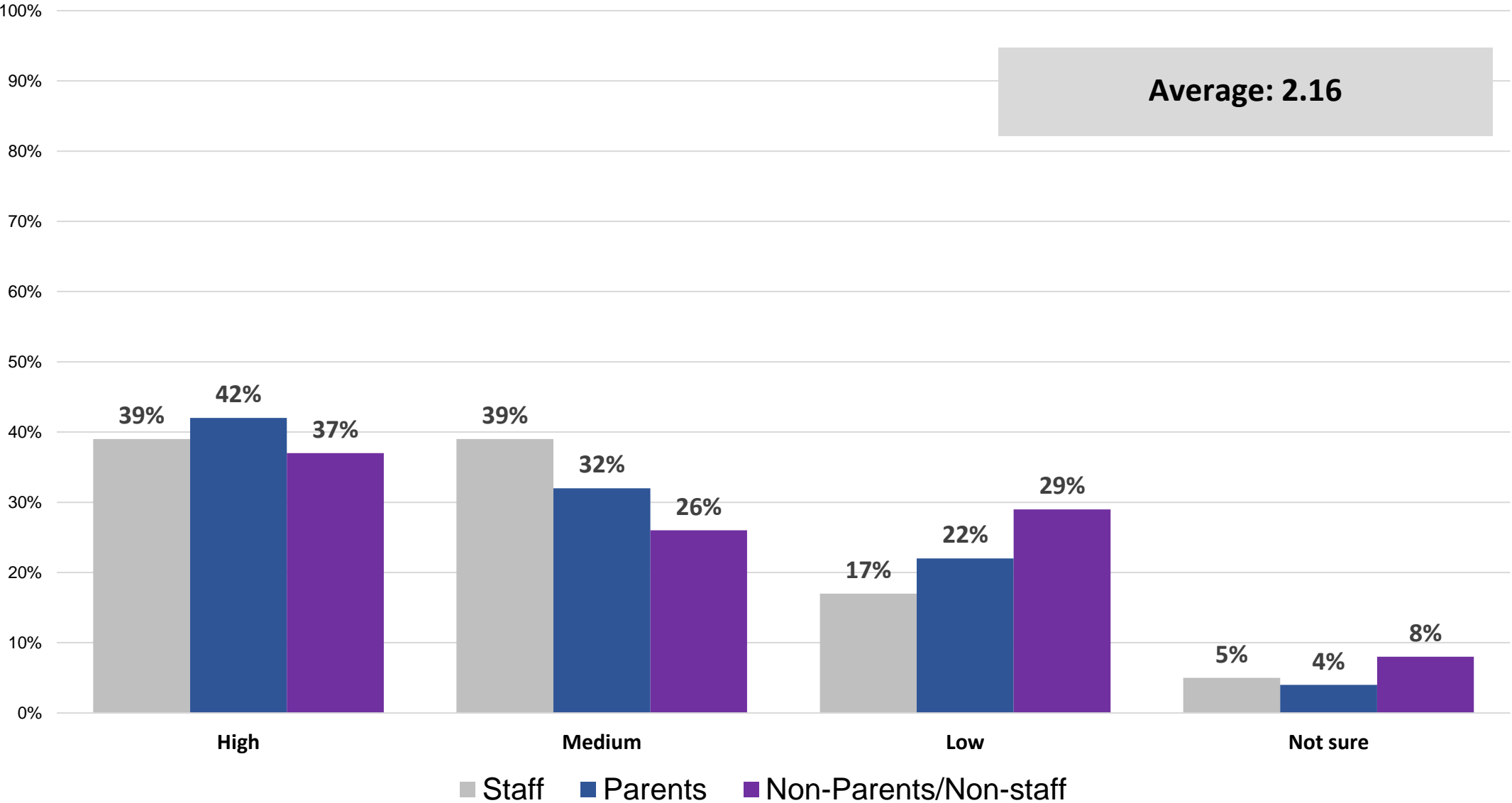
During the past two years, the Stoughton Area School District has not received any additional state funding on a per-student basis. The money that we do receive does not keep up with inflation and increasing operational costs (utilities, classroom materials, compensation, and technology expenses). While we did receive federal COVID-19 relief funding, these funds are a one-time source and have limits on how they can be spent. In the near future, we project budget deficits and may need to pursue an operational referendum to maintain programs and services.

Investments in Green Buildings and Renewable Energy

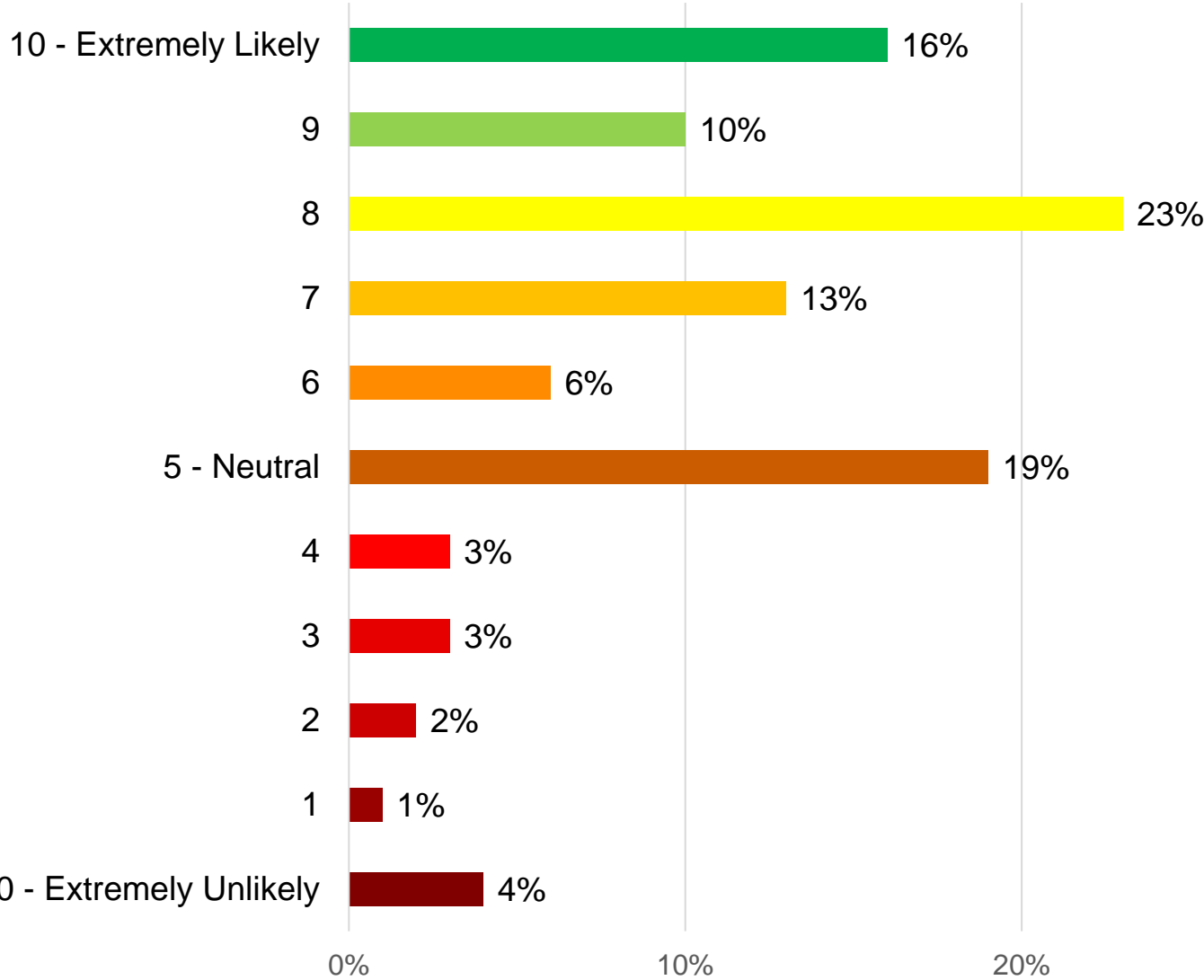


The SASD Board of Education is committed to investing in energy efficient and sustainable practices when possible. Consistent with this commitment, the Board could pursue projects that could reduce energy consumption and utilize more renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and/or geothermal heating. These projects may require a higher upfront investment but could save money over time.

Investments in Green Buildings and Renewable Energy: What priority would you place on investing in green buildings and renewable energy?



On a scale of 0 – 10, how likely would you be to recommend the District to a friend or family member? *(All Respondents)*



Stoughton Average: 6.8

What did we learn?



- ✓ A majority of all subgroups would support pursuing a \$36M referendum to address the highest priority needs.
- ✓ Respondents were split on whether now is the time to replace Kegonsa Elementary.
- ✓ Of the additional potential projects tested, respondents identified the top four as:
 1. Updating or replacing Kegonsa Elementary.
 2. Updating and renovating Fox Prairie Elementary.
 3. Replacing the Community Gym.
 4. Creating a dedicated gym and cafeteria at Fox Prairie Elementary
- ✓ Respondents are unlikely to support a referendum larger than \$50 million.

What did we learn?



Consider pursuing a \$36M referendum this fall to address the District's highest priority needs.

Consider adding a second question to the November ballot to:

- ✓ Update Kegonsa Elementary
- ✓ Update/renovate Fox Prairie Elementary
- ✓ Replace the Community Gym
and/or
- ✓ Create a dedicated gym and cafeteria at Fox Prairie Elementary



Questions or Comments?



Thank you!