



FHES Parent School Support Committee: Community feedback on the proposed options for our school

Wendy Monk, on behalf of the FHES PSSC



Our school and the PSSC

We work with the school to ensure the best possible learning opportunities for our students

“Forest Hill School is the **most wonderful, warm, inclusive community**. I'm so happy my children got to spend their early years there...”

Community member

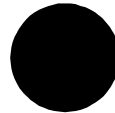
Developed questionnaire for the three options



**Strongly
oppose**



Oppose



**No
opinion**



Support



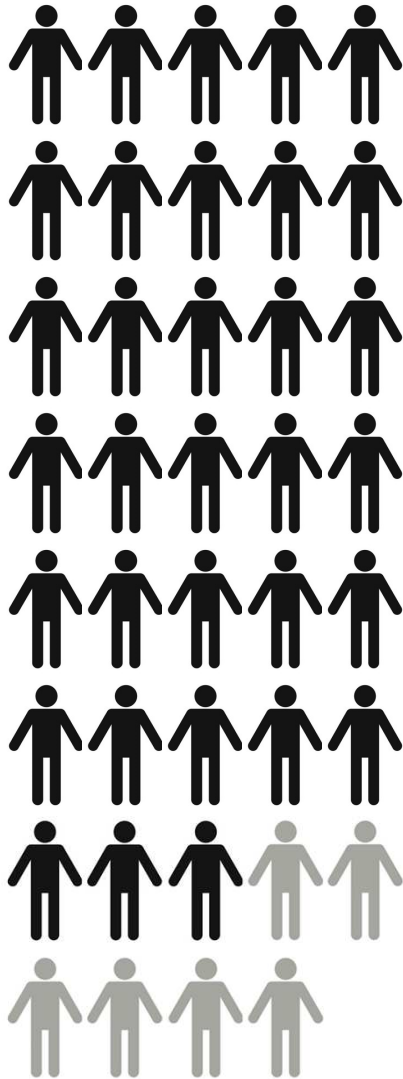
**Strongly
support**

Plus opportunity to provide open-ended feedback

Survey was shared with both the school
and wider community

**Who were our survey
participants?**

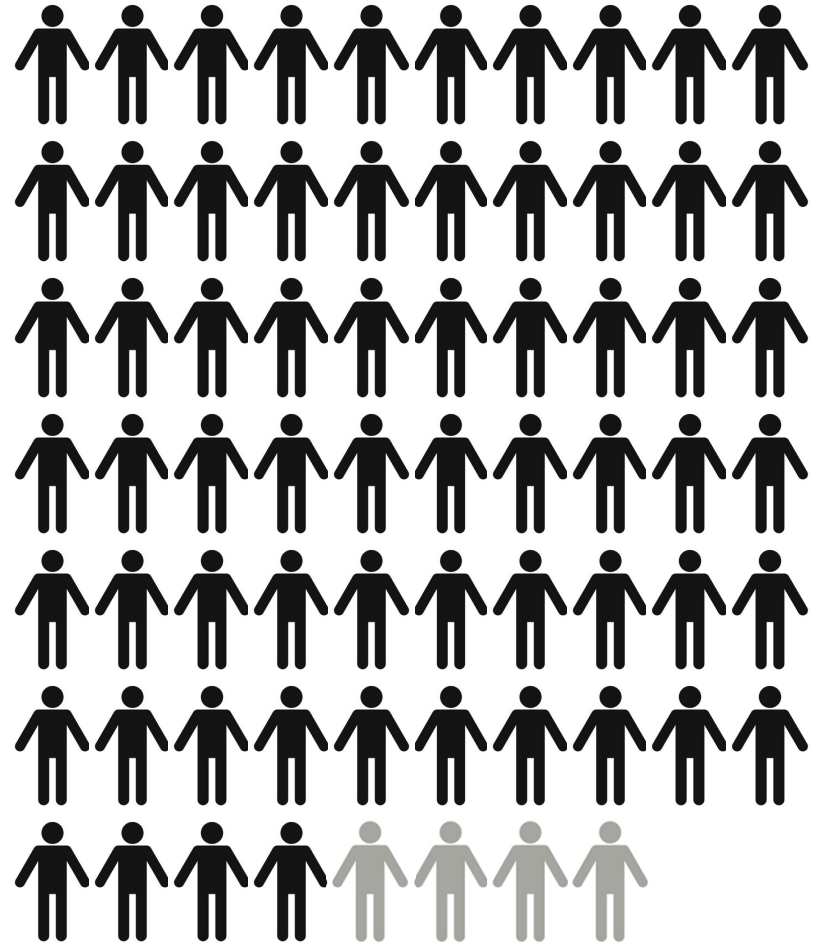
**Wider
community**



Staff at FHES



**Parents/caregivers of
current FHES students**



Thank you for taking part!

What about Option 1: Status quo?



Survey results for Option 1 (status quo)

Wider community




Staff at FHES



Parents/caregivers of current FHES students



 Support/strongly support

 No opinion

 Oppose/strongly oppose

Open feedback for Option 1



“I had children go through FHES. The school is **over crowded**, has **poor air quality** and in some areas, is **literally crumbling.**”

“As a parent of kids who have come through Forest Hill and now Liverpool, the idea of a sweet little **K-1 school is endearing... and a nightmare of inconvenience.** My children will have attended 4 different schools by the end of their public education, with the **associated upheaval that goes with each transition.**”



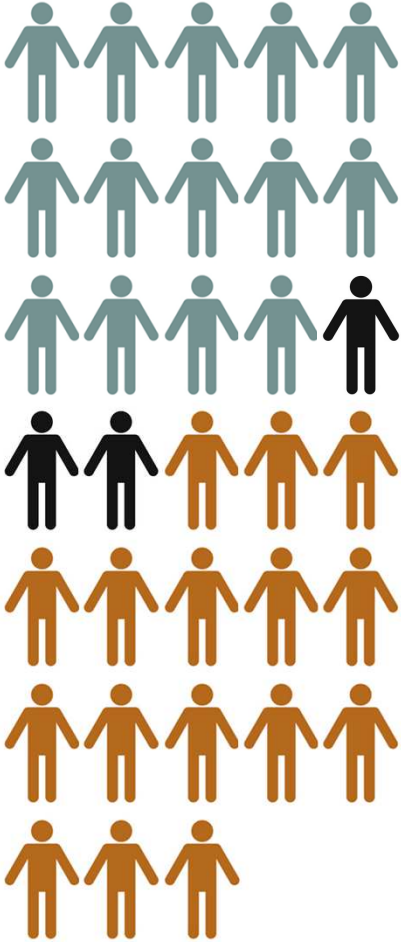
“I feel that having ~500 students from K-5 would be **overwhelming for many children.** As well as it being a bigger school it's a personal belief that it would **affect the teachers' ability to give a student more one-on-one time** if there are more students.”

**What about Option 2:
Provide necessary repairs?**



Survey results for Option 2 (provide necessary repairs only)

Wider community



Staff at FHES



Parents/caregivers of current FHES students



Support/strongly support No opinion Oppose/strongly oppose

Open feedback for Option 2



“Both Forest Hill and Liverpool are **bursting at the seams** and in need upgrades for years now as well as proper facilities. **I don't see renovations being able to honestly improve the facilities standards** for what is required in our current times. This is **unfair** for the children in this neighbourhood.”

“...I just don't wish to open a new school. I love our current school. Even if its aging, **it's small, which is the entire reason I purchased a home in this area... It's awful to have a school that large** and don't wish that for any student let alone my own children....”



“Forest Hill Elementary School is a **diamond in the rough**. An **amazing opportunity** to expose children to the school system **in a small setting** with children of their own age group.”

**What about Option 3: A new
combined K-5 school for our
community?**



Survey results for Option 3 (new K-5 school)

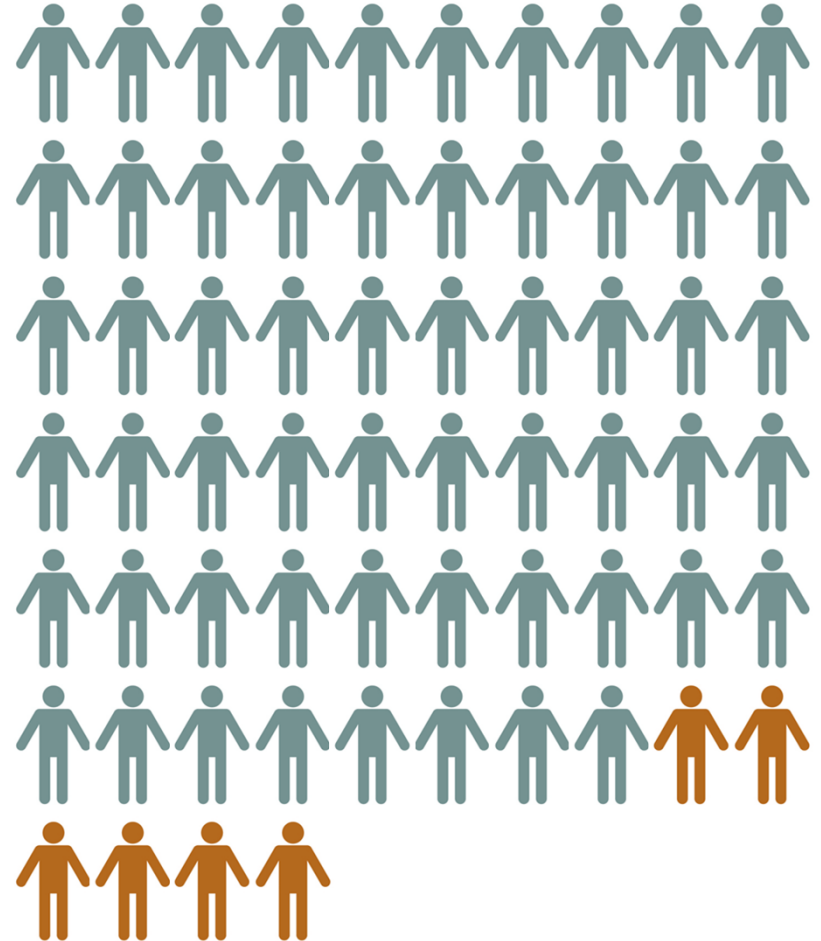
Wider community




Staff at FHES



Parents/caregivers of current FHES students



 Support/strongly support

 No opinion

 Oppose/strongly oppose

Open feedback for Option 3



“I think it is important to have kids start Kindergarten and Grade 1 in a smaller school, with smaller classes. I think it **allows them to transition into education** and more structure without the stress of having so many grades and so many students...”

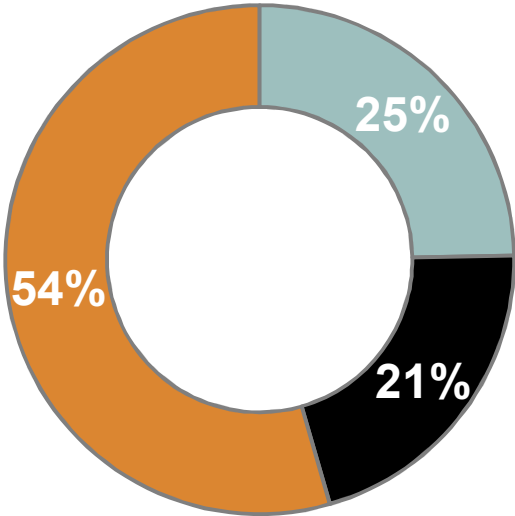
“Although the spirit of Forest Hill School is wonderful, the structure itself is filled with numerous health and safety hazards. Let’s provide our students with a **new school where they can safely learn and play**. There is **little room at Forest Hill to accommodate the diverse needs** of the student population.”



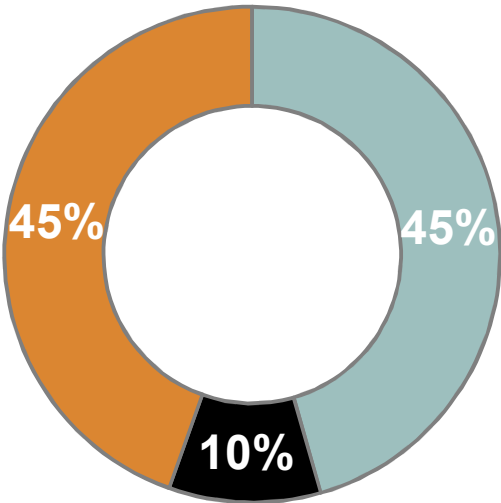
“As much as I love the small-school feeling, I do believe it is time to close Forest Hill and Liverpool and build a new school. **Just having the extra and appropriate space will have a positive impact on staff and students.**”

Survey summary from 101 participants:

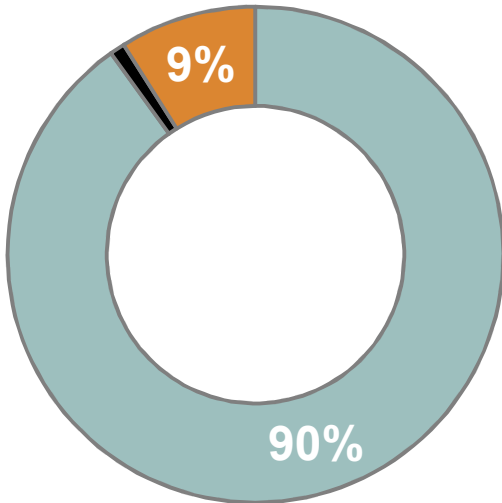
Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



Support/strongly support No opinion Oppose/strongly oppose

Concerns raised by our community

Location of potential new school

Traffic concerns (both congestion and safety)

Mixed age groups in new school setting; difficult transition

Staff:student ratios in new school

Timing of maintenance to address health and safety concerns

Supporting factors for Option 3 (new K-5 school)

Health and safety

Safe learning and working environment

Inclusivity

Additional resource rooms and accessibility to support diverse needs

Modern learning environment

Improved resources and learning space to strengthen learning experience

Extra-curricular opportunities

Enhance and engage our children through their personal interests

School and community program enhancements

Improved capacity (e.g. fundraising, volunteers, access to youth-orientated activities, childcare opportunities)



Final thoughts

“Kids FIRST - what is best for their education and health is all that matters.”

Current parent/caregiver of FHES student

Strong school community who enjoy existing smaller school but show the strongest support for Option 3 with clear benefits of new facilities and opportunities for students, staff and the wider community.