



ACTIVITY

VERBATIM RESPONSES

TASK #1: PROPOSAL RANKING

Discuss the proposals in your group. Circle your group's level of favorability for each proposal with "1" being *least favorable* and "5" being *most favorable*.

TASK #1: PROPOSAL RANKING		
TABLE #	PROPOSAL #1 - Renovate Shenandoah School and Build New Addition at the Shenandoah Site.	PROPOSAL #2 - Construction of New School at the Shenandoah Site. Once completed, existing Shenandoah building would be demolished.
1	1 Proposal #3 with minimum renovation... keep Mann and Shenandoah open - #5	1
2	No Response Option #3: KEEP BOTH SCHOOLS OPEN + RENOVATE	No Response
3	2 Proposal #3 Renovate both schools - 5	1
4	3 Proposal #3 – Renovate Shenandoah & Mann & keep both open - 4	1
5	5	1
6	No Participants at this table	No participants at this table
7	1	1
8	No Response	5
9	No Response Proposal #3 Renovate Mann - 5	No Response
10	5	5
11	2	1

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TASK #2: ISSUES / QUESTIONS / SUGGESTIONS

What issues, questions and suggestions should the St. Louis Public Schools address in moving forward with either of these proposals?

TASK #2: ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS	
TABLE #	ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first suggestion we have is to have proposal #3 to be back on the table. It is best for 2 community schools to remain 2 separate community schools. • We are very concerned that we weren't presented cost information and cost comparisons. Therefore, we are unable to make decisions based on that. • Also, our community schools reflect our values: historic preservation, small class sizes, strong community. Mega schools don't reflect those values. This is why we live where we live & and didn't move to Parkway, we don't want to look like suburbia. Building a new building will not change accreditation. Putting more money towards programs within the school towards students & their parents will increase accreditation which will in turn will bring more wealthy families to our area which will increase the tax base. • Your data is not complete and does not garner our support. We want to see you presenting how we make what we have work. Your choice of not maintaining our historic building is contrary to our beliefs. We know historic buildings can be retrofitted. We LIVE in retrofitted & renovated homes. • Mann school meets your criteria of characteristics of 21st century schools. Our students' learning needs are being met just not in a building with large glass windows. The building is working & not interfering with the students' ability to learn. With some building renovation we could increase the efficiency and building conditions and the scores you presented. • Mann school is a community treasure. Mann school feels like home. Our children are well educated there and happy and prospering. It gives our community meaning—it reflects who we are and our history. • CLOSING MANN SCHOOL IS NOT AN OPTION!
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been presented with NO fiscal data...no costs of these proposals, and not data about the current neighborhood school communities. • How long would these proposed new buildings last? How many empty or crumbling school buildings do we currently have in St. Louis? (Carr school comes to mind.) • We do not understand how it makes sense to destroy the current neighborhood

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	<p>school communities at Mann and Shenandoah. People are moving to the Tower Grove area in order to live in 100 year-old buildings. The current age and state of the Mann & Shenandoah school buildings are NO EXCUSE for destroying the current neighborhood school communities. The buildings can be renovated, expanded or upgraded. Most of us have renovated, expanded or upgraded the buildings in which we live and work in the Tower Grove area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most sustainable building is the building that already exists. • Any new construction must be in the same style as the historic structures of the current historic buildings. • Fix the building envelopes and renovate the insides. • Slide #11 shows that both schools are currently tech ready. • This meeting was poorly publicized. We don't feel like our input is valued or desired.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer smaller neighborhood schools. Many of the factors for 21st century schools can be accommodated in renovated schools. There is value in the older architecture—built well, not falling down. Beautiful, historic schools are educational and inspirational in themselves to children. • We don't want one big school, prefer more intimate settings. Most want their children to go to school with their neighbors, to know all the teachers and parents. Students at Mann would do better without transitioning to other school. • We also don't want a vacant building, or an historic building torn down or left to deteriorate. • The culture at Mann and Shenandoah has produced 2 high performing schools. We want to preserve that. Mann has two important special programs: ESL and autism—do these kids need to be displaced again? Our kids need special connections and bonds with a small community.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We chose to add Proposal #3 because we feel that, all other things being equal, two neighborhood schools are better than one. We agree that both buildings need facility updates and recognize that is difficult for SLPS to capture new students with outdated facilities and space constraints. • We feel that the closure of Mann could result in families leaving the district (including at least one of us at the table) and could have a negative affect on the neighborhood. We also feel that smaller schools are better for students because staff, students and administration know each other better. • We strongly oppose proposal 2 because we feel that demolishing the old building fails to preserve the historic fabric of the neighborhood. Additionally, demolishing

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	<p>a building is never as sustainable as using existing resources. Furthermore, building a new building and then demolishing the old compromises the site location, resulting in a less ideal facility.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most residents, our alderperson and Mayor are for Proposal #1. • Classroom “flexibility” can be facilitated with furniture, tables, etc. not just new classrooms • It seems that both proposals are short-sighted; the schools are not under-enrolled or under utilized. • There are a lot of children in Tower Grove South and it would be a shame to not have a neighborhood school. • We are putting a lot of pressure on facilities to educate our children. New facilities do not equal better education. The responsibility for educating kids should be on parents and educators, not facilities. • Our group is in favor of Option #3: Spending some \$ to renovate and keep both open. • Why Mann and Shenandoah? These 2 schools are both well attended (Mann 317 enrolled & 390 capacity; Shenandoah 217 & capacity of 212)—that’s 534 students. We were told the new Shenandoah facility would be – 600 students. Yet you said TG neighborhoods are growing. Your proposals only allow for 66 more students. • We feel we are not being provided all the information. If TGS is one of the fastest growing neighborhoods, what are plans for a neighborhood school in the future? • As a parent with an almost school-age child in TGS, I feel like Mann is a school I can consider. I think SLPS won’t improve until parents like me are willing to send their kids to neighborhood schools. Now that I’m close, I feel like you’re ripping the rug out from under me! • Option #3 please! Keep Mann open!
6	<p>No participants at this table</p>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much would each option cost? • We recommend <u>Option #3 Please leave Mann school open</u>—two neighborhood schools and upgrade buildings. • One of our tablemates is a mom who lives in Fenton. She takes her kid to Mann. I am a middle class mom sending her kids to neighborhood school—I love it and my kids are learning and growing!

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller schools facilitate better learning...more persona atmosphere. • Mann—better facility rating...better scores...bigger school.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like second (2) proposal with new construction along with new facilities.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We think Mann should be renovated. The test scores are good, enrollment is high, administration id good and motivated, smaller, community preferred...neighborhood school. • Why can't both Mann and Shenandoah be renovated? The neighborhood is growing with young families. Why snatch defeat from the jaws of victory? • Mann should stay open and be renovated. Shenandoah, too. All are at capacity with high test scores, which will add to accreditation of the district.
10	No comments
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mann and Shenandoah schools should be kept open. Mann is a selling point for Tower Grove South. We plan to send our child to Mann. The school is functionally acceptable for education, but may need some upgrades. We prefer a small neighborhood school, than a large, technically superior school. • Both of these schools are neighborhood anchors. We do not believe that the schools can be repurposed into condos/apartments because of the relatively low medium home costs. • Mann and Shenandoah are architecturally consistent with the neighborhood ad add to the neighborhood continuity. We value small neighborhood schools. It adds to the strength and diversity of our neighborhood. Please keep both schools open.