

## Please tell us your role:

Field	Choice Count
Parent/guardian or family member	243
Staff member	89
Student	23
Community member or neighbor	136

## Do you live in Meridian School District?

Field	Choice Count
Yes	346
No	90
Unsure	3

## (if yes) Where did you find information about the bond? (select all that apply) - Selected Choice

Field	Choice Count
Meridian School District Website	215
Social media (Facebook or Instagram)	193
Mailed postcard	177
Mailed newsletter	164
Whatcom County Voter's Guide	178
Meridian YouTube Videos	60
Other	82

## Prior to the Nov. 5 election, were you aware of the facilities bond?

Field	Choice Count
Yes	405
No	34

## Was the information about the bond clear and easy to understand?

Field	Choice Count
Yes	360
No	12
Unsure	27

## (if no) What is your preferred method for receiving information or updates about MSD? (select all that apply) - Selected Choice

Field	Choice Count
Meridian School District Website	8
Social media (Facebook or Instagram)	5
Mailed newsletter	13
Meridian YouTube Videos	0
Other	2
District Community Email List	9

Q19 - Below is a list of the bond projects presented to our community. Please review and then select which projects you believe should be prioritized. (select all that apply)

Field	Choice Count
New Meridian Middle School (Bond Cost \$86.92 million - \$16 million (state match) = \$70.92 million (total))	286
MHS Generator (Bond Cost \$400,000)	117
MHS Stadium Beam and Roof Repairs, New Lighting (Bond Cost \$1.5 million)	131
MHS Move Music Class to Main Campus and Auditorium Masonry Repair (\$2.18 million)	105
None at this time	64

## Q32 - What was unclear, or how could we improve communication?

It was a little unclear on how it impacts our taxes over time and how do the other bonds add in. I would just like to see the total bond numbers projected out for the next 10 years.

The cost per household appeared to be exorbitant. Your subsequent attempts to say it wasn't provided numbers that still came to very high totals per household. This proportion of expenses on the backs of residents is crazy. The effect of your "clarifying" statement was to make me distrust you and this measure. It appeared you were trying to deceive voters.

Consider when requesting a bond issue that assessed property values increased 20-25% for many this year. In addition, two other bond requests from the community. While information notified me of the proposal, it did little for me to reconcile significant increases in property taxes that I had already incurred.

Highlight what cuts you already made to your budget then put forth the case as to why additional money is required beyond cuts already implemented

How about more cost comparisons, I don't think a 500K home is even a possible price to find anymore. More details on actual work, seems to replace a few poles with lights is a million dollar plus job. Early on it seemed there was tennis courts, artificial turf, etc. what other things are hidden in this presentation?

What was unclear was that there was no explanation on the current bonds and why you were asking for more. Didn't you recently pass a technology bond yet your schools are using 5 different apps and teachers are using multiple digital tools for class work and expecting kids to remember them all. Pick one. Or hire leadership who will pick one and get all staff on board. It just is inefficient, if your district can't figure out one app to use, how will the school build go? We also don't believe you need a new school. Declining birth rates, many families opting for distance education, it doesn't make sense. Maybe reassess in 10 years after you've figured out your inability to streamline technology. Also the football field. Really? How many students does a football field benefit? That was a want, not a need, and it came off greedy, since football only benefits a select few. That's why we voted no.

By not asking for more money for the schools.

More transparency about exactly what the bond is funding. All I heard about was the new middle school, and I never heard anything about the high school upgrades.

More bullet points to summarize the narrative.

Info timing; too long between mailings.

No easy info on community members involved to be able to chat or ask questions - peer to peer (i.e. facilities committee, advisory groups, campaign folks.).

No overall info (or not clear) on if any existing bonds maturing or not.

No info on costs to get bond financing.

Info meetings at the District were at inconvenient times, & not enough notice.

Ashame....Middle School replacement is such a critical need.

## Q20 - What questions do you have about the proposed facilities projects? (optional)

Not sure why a new generator is needed now - seems like the correct one should have been bought/purchased at the time of this new fancy school that is why the district paid big bucks for a designer. The MHS roof repair seems like that should be a part of the maintenance program along with most upkeep. The district needs to manage the money accordingly just like we all do. I attend games occasionally and this fall when I sat in the stands watching football and soccer games I thought what a beautiful place - what H.S. Student needs more than this. When they rebuild the old gym at the H.S now when I watch a sports game in there there is little seating. Yes things are newer but not necessarily better. They had a full gym/full bleacher with a unique style!! Just wasting money — I have been told it is easy to spend other peoples money not sure I like that saying and I hope it is not true !! However I do not feel that we are told. the truth. So that district can get what it once.

We should not give taxpayers another "Bond" to pay for school projects. We should use existing funds to pay for maintenance issues that include stadium repair, Music building repair and possibly a new generator.

None

No generator is needed. If it's a down power day. You won't have kids in school. There will be No need until PSE is able to return power to the school.

Need to get back to basics. Prioritize real life education. Control spending. Schools need to focus on education only. Sports should not be priority or at the taxpayers expense. Schools are two thirds of property tax in the meridian school district and we are not nearly getting our moneys worth. Schools are terribly overfunded.

The \$1.5 million stadium beam and roof repairs, new lighting seems like a low priority given the number of students who participate in school sports. Football, especially, has been found to be a health risk to the athletes regardless of what level they play. Seems like we would be paying to put kids at unnecessary risk.

I imagine a bond cannot be obtained for salaries, however money would be better spent paying good teacher more to retain them or hiring more teachers to create smaller class sizes.

None. Will support in a future vote. Hope you can ask for the same. You have been good stewards and I trust you are asking for what you need.

Clarity on 5th graders, where are they going and when.... seems like there is some opposition to moving them to the Middle School... perhaps seperating the move and the project might be helpful.

None

I think we spend too much money! I have some experience with government work and I know there's a lot of waste. Let's worked on cutting out the waist and redirecting it to the things we actually need.

Why the only option for a new middle school is building a new one. Voters only had one choice.

None. State should pay for schools. We as homeowners already struggle and are taxed to high heaven.

Why is the monetary supporting community not given full disclosure about the costs of each project and not just a blanket amount to approve? After all the money is literally coming out of our pockets. In a time of austerity for most people, why should we not feel taken aback by the wish lists you gave us?

none

None

Why are you moving where the music class is? It's fine where it is right now

Where are we spending all the money we have now? What has been saved for capital improvements along the way? Are curriculum needs being met?

will it have a better GYM

How long do we have to wait to revote?

Why were all these projects lumped together? Does the district have the resources to properly manage these projects concurrently?

Why are the costs so exorbitant? Is this job being bid on by the community?

None We voted yes

mo

Is there a less expensive way to build a school?

What feedback was received as to why community members did not want the bill passed?

Why is state support such a small proportion of the total? I heard that Meridian School District did something wrong with their accounting and that this resulted in Meridian missing out on higher funding. So now taxpayers here need to make up the difference?

We need a less expensive middle school option.

No

N/a

Having witnessed the construction of many modern schools of late, I question the design that requires \$90 million for facilities to educate youth.

Is the generator a backup or emergency generator? Depending on how it is classified it may have different requirements, testing and maintenance needs. Is load testing and maintenance included in the bond or will there be additional operations costs.

Could you give a little more information about your usage and trade offs for the stadium and fields? I would like the district to support non-sports initiatives first because the school building is quite bad, and then move to nice-to-haves like updated sports stuff when it's already present.

n/a

Why did you not move forward with the middle school build in the past when it was first brought forward? Why did you choose to sneak in a new district office building?

Would it make long term sense to merge into the Bellingham school district? I live in Bellingham, it doesn't make sense that my school district is not the main one.

We already pay high property taxes within the Meridian school district, not to mention two new schools back to back (IRPS and MHS), with the increase of over 11% on next year's property taxes we are being taxed out of our homes, our dollars are stretched to the max now and yet you want more and more. How about paying off the bonds that you carry now before asking for more.

No questions.

Are we still paying for the bond to renovate MMS? Can the school seek more funds from The State instead of burdening the local tax payers? Where is all the money going that you already receive? Why can't projects be done gradually, instead of shocking tax payers with an unrealistic tax increase in the current economy. We understood a generator was already purchased. Why wasn't this factored into the original build price? Why doesn't the school plan ahead to have money to do repairs and expected expenses (roof replacement) and have amounts already included in the budget each year?

Why is not the 53 percent ok?

No

Now is not the time to build when construction costs and interest rates are artificially high. Combined with the fact that the county is looking to reach into its banked reserve to raise property taxes and the result to district taxpayers will be substantial. Interest rates and construction costs do fall as well as rise so that old fallacy that "it's only gonna cost more in the future" is easily dismissed.

How is it that you can impose more property tax fees to pay for something with no price how is it that more nurses, counselors, psychologist, and therapist, do anything to teach students. Schools have become a social program and not a learning environment.

We have 25% of out of district kids attending MSD. How do we address that taxpayer wise? I don't want to pay for out of district kids.

All are needed to be done.

It's hard for me to vote for more money for a school like meridian where they compromise on the sexual education, teaching more opinion than facts and science.

The postcard in the mail mentioned moving 5th grade to the new middle school because the elementary school, roughly a decade old, is too small.

What has been done to ensure that the proposed middle school won't be too small a decade after its completion?

Why are you hitting up community members? There is a huge retired population here, and we are on fixed incomes. We are being taxed a lot. The effect of your bond would be to drive my family out of Bellingham. We cannot afford this.

Could these projects be stepped over a couple of years?

Cost breakdowns instead of just a very general description. I'd like a new car and I need 80K, no need to know what the details of what I plan to purchase trust me I'm giving you the best deal

The middle school absolutely needs to be replaced.

How would these facilities improve education?

A new middle school is needed (or at minimum rebuilt) to provide a safe and healthy environment for students to learn.

Why is the middle school so expensive with only 400 students? what is the estimated increase we should expect to pay? Is there a way to make the new school more affordable or renovate instead?

Why does it cost 70.9 Million dollars to build a school. With the current state of the economy with inflation and taxes and living expenses so high. I cannot afford to pay for another school bond. That's gonna last for 30 years. You need to go back and get the cost down to a reasonable number 70.9 million is too much.

The middle school need to be done affordably

It's very hard to say. Cuts are basically the most painful thing people can do. And it is exhausting, always, that people who tell you how much they "care" then show you how much they really do. I'm not a parent, I can't tell you what to prioritize. We've lost power enough and it's "cheap" enough that I could easily see the Generator making priority.

But I think the new school is close because it benefits students and facility, both. Ideally, the relaxed strain can be used to alleviate repairs/facility upgrades until such time as more funds can be acquired.

Was it on the ballot for people outside of the school district? If it was, I couldn't identify which one it was.

How does it cost THAT much? Why don't we put the school academics is a separate bond than athletics? How can we afford the 11+% tax hike and an increase to property tax for this?

None

I would encourage you to streamline your technology so you can show that you can project manage. Once that has been accomplished and deployed then think about the other wants, but right now the school district has lost trust and gives an impression of mismanagement. There is no reason the district and teachers need to be having 5-10 different platforms.

How much will it cost home owners for these projects? What percentage is the state responsible for?

The proposed cost for new middle school seems incredibly high. Project breakdown and associated costs, (materials, labor, etc.) including multiple bids, would be beneficial. This would go for all projects.

Why are you asking cash strapped home owners to raise the cost of owning a home in the district at this time

Only new middle school

What other middle school projects in Whatcom county are similar to ours in scope?

I believe there should be a partial middle school option. Why does it have to be 86M?

n/a

Since you don't have enough support in the community to pass the bonds, when will you be asking the public for their input on why they aren't supporting it?

Middle school should absolutely be prioritized as the age and health consequences of that school are paramount to the well being of students and staff

For all bonds I have questions about the budgets, and if there's room to lower the costs.

Is there any possibility of renovating the current middle school, rather than building a whole new school? Curious what the financial and logistical reasons are for not just maintaining/renovating the current facility and instead fully rebuilding. I understand building codes have changed significantly since MMS was first constructed, so maybe that's the issue. I think greater awareness of what other options were considered would be helpful.

Suggest the community be given opportunity to rank order priorities, unlike above question.

- 1) New Middle School
  - 2)Beam, Roof, Lighting
  - 2)Music Bldg & Mason repair
  - 2)Generator
- (Perhaps 2 bond proposals?)

No questions

How was the cost estimated? Was there different options? Is there a way to get this done more cost efficiently?

The cost for building the middle school seems high. I feel this could be reduced

Why is the middle school projected to cost so much? It seems as though we are asking our community for a lot of additional funds without explaining where the nearly 87 million will be allocated. It also seems to be an incredibly high price tag for such a small area...

This bond should include components that will easy crowding at IRE

What kind of responsibility does the state have toward building a new middle school as it is a public school?

I understand and appreciate the desire to upgrade the sports facilities and also want education and safety within the education sphere to take precedent.

None at this time

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### Q21 - What ideas do you have for improvement? (optional)

To maintain the facilities that are there now. The middle school is beautiful !! I went through it this fall when my granddaughter's were practicing soccer to see what the district was talking about who would not want to attend this school. These will be the best memories the students will have. Walking through the halls even with the imperfections and old gym with low low ceilings. Keep up maintenance !! Maintenance - maintenance

Learn to live within your budget like the overtaxed and overlevied homeowners must do in order to meet the non-discretionary needs of their family. These needs now exceed our ability to earn sufficient income because local and state government leaders continue to increase spending faster than our wages or social security payments rise.



We should take some of the money from the "enrichment" property tax and put it into a special fund to build a new school.

Using money efficiently. Watering fields incessantly that the kids used for about 2 weeks is one form of waste that could be cut. Being friendly to neighbors and listening to the concerns of your neighbors also would help with goodwill.

Pay off the 2 bonds Already in place. Get financing in order. We, the community of Meridian school district do Not have an endless bank account to fund your options.

Taxes are already over 1K and you want to raise it to almost another 1K. I'm appalled at your gross inflation.

Back to basics. No frills. Teach students to be responsible adults. After third grade they learn everything from their phones anyway.

Get rid of the light and roof issues by play sports during daylight and let parents sit or stand on the grounds. This cost is not a priority given the state of education in the USA pre and now especially, post COVID.

Focus on a bond for the rebuilding of the middle school which sounds like a priority at this point and make due with other work arounds for stadium lighting/beams and music class.

Creative look at school design to maximize the use of space for student use- possible remove high cost design elements that are not link directly to student learning environments (Ex. removed floor to ceiling window feature that cost over 100,000 dollars with roll up doors to create indoor outdoor space for students. Look to include common areas that could be converted into classroom space if needed- ( HS design ) Can you build and keep classroom space open for classes (HS build saved lots of money). Find creative ways to bring down the cost of new Middle School- show the community we are trying to bring cost down.

Clarity on 5th graders, where are they going and when.... seems like there is some opposition to moving them to the Middle School... perhaps seperating the move and the project might be helpful.

None

Cut back on waste! I'm on a fixed income and I can't afford any more taxes.

Submit an alternative plan for renovation and upgrade and expansion of current location.

The state needs to support schools.

Improve transparency for these expenses for the aforementioned projects. We are already overburdened with county taxation.

Reduce the school district's spending by cutting expenditures that are not explicitly needed for teaching Reading, Writing, Math, and History (true history based on sound evidence, not rewritten, politicized history).

Hire a business consultant to identify areas within the school district where the cost/benefit ratios are smallest (defining "benefit" as the program expenditures that actually teach students business skills that would be valued by companies that have a Profit/Loss Statement). And then start reducing the districts spending until they can be covered by the funding level that our taxes are already providing. We tax paying citizens know that education is critically important, but we no longer have any disposable income with which to approve additional bond levies. We need tax relief, not more taxes from IRS, WA B&O and sales tax, Property tax, etc, etc.

Essential do what every citizen has to do when the cost of their needed goods & services becomes greater than what they can earn: they must make very hard, painful choices to cut their spending!

We should not try to do everything at once. People do not have extra money right now. We should prioritize the middle school or at least make significant repairs to the middle school and create a smaller overall ask dollar amount. People cannot afford for their taxes to increase by so much.

no

The district has a good list of needs.

Separate out the issues to make smaller bonds . Fully explain why the current middle school cannot be repaired and must be replaced. When asking for this much money, it is important to provide financial information to back up the ask. Additionally, what is the five and ten year enrollment projections and what are they based upon.

Also, why was a 20-year bond proposed? While a longer term bond does increase interest payments, it does lower the annual repayment amount.

School districts in Washington state are too small to be cost effective. Like the stadium repair request - why does Meridian need a stadium? Why not share one with the other school districts in Whatcom county.

Scale the project back. Phase the building in. It's too expensive for residents of this area to take on that high of a tax burden in one fell swoop. Please see feedback below.

nothing

Re-run just the middle school project and do not include anything else. Felt like adding the additional projects was unnecessary.

Not facilities related but... I'd like to see regular communication from the district specifically detailing how the students are doing academically. Are they learning reading, writing, arithmetic at the appropriate grade level? Are the Ag kids getting prepared for the job, are the kids interested in college prepared for that jump, and so forth?

Covered outdoor area vs gym

Find a way to reduce the tax impact - it is too big

No

N/a

I believe our governing representatives at all levels mismanage the taxation already received and believe any bond, no matter it's use, is asking too much of an already overburdened populace. I would rather see the facilities close and a new approach to education arise than contribute another dollar toward schools that already fall short in educating and preparing our next generation for life beyond their youth. Remove federal government from the equation and focus on the fundamentals of reading, writing and mathematics; the necessary means to a meaningful contribution to society.

I would like the district to prioritize the student safety and facilities and smaller classes first to improve education. Then follow up with other things that are more useable for the time being.

n/a

The monies for the district office rebuild should be spent for the middle school. The district employees do not need a new building. You snuck that one in and many of us didn't see that coming.

Combine school districts if they can provide fences in operation.

Pay off existing debt first, then ask for your upgrades and new school.

Put a hold on improvements, repairs and nrw construction. Failure of the vote is a sign that people do not want to continue upping taxes, as we are severely strapped already and do not want to add yet another financial burden to what's already a hardship.

Put an emphasis on 5th grade moving up to the middle school building to alleviate crowding in the elementary. Publicize the projected total enrollment in elementary over the next couple years better. I feel not enough parents know how many kids are projected to be in the schools.

I have lived in this district since 1971 and attended Meridian K-12. I remember when all three schools were maintained by ONE PERSON with seasonal help and the occasional sub contractor for heating and plumbing. I recognize the district demands are higher with more residents, but there has to be a balance between the "dream wishlist" of the district and recognizing we, as taxpayers, are paying enough already to the district.

Contact each voter to see if that helps with a new bond issue.

No

Seek private sector partners for the football repairs.

Let's spend money on student scores. Let's encourage the gifted students with more opportunities for advanced study. Spend money for more instructional aides to help struggling students. Bring up the achievement level for the students before asking for more money.

Stop asking for more money than you will ever need to maintain an adequate school. Residents are tired of paying more taxes and passing bonds just because they did the time before and no other reason. The average teacher salary is around \$90,000 with nothing to show for it.

Tell the families that bring their kids out of district to attend their own school district

Be more transparent with the meridian finances and teach facts not opinions. Also the lack of discipline is out of control, ridiculous. This lack of discipline is causing more of a decline in our kids education than the building.

Learn from what the Bellingham schools did 10 years ago. Add a \$3M turf field and voters will approve a \$60M bond. A new roof and lights isn't enough to get people to vote. An artificial turf field benefits athletics, P.E. and community use.

Don't be deceptive. Pursue city/county/state funding.

Get a lot more money from the state.

Don't ask for so much enrichment levy and a huge bond.

Do the smaller projects as a capital levy when the current one expires.

Better explanation of a multi-year vision of bond requests would allow families to potentially planned. This plus other tax increases with increased assessed values really hurts.

Perhaps emphasizing the security of having school campuses that have buildings concentrated in one group may be helpful.

What are we paying for exactly?

I have been a life long supporter of meridian schools. All of my children started and graduated from meridian. However, I don't believe that the school teaches basic values of education to include being American citizens. I see ridiculous sayings on the reader board on Hannegan. So maybe start by representing the citizens of this great district instead of the people of Seattle or Washington DC.

Improve education itself firstly. Then maybe we can talk about new facilities.

School vouchers

See above

It seems that the middle school is below expectations for reading and math. I think we should focus on reading comprehension especially with a focus in being able to tell what is fact versus opinion, and how to check if things are true.

I am a retired elementary school Principal with 32 years of experience. In my opinion, you are simply asking for too much from a small pool of tax payers. With a lot of planning, I would think that you could remodel the middle school for a lot less money and still serve the needs of that small number of students. The bond issue read like a wish list to accomplish very few needs.

\$70.92 million for one new school is too much.

I would advise the school board members and anyone who put the levy together to evaluate the economy we are in right now. I want them to put themselves in other people shoes who do not make an absorbent amount of money. This levy would raise property taxes astronomically. We are still paying for the new high school levy and I believe the other previous levy. The middle school needs to be done affordably and should have been the only thing proposed. The levy was unreasonable to ask of the community members with the state of the economy.

Set the middle school on fire and start over

None

Cut budget from sports and save up for the things you want

Break the projects into smaller pieces and shoot to fund them sequentially.

Prioritize the middle school. It is the biggest safety concern that would benefit the largest group of students. Will also help to alleviate overcrowding at IRE.

I didn't think it was clear enough that the old middle school is failing. Maybe describe the steps that would happen if the middle school was damaged in an earthquake or such.

I know adding one more thing to the bond is not going to be popular, but it might be time to add putting a turf field in at the high school. With losing more than 5 acres of practice field, and the poor drainage on the fields left to practice on, it might be time to add it.

Partial middle school redo. Make repairs to some of the existing?

Not really improvement, but super curious if there's a way to get feedback from people who said no. Who? Why? I really don't think any of the proposed projects should go, but I also think that removing a small part might be a nod to the financial hesitancy from the first ask, while also affirming that these things are needs, not wants. Especially the MS and poles. That said...I wonder if presidential election anxiety had anything to do with it. I wonder if Trump getting elected (in part on the premise that more money will be in people's pockets) will swing a few no voters to yes if they have less perceived financial uncertainty now. (That said - I worry that his tariff plans may make expenses go up, so perhaps acting now is the move rather than waiting a year or two.)

Another idea: can we find some yes voters who are not alums, don't have kids in school, won't have kids or grandkids in district (I suspect many of the folks voting no are in this category, though I have zero data on this, just rationally) and get some of them to film some content on why they said yes. Like maybe it's appealing to some of those voters to see themselves represented in the campaign.

I know the amazing team did door to door knocking at the apartments in the Cordata area. If there was a special ballot in Feb, could there be a ballot party with food and childcare/entertainment provided and people fill out ballots there? (Those are voters who don't pay taxes in district if they're renting and also probably a lot of families with kids.)

Can similar events be held at other community events/venues?

Can we mobilize our recent grads who are likely to be registered but perhaps live out of area? Find our last 5 years of class or ASB presidents and have them reach out to their classes and make sure those ballots are mailed to them if they're away at college? I know it's a small number but big movements are the accumulation of lots of small movement.

Since you're requesting a very large bond at a time of high inflation and tax rates, you should cut some of the spending from the bond for the school. It's a middle school...present three options to the community and see which one they choose.

Allow all district access to homeschooled facilities. This facility is a cost the school district should not spend when it's not equally shared by all in the school community. The home schooled students should be using the school facilities as part of their curriculum , they should not be allowed to spend public money for their private use. If your asking taxpayers to give more money, first trim egregious spending.

Breakdown of costs for the middle school bond and more transparency in who bid on the project, what the bids were, where the money is allocated, etc. This information needs to be dispensed to voters who are unable to attend meetings so we can make a knowledgeable decision. An accountability for where all the additional COVID money went would also be nice as it seems difficult to agree to this high cost without accountability for those additional funds.

Better teachers. School is too easy. Not challenging. Kids not prepared for college at all

The boys bathroom needs to be fixed at meridian middle school

There should be fundraisers held to help raise money, not just bonds. There are many non-home owners who should share in the cost of rebuilding the schools. How can we get them involved? Funding school improvements shouldn't solely fall to homeowners w the additional taxes. Why not have each sports team host a fundraiser and then try to pass the bond. This can raise community investment in the project.

Don't run the bond during a record Republican turnout election

Public fundraisers on a larger level. How do the out of district families contribute financially, if at all?

The marketing focus seemed to be on the middle school, which it should be. The concern is that for those that aren't very involved, the other items kinds of come as a surprise. The idea would be to focus also on the other items or not have them as a part of this bond.

None at this time.

I think a new stadium should be built to better handle the capacity of students and fans. There is no point spending money to fix a beam when it is such a danger to try to leave or get to the seats of you are in the middle.

## Q10 - Any other feedback to share with us? (optional)

My grandkids are 5th generation Meridian Trojans. I think education is very important - however they do not need a fancy school to get a great education!! The middle class with these huge taxes are becoming more then we can afford - why should my grandkids have new ? And the people that have lived in this community for generations (and supported it) now cannot afford to live here. With property values doubling and tripling since the last school bond I do not understand where all the extra money goes that is brought in? Maybe to MP3 ? Maybe the tech school ? Maybe a new district office ? Maybe people getting flown across the country for what ? With tax money going toward the property you are putting these schools on maybe we should get a vote? Also who decided we needed a pre-k and early education classes taking up space in the elementary ? We could then have more space for K-5. I feel like the whole truth is not being told these things do not add up to me it seems shady !! I could go on and on and on but I better stop !!

Thank you for asking taxpayers for input!

Even renters are beginning to see that voting yes on levies will cause their rent to increase because their landlord's property tax will increase.

Try again - perhaps a stand alone ballot not paired with other elections.

All of us are getting slammed at the current time with rising prices, new taxes, and we want to keep some of our hard-earned money to enjoy our lives. A new school seems to be a luxury item at this time. Back in 2020 we approved a luxury "bond" to give students all new computers instead of books to learn in school.

I think the bond failed because generally people don't want to spend extra money. I think it is good to push another vote off until April or maybe even next November. Maybe that will give enough time for the economy to make some turns and people to be more optimistic about the future.

Thank you for your efforts!

When you expect a levy to pass and asking for an astronomical amount Increase in taxes.

You cannot expect anything to pass. Bellingham has just passed an increase in taxes. There is no way we can increase both.

We the taxpayers have Not received pay increases to support your Wants. Only ask for what meridian school Needs.

This is budgeting 101. Pay off the 2 Levy's first before I vote yes to any increase in taxes. You are disturbing to think you deserve this increase.

Obviously you do Not live in Meridian School District and pay its taxes.

Kids dont need to have gay flags in their classrooms. American flag represents all. Stop producing useless members to society.

School districts need to reel in their spending. Higher taxes are bankrupting people and increasing homelessness. Yes, you are part of the problem.

I voted no because the existing tax burden is at the limit I'm able to afford. Now I see that Sidhu and the council have approved a 9.8% general tax increase and an 18.7% road fund increase. Until spending by the council gets under control I will continue to vote no

I think the community is generally at its spending limit. My suggestion is for you to work on the council if you hope to get a bond passed.

Context: we are a district transfer family into Meridian.

Can you imagine a way you begin backing away from early elementary technology access (given the dirth of evidence about negative impacts to kids' eyes and brains from tech normalization and proliferation) to free-up the funds maintaining Chromebooks, tablets and the Google suite accounts for at least patching funding holes or for saving toward real, brick and mortar amenities and safety improvements? Everything on the bond makes a lot of sense as indisputably beneficial for the well-being of the students. Research would argue to the contrary with the technology curriculum available to kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. I hope you will be able to access grant funding for a generator. I know they are out there.

As much as some students would benefit from the opportunity to have subject acceleration, having 5th graders moved to a campus with older peers is less than ideal. Developmentally there is a huge jump from 5th grade to 8th grade. The bus ride is also an unstructured time that brings concerns with that wide of an age gap.

We are heartbroken that the bond failed—we have two young children who would have directly benefited from the new MMS. A neighbor who voted no told me that he was just not able to justify the bond's impact to his property tax (he's near retirement with adult children, upper middle class) but can understand how our family was supportive. We got into countless disagreements over the bond's positive impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole (not just school age kids!) and if he wants Whatcom County to thrive, investing in our kids is one way to do it. Perhaps reaching out a little more to those folks who are older and without school-age kids currently in the district would help. My husband adds that he feels the bond was just too expensive to pass during this tumultuous election year. We both wish WA state would contribute more to the bond, however we both work in education (he at WCC, me in early childhood ed) so we fully understand the issues and difficulty behind that wish. We fully support another push for the bond!

As a senior and long time property owner I have had my property taxes more than double. This is a budget buster for us, so I will not vote for any more projects than increase our already high taxes.

I

You must not change the bond issues. Both the facility and the bond amount.

You should get the Whatcom County Council Representatives from our district to support and endorse the bonds. Also the state representatives from our district. Maybe coffee clatches of voters to get people interested in voting .

Provide actual cost for homeowners. The numbers provided are an estimate and dependent on the bond rate at the time initiated. People need to know how much their tax assessment will increase for each year on the bond duration.

I have a difficult time voting positively for the meridian school district or any school district when I do not approve of the curriculum being taught. The acceptance of modern day immorality in many forms is something I do not approve of to be taught in school especially when the children are given the right to decide without parental approval.

Be cognizant of homeowners in Whatcom County just trying to stay in their homes. Property taxes are crippling.

How do we become involved in door knocking? I think it is needed.

Two of our 4 children graduated from Meridian HS. The middle and HS were not up to par in our educational expectations. The elementary school was quite good. I'm not alone in this opinion. Really. As you can see.

On the election ballot it was confusing what to check to vote for to put the bond in place.

Its outrageous how much money gets spent on facilities that are overpriced, energy inefficient, over-designed (we don't need schools that are architecturally "beautiful"). And when we see who and what the school administrators really are and how overpaid they are (and we hear how teachers have to buy their own supplies!), and the direction that public schools have gone in supporting terrible curriculums and devisive policies -- this is why we never want to contribute more of our money to the school bonds/levies. PRIVATE SCHOOL



I hope the voters see the necessity and vote in favor.

Thank you for asking for the taxpayers for input! That's s great, but rare thing!

Our taxes just keep going up and I'm hoping that that is enough to co er necessary improvements.

Taxes are generally too high

no

Priority one is a new middle school!

The amount of the bond appears, to me, to be out of alignment with the population, the number of households, and the reality of the current economic outlook and environment.

Much of the cost of this proposal will fall upon people near or at retirement whose property have greatly increased in value over the past few years. Yet, those same individuals have not seen their disposable income keep pace with inflation nor their property values.

In my opinion, buildings and fancy technology does not improve the quality of education. The last time that I was in a modern Middle school was in Anchorage Alaska and I was astounded by the opulence - the interior could have easily been mistaken for a high tech corporate campus.

Is there not a developer's tax for new construction that can be used to offset some of these costs?

Thank you for listening

Undoubtedly the middle school needs to be replaced. However, money doesn't grow on trees as the saying goes. [REDACTED] comments following the bond failure were especially out of line complaining that it was only \$63/mo more than current. That is a huge increase in these days of inflation and stagnant incomes. For me to EVER vote yes on a bond, she will need to refrain from such STUPID comments to the district voters. Thank goodness for the 60% super majority.

Our tax rates are already high with a percentage going towards our schools already. Asking the community to pay more in an already over burdened tax district is asking too much.

I am a senior on a fixed income and I do not qualify for the tax exemption. The taxes are too high. For the first time in 60 years I voted no. State needs to figure out a better way to fund school construction.

best school

I have been a property owner in the Meridian School District for over thirty years. I believe that the property taxes in this district are among the highest levy rates In Whatcom County. As much as I want to see the district thrive, I am finding it extremely difficult to be able to afford the tax burden. Perhaps, instead of an all at once proposal, a more budget conscious extended phase implementation would allow the taxpayer to stomach the increase tax burden. As Meridian School Administration, you must be mindful of the financial burden these budgetary improvements place on the relatively small population of the Meridian district. Simply put, we just cannot afford this proposal.

Hope the school district will run it again, just with the middle school.

Our kids are long out of school, we're retired, own our home, and live on a fixed income. Since there's no income tax in Washington, property taxes pay for a disproportionate share of everything and are correspondingly high. I'm sure many people voted against the bonds due this financial concern, it's not inconceivable that older people might eventually be priced out of their homes. A more equitable way to pay for essential services (such as education) has to be found.

Education is critical to success in life for almost everyone, there are exceptions and they are rare. My wife and I got great educations in public school as did our kids, the current generation deserves it too.

Proponents need to engage the community to build support. Person to person not mailings and media. Offer school facilities for legitimate community events. On Bainbridge Island, the entire middle school is used for the annual Rotary auction and rummage sale and thousands of residents see the condition of the buildings first hand. It would be hard to replicate that level, but maybe some local events could be invited to use the school. Might convince more to vote yes if they see the need first hand

No

I voted against all of this, I don't have kids and don't believe my house hold show have to chip in

We don't need stadiums and arts centers sponsored by the state; let those who seek this fund it themselves.

Understanding that the technology bond is different from the facilities bond, in my opinion, importance should have been placed on structure and less on chromebooks, technology and iReady for students. It has been clear that the district is proud of this step in facilitating at home learning through technology but in my opinion, it would have been better invested in structures for the students to meet in with teachers and peers to build relationships. COVID & state mandates falsely prioritized taxpayer funds to technology and away from buildings of learning.

Voted against because the amount being spent on football stadium was not clear in voter guide, or previous literature. Did not want to give a blank check to athletes.

I voted for the bond, but my husband didn't. We don't have children but we religiously read the newsletters because education of our community is important to us. But it's hard to understand why you chose the priorities you did on such an expensive project when it seemed the needs across bond initiative projects were uneven priority.

If I lived in the district I would have voted for this bond but we're just outside the district and have transferred out of Ferndale district for my son to attend IRE.

Our currently way too high and it feels like we will be taxed out of our home. We will not vote for anything that raises are taxes.

The combined dollar value of the overall bond projects is much too high. In order for the bond measure to potentially pass in a future election cycle, it would be advisable to drop the New Meridian Middle School project, so that the total cost to taxpayers is reasonable.

As a parent of a recent graduate, I was glad to see ALL of these being planned for, and was hopeful for the bonds to pass. I'm hoping that something can be done in the future.

Unhappy with the overzealous spending in the district and without regard to the excessive property taxes we are currently facing. Lifetime resident. Alumni. First time voting NO.

Pay off existing debt before asking for more money. I understand that repairs and replacements are needed, I get it. But our district has stretched us to the point of having to choose if we want to eat or build new schools, the bleeding of money has to stop.

Hopefully there will not be an added expense of resubmitting it to the voters, as we have already voiced our say by defeating the bond.

I will always support schools, and I am happy to pay for it.

On a personal note, our family has been so disappointed with the education that we attempted to access through Meridian School District. We were a part of MP3 for several years, and I need to state that the staff in that school are fantastic. It was a positive learning experience for a number of years. We had to leave the program when my daughter fell behind approximately 1.5 years in standard learning markers.

When our other child attempted to go to MHS, she experienced good teaching in just two classes. Unfortunately, she experienced a teacher who came to school drunk, and another who showed R rated movies during class time- on a regular basis. Another teacher gave my daughter failing grades for two weeks straight in all of her assignments. She is normally an A student. Yes, we did bring it to the school's attention, but nothing was done in a timeframe to help us. I understand all teachers are no longer employed with Meridian. Most disappointing to our family was when we approached the school to ask for help with what we suspected was a mild form of dyslexia for same child. We were refused help and told to go to our pediatrician. We left Meridian at that point, so very disappointed. We turned to full time homeschool and both children are successful college students today. This personal information is shared so you can understand that while we are very much pro- education, we can't get behind this increase that will most definitely affect our budget and ability to pay for our children's health and welfare, and college.

Additionally, the dollar amount that Meridian asked for is out of place and unrealistic with the local economy and wages in this area. Our family is already burdened enough by our local school property taxes. Please be better stewards of the money that you already receive. Budget better. Go for grants. Don't burden us any further.

At one time in the past, I was contacted by a student at Meridian to ask for voting for the bond issue. I think personal contact with all Meridian voters would help. Educational needs are the basis for a democratic society.

Support education and the funding of it.

A facilities committee should consist solely of individuals who currently make their living directly in construction. They are most qualified to spot out waste and understand current and future market conditions. The political step of including a broader spectrum of the district community to review and make recommendations to the school board would be separate and occur after the facilities committee completed their work.

All the projects proposed are worthy of financial support.

Everything does not have to be state of the art and brand new. Beautiful, modern buildings do not equal excellent instruction. You can spend millions of dollars and your students might still score below national averages. Spend more instructions time on the fundamentals and make sure the students are performing at or above national averages before asking for more money to beautify the schools or improve the sports area.

In support, but wish there was a way to tax more than just homeowners to pay for the bond.

Most families are living in tough financial times and you are asking to give up more of their income for school projects. These have been failing around the county. Perhaps you should wait until people are not so burdened with inflation and rising costs. It may be time to focus on academics and raising test scores before fleecing the public for more cash.

I will never vote for another levy. Until we go back to teaching our children what they should be learning like history and how to be a boy and a girl. That's how we become successful. Not pandering to unions and sticking homeowners with the bill. Utilize the McCleary decision as it was intended.

I hope the bond for all four projects can be approved in the next vote!

Maybe we need new leadership, the [REDACTED] is a joke. The sexual education is even more of an insult to parents encouraging kids to make choices at a young age based on feelings rather than facts and science. I'm embarrassed by this school district.

Please run the bond again.

My taxes are too high.

I always vote for school bonds although I have no children. Not this one due to its burdensome expense and my strong sense that taxpayers should not carry this proportion of the cost.

Don't be surprised when we don't vote for an over 68% tax increase between the increased enrichment levy and the bond. We aren't made of money.

We were put in a position to say not right now.

I voted yes for this bond.

Why the state cannot pay for these facilities for our school and be on a level playing field for funds.

Current school taxes  
 Bond 258.64  
 Capital projects 155.58  
 Enrichment 972.33  
 St. School taxes 745.40  
 St. School taxes 400.11  
 Children's initiative 89.45

Total= 2621.51

At this time I don't think I can afford more. I don't agree with the current system. I think the state takes a lot of money and we get little in return.

Thanks for asking  
 [REDACTED]

My children are Meridian graduates, and I want the district to provide a safe place for their children and beyond to get a good education.

Would prefer to prioritize actual education vs. new construction projects. DEI wokeness, "no child left behind" and lower standards have vastly diminished the quality of public education. Done with leftist agendas that seem to have higher priority over classical education, objectivity, free thought, student effort and merit.

The district just built a new elementary building & new high school. I agree the high school needed to be done. The old elementary building was built the same year as my home I STILL live in with no remodels or repairs done! You all just took the old building down and I consider that a waste of money...my tax money! Property taxes are high enough plus the inflation we have had to endure these past 4 years! Space the projects out and take care of what you have!

Strong networking needs to happen to get the 60% "yes" votes.

Continue to rope Robert Kratzig into the committee. He will rally the troops and create excellence.

Running the bond with this big (wild) election was a concern to me. I know running an election on your own is \$\$, but the turnout was stacked against the bond, I think.

Another factor is just the cost. It takes a lot of conviction to vote a big extra expense onto one's tax bills. If any other bonds were going off, I didn't pick up on it.

I vote yes for schools period. But not everyone does. Maybe more info about the tax break for seniors with limited income would be helpful.

Years (and years) ago we ran a campaign to be sure parents in the district were registered voters...

What makes you think I would vote to provide funds when boys who say they are girls are permitted in girls rest rooms?

I think it is hard with the property tax hikes to also expect additional hikes from the bond projects. People are being priced out of their homes. There needs to be discussion between those who set up the meridian school district fund and the infrastructure fund that is spending like crazy and pricing people out of homes.

I think that any school building that is 81 years old needs to be repaired & made healthy & safe for not only this generation of children, but for the next generations to come. And come they will! Bellingham & Whatcom County are growing & that growth will continue.

70.92 million dollars is too much for 1 school.

Only ask for a new middle school at this time

You're doing great. Sorry everyone let you down.

I wish it would've passed. I was trying to find it in my ballot so I could vote for it.

I think the bond was not approved because people are being squeezed from all angles financially. Meridian school district has gone way down hill in terms of education quality in the elementary school, thus families are opting to educate their kids in other ways or move their kids to other districts/states. Inclusivity has gone way to far, and the majority of kids are not suffering as a consequence.

I feel like the way that the bond was presented made it sound like the school was saying it would cost people less money, which is true per \$1000 assessed value, but not true in overall amount of money that would be paid annually. So communicating like that can cause distrust and a sense of lack of transparency.

Upcoming property tax hike will kill all bonds for the foreseeable future. Sucks, but it's reality. Need to start with county council, and get them to think about how all school bonds will fail

We have already spent a lot of money on renovations and new/updated buildings in our district

The dollar value too high. Elementary and high school still being paid off. Break it up and present it smaller amounts. Start with just the middle school. Once those are paid off, then go for the other projects. Vote no regardless of what happens - already too high. Happy to sit in on forums or meetings, give feedback.

Please stop voting blue, it's killing us.

With the increase in assessed value of property for us and everyone else, and the current state of our economy (inflated prices across the board), it really puts us in a tough spot because while we understand the needs for the district, we simply cannot financially afford to vote yes on a bond.

Thanks

I think one major concern I heard in the community was the idea that 5th graders would be moved to the middle school if the bond passed. This may seem like a secondary issue but I believe it actually alarmed people enough to vote against the entire bond. It may be best to reconsider this as it distracts voters from the primary issue/needs of a new MS and HS repairs.

People are upset about the forced curriculum, CRT and WOKE  
Parents are opting for private education.

You don't need to tax the people of the community so much money.

I didn't like the "fear" element that dominated the discussions about the bond. Things like, "Our kids aren't safe," "The building is crumbling around them," "Learning cannot take place in this environment." Our school district has built two brand new buildings in about 10 years, and the district is asking for another brand new building. While we all understand that the middle school is old, it is a HUGE ask and burden on the tax payers. The economy is terrible, and our state continues to make it worse. Taxpayers can only do so much to remedy the over taxation we experience except vote no. If you want to turn that to a yes, choose one item and try and get that approved. Take the top priority, which appears to be the middle school, and try that only. I suggest trying to fund raise for some of the other issues.

Faith in the public school system is at an all time low. That would be another way to turn a "no" into a "yes." Strive to earn the respect and admiration of your tax base. Parents don't want to feel like the school is their enemy and vice versa, but that is in fact how it is in many situations.

Cost of everything is up and our taxes have doubled in the past 5 years. I'm frustrated with the lack of financial responsibility of the district. I don't think the money is being used responsibly. Our schools are overcrowded and yet we are still letting in kids from out of district.

Regarding the bond for the middle school: Clear costs to tax paying home owners in the school district were not outlined in any publications. The math on the ballot was very daunting and we were not financially able to make that commitment.

With people unable to afford rising property taxes, especially increased number of retirees in the district, probably should present the case in a way that makes it sound worth it. I voted for it, but some of the language was not clear enough about the importance and necessity. The "stadium" updates sounded frivolous and extensive, for example. (When people are having a hard time making ends meet, not the best time to ask for new stadium lights...) Highlighting the safety issues of the middle school building would make more sense, and focusing on just that. Only necessity, especially in this economic climate.

Please keep the 5th grade at the elementary school.

I think you probably had a lot of people who wouldn't normally bother to vote in a smaller election voting because it was a presidential election. I would guess that people who only vote in presidential elections don't pay as much attention to the needs of their community and if it doesn't benefit them in a measurable way they would vote no. Our house voted yes and will vote yes again next time.

Living costs are high, and people only have a little spare money right now. The increasing taxes is another thing property owners in the district have to worry about. I suggest getting back to brass tacks. People want their children to learn reading, writing, and math. No less, no more. The push to include many controversial things in the school curriculum is a sore subject in our community. I have been told firsthand that people are speaking with their money. If they are discontent with things being pushed on their children in school, they aren't going to want to approve bonds funding it further. Many feel they aren't being listened to and that minority groups of students are taking precedence over the general population. I think the district should look at the bigger picture. People are telling you how they feel about how things are going with their vote.

Fix the racism and sexual harassment in high first and stop letting athletes and the teachers and coaches do whatever they want cause the teachers and coaches let it slide all the time. Ain't no secret. Everyone knows it

Home owners through there vote shared that they cant afford this. I have lived in the district for 23 years and this is the first time I have voted "no" on a bond. This one would have potentially raised my property taxes by \$70 per month WE CANT AFFORD IT!! The state needs to find another way to fund building improvements besides putting the burden on homeowners

We need to find a way to get more community members in MMS to see the conditions. Maybe a facilities section in the newsletter to highlight constant repairs needed to maintain our aging facilities. Videos of the people he who see the worst of it, Custodians and facilities people.

Although we voted for the levy, with taxes and the cost of living so high the last few years, I think many people just can't afford an increase in taxes

Do to the current economic situation nationally, I believe that passing a much smaller bond for an "update" to the current MMS building would be best. The current building, while old, is still a decent school. Modern ADA entrances and bathrooms would make a world of difference. The school building still has a lot of life left in it.

I cannot support putting 5th graders in a middle school setting. Developers should be supporting the cost of constructing the new middle school and/or building an elementary school capable of withstanding the growth they create.

Utilize community zoom meetings?  
More neighborhood canvassing?

The middle school absolutely needs to be rebuilt but it is not appropriate to move the 5th graders to the MS in order to address overcrowding. The district continues to allow out of district students to attend Meridian schools which contributes to the overcrowding. If you move the 5th graders will you stop letting out of district students to attend IRE? If not you really aren't solving any problems. With property taxes skyrocketing over the last year and a potential increase coming again it is difficult to support the bond. It just seems like we are supporting so many out of district kids. I am happy to support our district just not everyone else.

You should've waited on the levy that was passed recently because I believe this is more important. But voting YES for everything gets really expensive for us tax payers living in the district.

Language access. Many cultures have a low literacy level. Word of mouth is best to get information to them. Also partnering with someone who can ensure parents are registered to vote. Perhaps at beginning of year during open houses or parent teacher conference.

Would it be possible to put the above question to a vote (with the inclusion of an everything option)? I remember Ferndale's school levy failed a couple years ago, and they put another vote to the community with a few different options rather than just an all or nothing.

I am retired and cannot afford the property tax.

Feels very inappropriate to market the kids in ads. A big turn off.



We will have a few dozen (?) seniors turning 18 soon, so if it runs again in February it would be really cool to have an event at the school where pizza is brought in, they all bring and fill out their ballots together, shortly after ballots arrived.

And - THANK YOU for your tireless work to support our students and staff and community. I'm really disheartened with the initial no, but am hopefully that maybe a second attempt will be a yes!

Future efforts should include easing the crowding of IRE

I would have voted yes if I was in the Meridian District!

I won't vote for approving a bond when it includes items that should be covered under standard maintenance/repairs. I'd also like to see the public presented with three options for choosing the new school project and not an \$85 million only option. Schools are turning into architecturally appealing campuses and it's running the costs up so high over aesthetics, it's turning people away. Look at your community, they're mostly farmers and middle class blue collar. We aren't seeking an impressive and state of the art, we're seeking practical and functional. The \$85 million offer was a wish list denied by the community. Go back, sharpen your pencil and approach the community with something more reasonable and in line with standard and average square footage prices.

While these are important, many families are struggling and cannot sustain higher property taxes, and rent (if renters). Increased property taxes will up rent. I have to wonder if there's ways to lower the bond costs and meet families in the middle more. I wonder if the lack of living wage jobs, and high cost of living is affecting the vote on this even if people want to support it.

Housing prices have skyrocketed in the past few years, which means property taxes have also skyrocketed in the past few years. I have no doubt that the community understands the need for a new middle school, but I think people just felt that they can not afford it right now. I think we should focus on keeping the cost as low as possible (don't try to pack a bunch of stuff into one bond) and make sure the financial impact is clear to the voters.

Thanks for trying to identify why the bond issue didnt get 60%; and ways to meet the important needs of our District.

Hope things can be sorted quickly enough to go back to voters with a revised proposal in early 2025.

The school district has a lot of older generations voting. I think next time spreading awareness and having honest conversations would help a lot with their votes. Many I spoke with were concerned about cost to them, so maybe informing them about tax programs they qualify for to relieve property tax burden would help garner their support.

I think we need to figure out more ways to get the community into the middle school. I don't know what that looks like but they have to see what the building looks like.

If we are going to move the 5th grade over either way I think that might be good messaging to put out there.

Advertise and make it very clear where to find the area to vote yes. I sub as secretary at IRE and several parents mentioned to me that they did not see it on their ballot. If it was easy to see on the ballot, maybe they live out of district.

The middle school needs to be replaced. Do not try and add all of these additional items. You are asking property owners to pay a great deal of taxes as it is. Plus we just renewed a technology bond a few months ago, which impacts our taxes.

Most of my neighbors voted no because they can't afford more money right now. They tell me it's food and housing or bond. Unfortunately the times are bad for a lot of families.

I understand it is difficult to compare this to residential pricing, but all amounts seem absurdly high. I voted "no" even though I would like to see all these projects completed because of the cost.

It's a huge addition to our taxes.

The Bond needs to be striped to just the middle school. This bond will not pass with multiple items on the docket. Community members saw this as too big of an ask with multiple items needing money. The safety concerns at the middle school with the building need to be addressed first and foremost.

I think you will have a couple of problems. 1) families whose kids will not attend the new middle school are probably less likely to vote for it; because it doesn't do anything for them. 2) the way you handled the whole [REDACTED] is beyond forgivable. You continued to praise him on social media, he remained a captain, his parents bragged at graduation about the support he got from the district. So you don't get to talk about protecting students and talk about being there for their mental health cause it's not true. 3) you recently lowers the grade to D- to do sports for MMS and MHS. people notice all this and take it into account. 4) you protect coaches/teachers at MHS who enable racist / sexist behaviors.

I wonder if it would have helped to have a separate ballot for this bond instead of/or as well as it being attached to the Federal election ballot. I know a few people that didn't even open the ballot due to not even wanting to be a part of the Trump/Harris fight. I didn't realize the bond was attached to that ballot. I did vote a resounding yes to the bond as that Middle School looks like a prison let alone all the safety issues of it being built in the 30s. Thank you guys for everything you do. I'm sorry that majority means 60% as opposed to what most ppl think it is....50%! Meridian is a fantastic district and new school or not this will continue to be just that. We've lived here almost 4 years now and are lucky to be a part of the Meridian district.

The levy was just passed and now the bond was on the ballot. It's a big jump in tax cost for property owners. That's a tough pill to swallow. I voted for the bond but wasn't happy about it. And it feels like a burden only homeowners bear. That isn't right. If IRE can raise 53k\$ for their Trojan trot PTA, why can't we have more community events focused on building community involvement in fundraising to make school improvements?

What was wanted was going to make our taxes hugely go up and I can't afford or back that.

Thank you. Many individuals put in a lot of time and effort to raise awareness about the bond.

Trying to find and engage with the 'no' votes. I'm assuming many voted no, primarily because of the cost. But until we know the why, we can't answer the questions and find solutions.

None at this time.

## Where else did you find information?

MSD's signs saying to " Vote Yes" all around Whatcom C.

staff meeting

I had to look it up

my own reseearch

Sporting events at MHS

emailed newsletter

Meridian School dist emails

Word of mouth from fellow parents

news story

Cascade daily news

School

Staff Presentation

I attended Meridian as did my children & my grandchildren.

Meetings to discuss bond proposal

Cordata Neighborhood Ass.

Went to the district meeting

Roadside signs

Through school and newsletter via parent square.

Herald

County Democratic Party

signs

Email

Family and friends

At work Meridian school district

word of mouth

Yard signs

work

Everyone was talking about it

Word of Mouth; District information

From the district via parent square messaging.

District emails sent to family members

friends & neighbors

Parent Square Posts for families and staff

Yard signs

At school

Multiple emails and text messages from the school district

Through district PDs

Work

My wife is on the boosters.