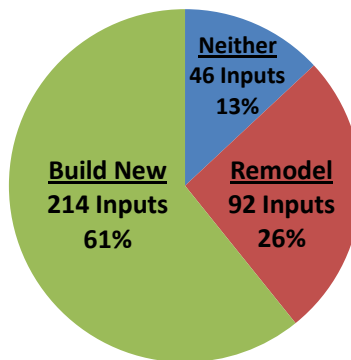


Here are the results of the opinion survey collected on the weekend of 19/20 Nov 11.

	Total Surveys	%	Attended an Information Presentation	Provided Written Comments
Remodel	92	26%	34%	42%
Build New	215	61%	38%	47%
Neither	46	13%	30%	80%
Total/Overall	353	100%	36%	50%

Parish Center Opinion Poll



The following is the presentation by the Feasibility Committee to the parish on the weekend of 10/11 Dec 11.

Good Morning,

I'm Steve AuBuchon, the Chairman of your Feasibility Committee. Three weeks ago we asked you to provide your opinion concerning the path we should take to provide us with a viable parish center. We have evaluated the results and presented them to the pastor, the lay trustees, the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council, and I'm here today to present them to you.

As you probably remember, there were three options on the survey. Option 1 was to remodel the current school building, Option 2 was to demolish the old school building and build a new center, and Option 3 was to do neither.

61% of you recommended that we demolish the old school and build a new parish center; 26% of you recommended that we refurbish the old school; and

13% of you recommended that we do neither. (Many of the comments made on these “neither” opinions indicated they did not feel capable of a decision at this time, needed more info, were new to parish, and such.)

It’s clear that the sense of the parish is to demolish the old building and build a new one. Based on your advice, and with the recommendation and support of the Pastoral and Finance Councils, the parish and its leadership will begin the planning process which will ultimately lead to building a new parish center to replace the old school.

This decision presents us with two major challenges. The first challenge, which we must meet before we do anything else, is to accept the decision, come together as a parish and work as one toward the common goal. We can do nothing if we do not do this first. It will be difficult because this is a very emotional issue. I myself recommended on the survey that we keep the old building. I need to shift my thinking now to one of support of the majority opinion.

Indulge me for just a minute while I tell you my own experience. Mary and I went to elementary school at Sacred Heart in Poplar Bluff, MO in an old building, which had been in the parish for decades. Not only was it my parents’ school, but was also their first church. The church was in the basement while the school was upstairs in four classrooms, 1st through 8th grade with two grades in each room. When the current church was built, the basement became the cafeteria. It was a beautiful building, at least I thought so. It was made of purple granite in a patchwork pattern. At the front, steps led up from both sides to the second story in an arch and you entered the church, or cafeteria in my day, by going through the arch. Today the parish has built a new school and where the old school used to be is a parking lot. You can still see the patchwork granite in the wall along the sidewalk by the church. I felt very sad the first time I looked at that parking lot. But the bottom line was, the parish needed a parking lot more than it needed the old building.

I tell you that story so you’d understand that I really do know how many of you feel about the old school. And I’m absolutely sure that the 61% who recommended a new building also understand the sense of loss many will feel when the old school is demolished. Consider that many of them will feel that same loss. That’s our first challenge. To understand and have compassion for each other as we move ahead as a single team.

The second challenge is more practical. It is to actually make the dream come true. Clearing up a couple misconceptions will help us get started on the right track. Many people commented on their surveys that we should not be building a new parish center until we finish the work on the church. We completely agree, and that was the plan all along. I apologize if we did not make that clear. What we have done so far is simply to choose the pathway upon which to focus our energy, time and money. That pathway is to build new rather than refurbish. This decision is a major step in the process. Another problem, which needs to be discussed briefly, is the cost. The new construction plan which was presented to you cost \$3.6M. Most were justifiably hesitant about that much money. Even though I personally believe this parish could come together and raise that amount, I have to agree, it is a lot of money. But, please understand that the plans we presented contained all the dreams of the parish organizations which provided us input. The plans were not constrained by cost. Both plans included all our dreams so that we could present an apples-to-apples comparison to help us choose a pathway. Now that we’ve chosen that pathway, it’s time to get practical. The next step is to, first, determine how much money can be raised (just as we did with the church repairs), and, second, begin revamping the plans so that we get the best balance between what we need and what we can afford. What I’m saying is, what you have seen so far may not be the final design.

Both of these challenges will take your prayers. We ask you all to pray for success.

With this report, the Feasibility Committee's work is done. We want to thank you all for your support and patience over the last three years, and especially for all your good comments on the surveys. Now another team yet to be named will begin the work of guiding us down your chosen path. They will need and appreciate your support and input, just as we have.

Summing this up:

- (1) The parish has decided to demolish the old school and build a new parish center
- (2) 26% percent recommended keeping the old school, and so are being asked to support an option they did not recommend
- (3) Because of this, we must understand each other and have compassion for the feelings of our fellow parishioners
- (4) Together, we can make this happen.
- (5) Don't forget God's part in this – pray for success.

After Mass I'll be right here in the front of church to answer any questions along with any Feasibility Committee, Pastoral Council and Finance Council members who are attending this Mass. If you have questions, or just want to listen, just move to the front pews on this side after the recessional hymn is complete.

Thank you.