

Facilities Master Plan Committee Interim Report to the Board of Trustees

March 9, 2015

Goals of this Interim Report

- Review work-to-date
- Provide input about options for solving enrollment growth
- Communicate consensus statements from the committee
- Preview committee next steps

Committee Members

- The committee includes 26 members representing a cross-section of our community
 - ❖ **Parent representatives**—Shali Sirkay, Mina Sharma, Jill Jene, Scott Kaufman, Margie Suozzo, Amy Kuan, Alfred Hong, Shannon Coin
 - ❖ **Teacher representatives**—Amy King, Erica Pon, Libby Murray, Judy Rothenberg, Coni Cullimore
 - ❖ **District Principal representatives**—Katie Kinnaman, Brenda Dyckman
 - ❖ **LA, LAH, and MV representatives**—Natalie Elefant, Derek Pitcher, Brooke Schiller, Gerald Sorensen, Mike Carlton, James Reilly, Brian Byun
 - ❖ **Community interest group representatives**—Louise Katz, Tanya Raschke, Joe Eyre, Mike Trainor
 - ❖ **Staff to Committee**— Edsel Clark, Randy Kenyon

Master Facility Planning Direction

- Provide feedback and input on the Facilities Master Plan to be finalized by the District's architect, including identification of projects that could be completed with bond funds
- Provide input on the District's long term facilities needs
- Provide recommendations to the Board to prioritize Measure N projects and to provide clarity to the community regarding the District's facilities plans
- Review and explore requirements to accommodate growing student enrollment, including school facilities expansion and new school sites in cooperation with the leadership of the communities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara County

Board Direction

Based on extensive community feedback, the Los Altos School Board is planning to pursue two options to accommodate growing student enrollment in all of its schools, including the public charter school, utilizing proceeds from a facilities bond, Measure N:

- **Preferred Option:** Site and build one new school and modify other existing school sites
- **Secondary Option:** Utilize, reconfigure and/or expand current LASD schools without additional sites

The Board, based on the FMPC work to date (9/8/14), has identified these two top priorities for the Measure N bond.

1. Develop additional space to accommodate growing student enrollment, including a permanent solution to house the public charter school
2. Complete necessary repairs and improvements to existing school sites to address health and safety issues and improve parity in facilities across the district

Committee Work to Date:

- Committee has met twice a month since September
- All meetings have been public and well-attended by the public
- Committee selected Joe Eyre and Katie Kinnaman as co-chairs (to lead meetings)
- Primary activities:
 - Received information about facility and site standards/common practices
 - Prioritized facility improvements for existing sites (preliminary)
 - Examined options to accommodate for enrollment growth

OPTIONS FOR SOLVING ENROLLMENT GROWTH

How Options Were Generated and Examined

- The committee examined seven options
- Three options came from the Facilities Advisory Committee Report (*final report June 2014*)
- Committee generated the remaining four options:
 - Brainstormed 20+ options
 - Committee members selected four to explore in-depth
- Each option was examined in detail using the Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force (SEGTF) Report four "Challenge Statements" and "14 Criteria for Solutions"

THREE OPTIONS FROM FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 2014 Report

- Purchase new site
- Build New K-8 school for BCS on new site
- Convert Blach and Egan to middle schools (6-8)

Option 1

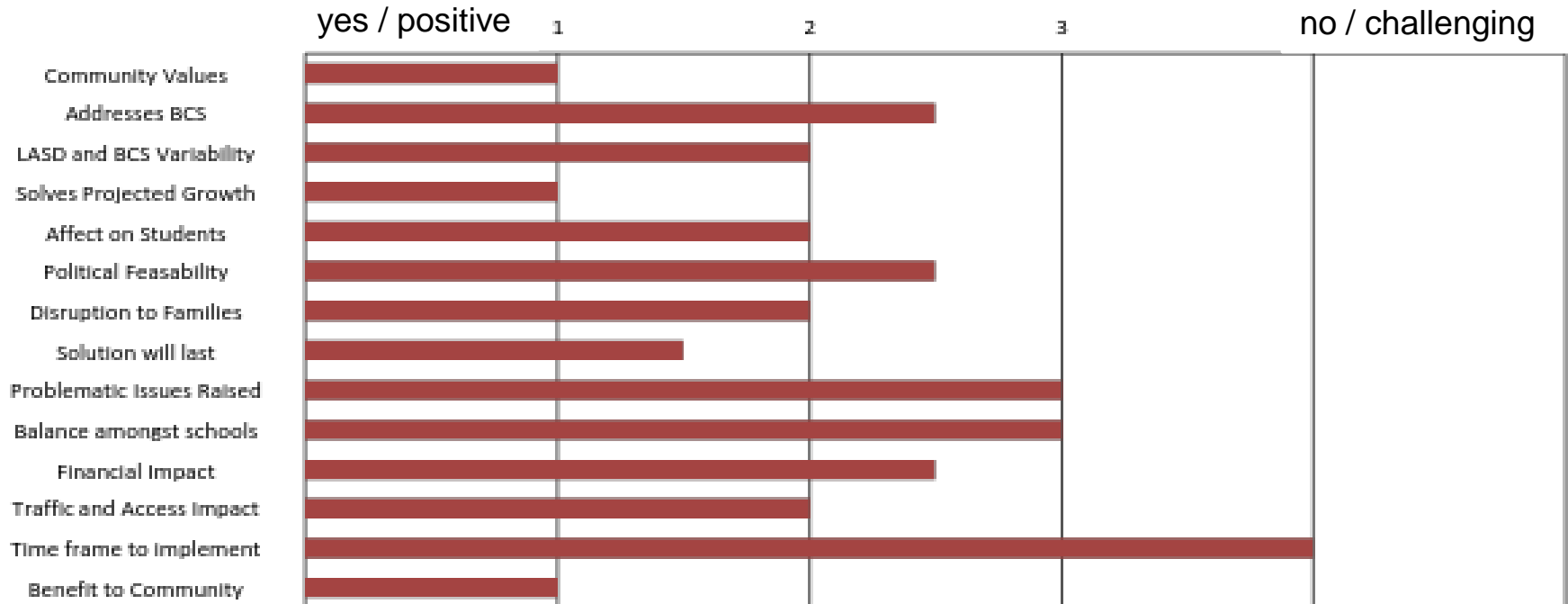
**from Facilities Advisory Committee (6/14)*

KEY BENEFITS:

- More land [space] for student population (68%)
- Maintains neighborhood schools (no schools dismantled) (50%)
- New site and facilities can provide more community access (50%)
- Portion of community believes that this was the intended outcome of bond money (45%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Less \$ for upgrades to existing sites (91%)
- Loss of opportunity for neighborhood school in NEC (55%)
- May be 1+ year longer than other plans (32%)
- Is bigger school size (i.e. middle school instead of junior high school) what the community wants? (27%)



- House BCS on an existing LASD elementary site
- Convert 7 LASD elementary schools to 6 elementary schools
- Convert Blach and Egan to middle schools (6-8)

Option 2

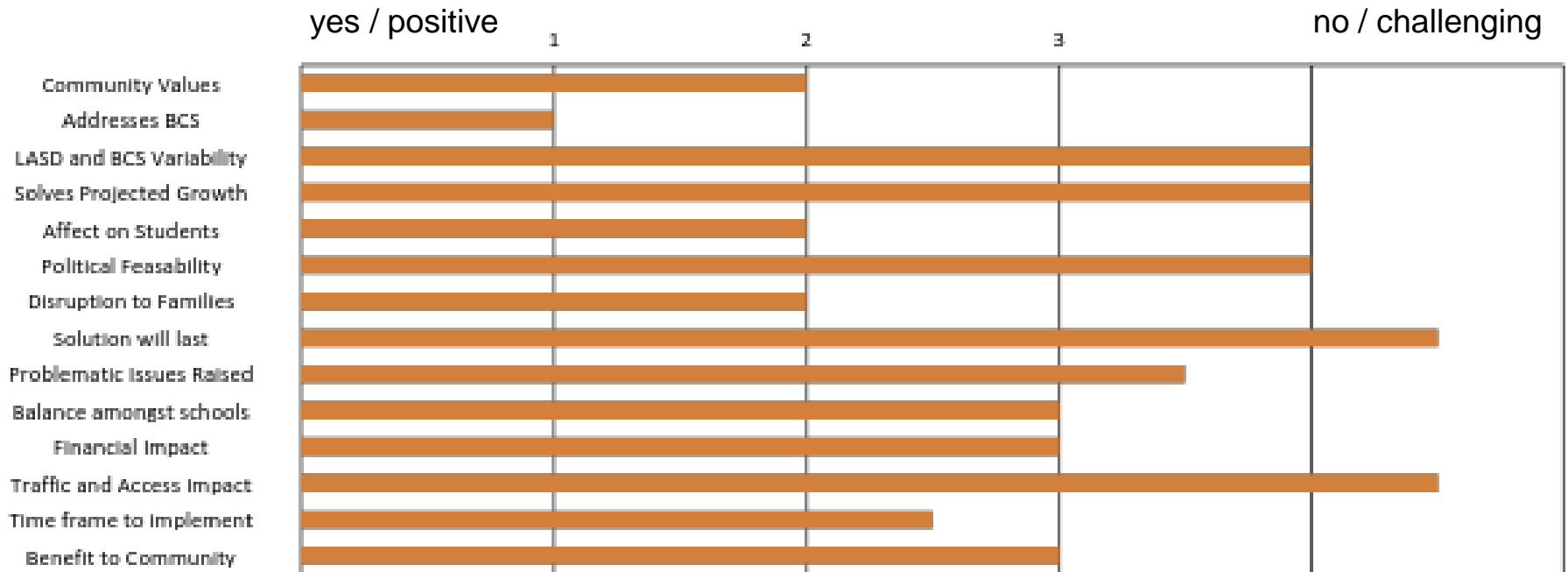
**from Facilities Advisory Committee (6/14)*

KEY BENEFITS:

- More available funds for campus improvements / modernization (82%)
- BCS is housed on a single site (59%)
- More schools benefit from bond \$ (41%)
- Keeps fewer than 600 students K-5 campus (36%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Collapsing a school is a last resort and challenging for the community (73%)
- Adversely impacts traffic/biking/walking by reducing number of neighborhood schools (64%)
- Small neighborhood school paradigm challenged (50%)
- Some campuses [could] be challenged in size in later years (50%)



- **House BCS on an existing LASD elementary site**
- **Relocate 1 LASD elementary site to Blach or Egan**
- **Convert Blach and Egan to middle schools (6-8)**

Option 3

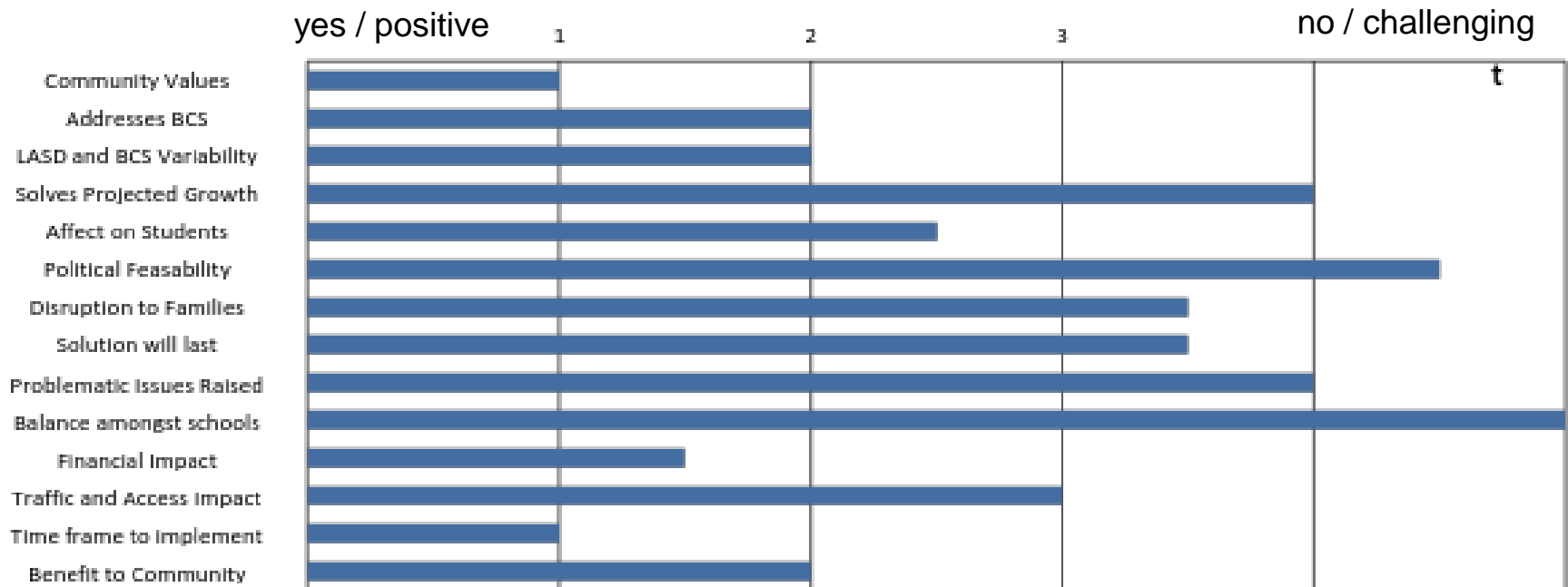
**from Facilities Advisory Committee (6/14)*

KEY BENEFITS:

- Financial opportunity to apply funds not used for land to other needs (55%)
- Better than closing a school (50%)
- Opportunity to create synergy between (2) campuses & facilities (45%)
- Maintains elementary 600 student limit (41%)
- Minimal impact to other LASD schools (41%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Disparity between 2 middle schools, as well as the elementary schools (86%)
- Relocated school communities may need time to adjust to the new situation (they may initially feel angry) (68%)
- Traffic (59%)
- Potentially less open space available (55%)



FOUR OPTIONS GENERATED BY FMPC COMMITTEE

January 2015

- **No new land**
- **House all 6-8 on one site, with specialty schools/curriculum and large common facilities (aka “Mega Middle School”)**
- **Move BCS to current Jr. High campus**

Option 4

**from FMPC brainstorm*

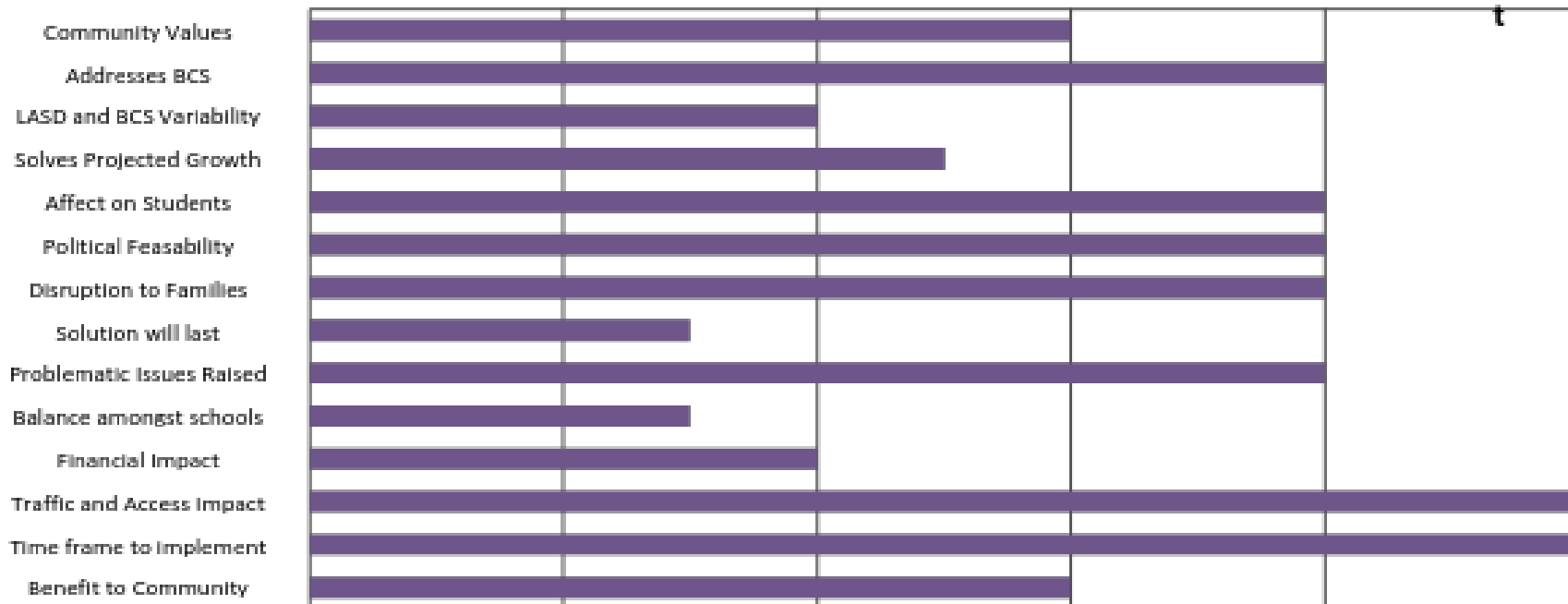
KEY BENEFITS:

- Preserves elementary schools as small neighborhood schools (74%)
- Flexible to accommodate enrollment growth, as well as decline (42%)
- Specialty schools provide opportunities to try different things (37%)
- Wider variety of facilities @ “Mega Middle School” (37%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Traffic impacts @ “Mega Middle School” (63%)
- Discourages walking/biking for some, longer commute distance for many (37%)
- Significant programming changes to LASD award-winning Jr. High model (37%)
- Will community accept new model? (26%)

yes / positive 1 2 3 no / challenging



- One LASD elementary school moved to JHS campus (shared with JHS)
- New LASD K-8 choice school built on other JHS site (shared with JHS)
- BCS sited at vacated LASD elementary site
- Convert Blach and Egan to middle schools (6-8)

Option 5

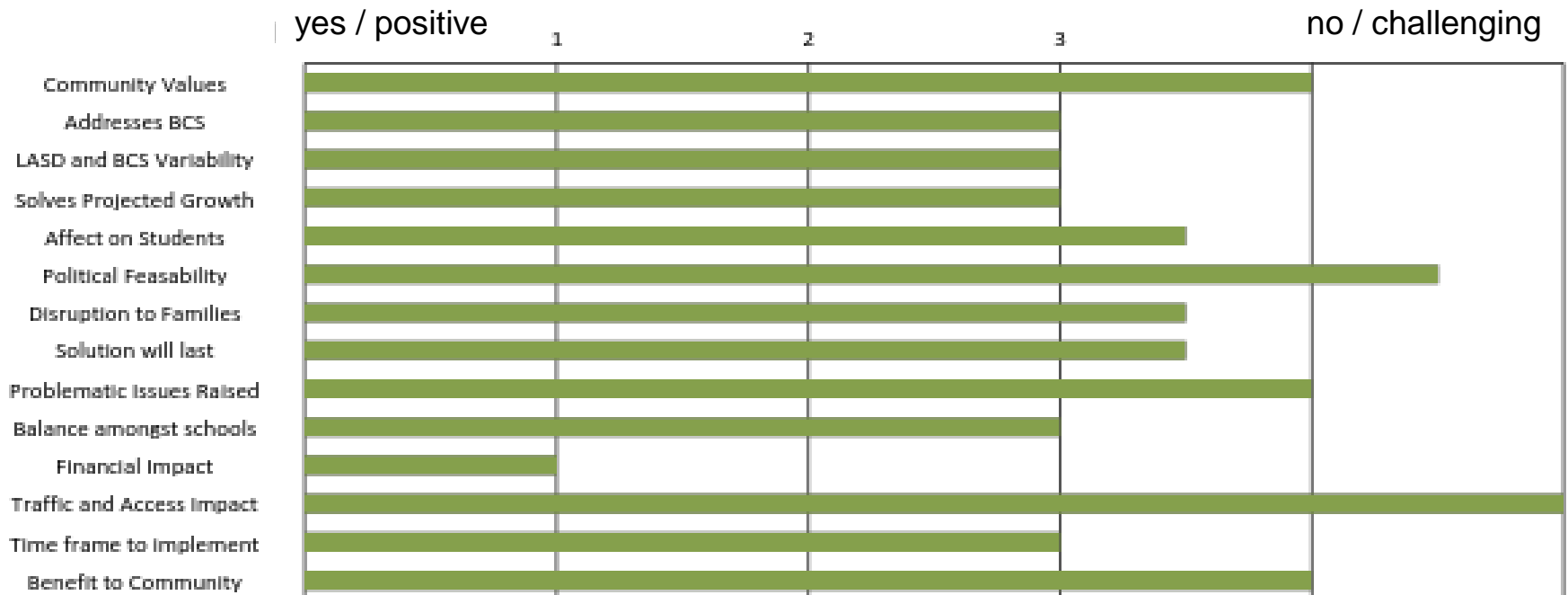
**from FMPC brainstorm*

KEY BENEFITS:

- New buildings & BCS site could be flexibly built (82%)
- Less costly than buying land 64%
- Solves problem for 10 years (41%)
- K-8 Choice/Magnet school reduces population pressure on elementary schools (36%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Moving a school is perceived as closing a school and may antagonize community (86%)
- Elementary 600 + Middle School > 600/site =1500 which loses neighborhood school model (68%)
- Increases traffic impact and decreases safety (59%)
- Addresses one conflict but [may] create another by closing an LASD school (45%)



- Purchase two small sites (one for K-2 and one for 3-5)
- Move existing LASD school to the two new sites
- Convert Blach and Egan to middle schools (6-8)
- BCS to vacated LASD elementary site

Option 6

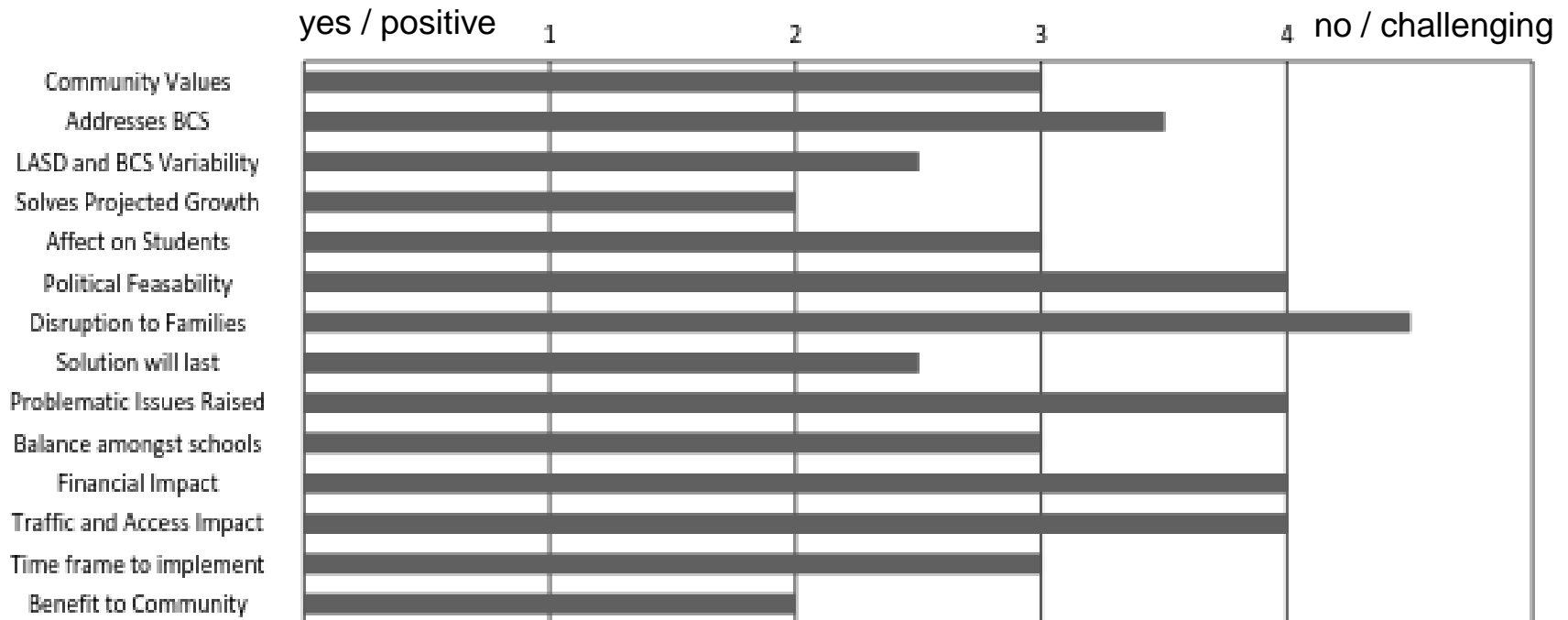
**from FMPC brainstorm*

KEY BENEFITS:

- More site options more likely to retain neighborhood schools (77%)
- Add land + new facilities (77%)
- Maintains small elementary schools (64%)
- BCS has its own site (41%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Perceived as closing neighborhood school (77%)
- Both sites need to be in close proximity to be a neighborhood school (64%)
- Potentially logistical challenges for families, student, and staff (59%)
- Traffic implications depending on sites (36%)



- No new land
- LASD PreK-3 from school 1 and school 2 to share JHS site
- LASD 4-6 from school 1 moved to school 2
- BCS to vacated LASD elementary site

Option 7

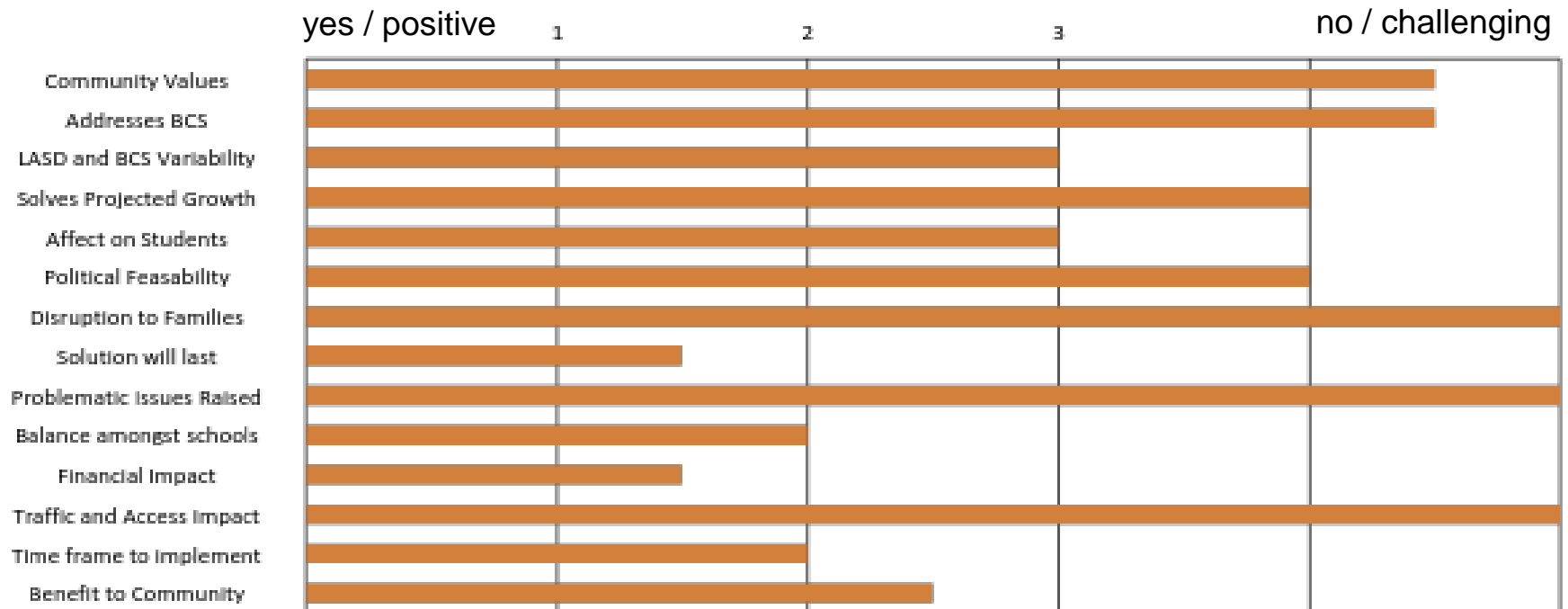
**from FMPC brainstorm*

KEY BENEFITS:

- Relatively quick to implement (55%)
- JHS configuration remains 7-8 w/possibility to convert to 6-8 to address future growth (55%)
- BCS gets a single site (45%)

KEY DRAWBACKS:

- Imbalance between 2 JHS's and also between different elementary schools (59%)
- Issues regarding community acceptance and site configuration (59%)
- More people driving kids to school (41%)
- Challenging logistically for families w/multiple children at multiple sites (36%)



Committee Consensus Statements:

- Guiding principle is avoiding closing or relocating an existing school
- Preferred option is Option 1
- Strong, existing, award-winning programs should not be sacrificed for facilities

Potential Next Steps

- Receive additional direction from the board before moving forward
- Increase community input and engagement in the process
- Facilitate cooperation among city agencies - Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View
- Look at improvements needed at all schools and re-examine prioritization in order to provide input to the district architect regarding District Facilities Master Plan

Additional Thoughts From Committee

Members:

- Variety of options explored shouldn't diminish guiding principle
- Less moving parts better, minimize disruption
- Smaller elementary schools should be preserved over smaller middle schools/JHS
- Concern about uneven distribution of growth in North end of the district
- New site purchase and construction will use a large portion of the money at the expense of improvements on other sites
- Parity among schools is important
- Facilities can't be separated from programs - should match what we value in programs
- Community likes the programs and school sizes we have - new programs should be brought to all schools
- Environmental impacts of traffic implications/walkability and new buildings should be strongly considered
- Discouragement about lack of cooperation/collaboration from local city governments
- Making larger sites is palatable
- Acknowledge how the bond was "sold" to the community – Preferred is Option 1
- The number of sites and number of schools needs to match
- Don't contribute to the existing bad feelings about BCS

Additional Potential Next Steps

Suggested by Committee Members

- More education about costs, financial analysis
- Engage community about what makes a school
- More info from the board could drive more option generation from the community
- What are programmatic changes?
- Explore how to help the community look at the “greater good” for the whole district
- Keep committee together if worthwhile tasks
- How do we use our current sites (or adjacent city sites) to the maximum capability?
- Explore more detailed implications for the community if BCS gets the new site/building (ie. public perception/sharing of spaces)