

# **ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT SURVEY RESULTS**

**PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD  
JANUARY 20, 1994**

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

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SANDY DODGE  
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## **Growth**

- With the existing subdivisions nearly full, district growth should more closely mirror county growth, until a new subdivision is developed, according to Mary Kay Peck of the Bozeman Planning Commission. If this proves true we can expect a break from the explosive growth we have endured over the last 15 years; (averaging 12% per year or 450% over the 15 year period). The County is expected to grow from 50,000 in 1990 to 57,774 in 2000. This estimate is the larger of two estimates in use by the County and is considered low. This is an increase of 15.5% in 10 years. Being one of the more attractive areas in the County, the Anderson District can expect to, at the very least, keep pace with this growth rate. In 1992 our enrollment was 170. Growing at the County rate would give us 183 students by 1997, and 196 by 2002. At this rate, at least one and perhaps two additional classrooms will be needed within the next five years. Be warned that these estimates are very conservative and totally contradict recent history.
- Any new subdivision proposed for our district will be reviewed by either the County planning board or the City-County planning board. The planning commission will advise the school of any hearings regarding subdivision plans within the district. This means that once a developer has applied for permission to subdivide in our district, we will be informed. Further, we will have the opportunity to testify if it seems to us that this development will impact our school.

## Survey

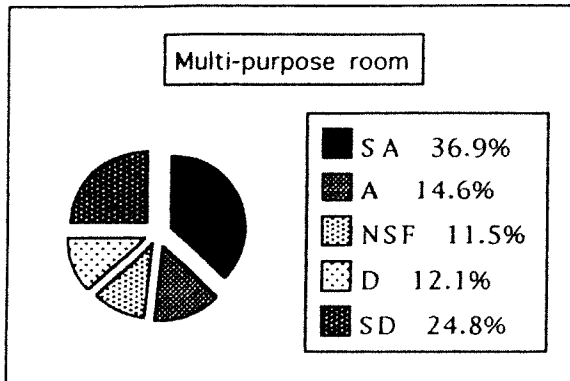
- Recently the Long Range Planning Committee sent out a survey to every registered voter in the district and the school staff. The purpose of the survey was to assess the hopes and expectations in the district concerning our needs for the future. 329 surveys were sent out and we got back 160. The results reflect responses from 78 parents of Anderson students, 38 residents who are not parents, 11 parents of future Anderson students, 12 parents of former Anderson students, 12 Anderson staff, and 9 respondents who chose not to identify any relationship with the school.
- There were two general “How are we doing” type questions on the survey. (1), “Is your money being spent wisely?” and (2), “Do you feel well informed about the issues at Anderson?” The response was very positive, those answering the survey felt for the most part well informed and well served.

Money spent wisely?	Strongly Agree	25%
	Agree	35%
	No strong Feeling	26%
	Disagree	10%
	Strongly disagree	5%

Are you well informed?	Strongly Agree	27%
	Agree	42%
	No strong Feeling	13%
	Disagree	15%
	Strongly disagree	3%

- The rest of the survey dealt with specific projects that the school might want to undertake. The results are as follows:
- Proposal: Build a multi-purpose community center with kitchen serving area, gym, and stage/music room.

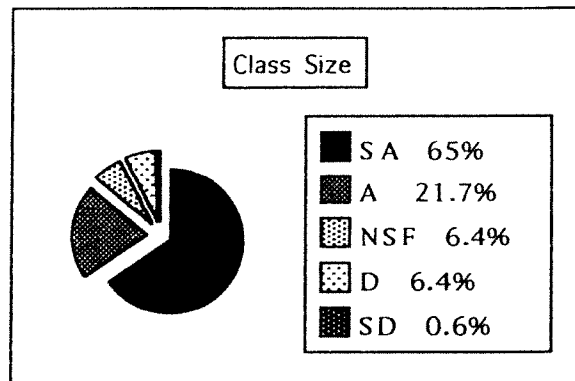
- Response: This is the most highly polarized issue, with strong agreement and strong disagreement; this should remain a part of our long range plan but as a low priority.



Need to work to develop stronger support among parents, and more importantly among community, if this is to become a higher priority. Alternative funding will probably be necessary and would surely help increase this project's popularity.

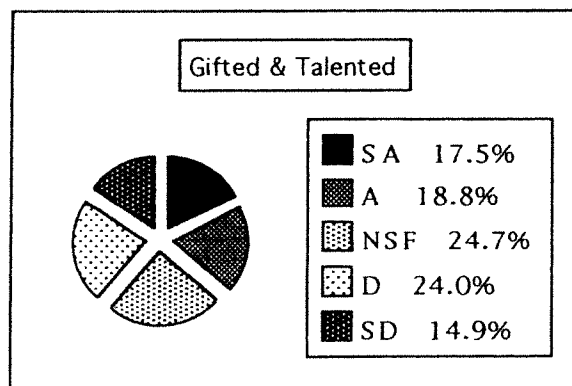
- Proposal: Keep maximum class sizes between 20-24 students.

- Response: Universal agreement among survey respondents that maximum class size should be 20-24 students. This is the highest priority on the survey; take actions as necessary to keep class sizes small!



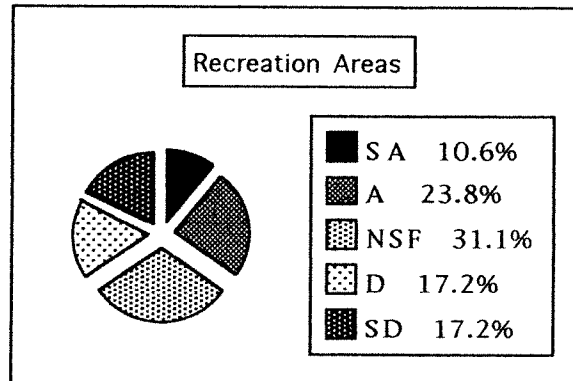
- Proposal: Expand gifted and talented program beyond state mandates.

- Response: Moderately polarized issue. Maintain present level of effort. Leave in long range plan as low priority. This is a first year program and there appears to be a need for education with parents to develop support before expansion will become a higher priority.



- **Proposal:** Contribute to community recreation areas adjacent to the school (currently under development with a \$5700 county grant).

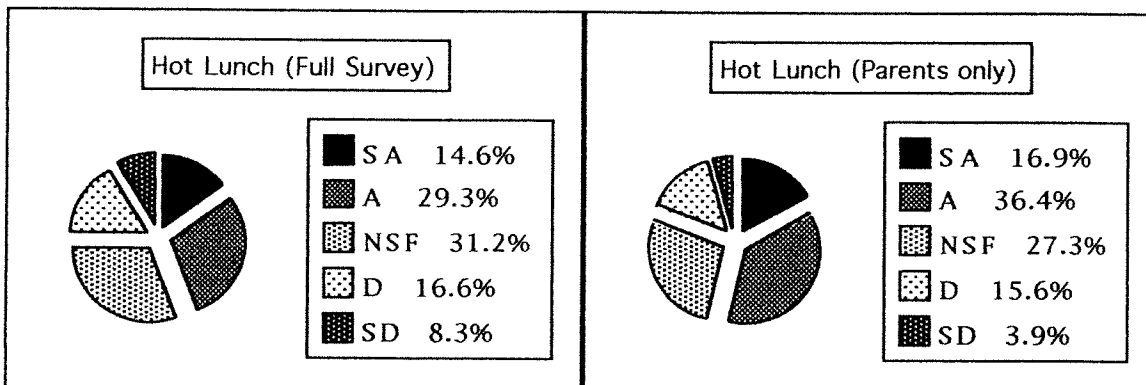
- **Response:** Only a moderate interest in expending effort and money to recreation areas. As this is vital to our health enhancement program and to the safety of our students, we should continue to support present plans for recreation areas. Recommend school provide on-going



maintenance of lawn once areas are developed. We should encourage continued community involvement and educate the community that our current field is not safe and that development of these recreation areas would be a benefit to all students and the community.

- **Proposal:** Desire for a self-supporting, catered hot lunch program.

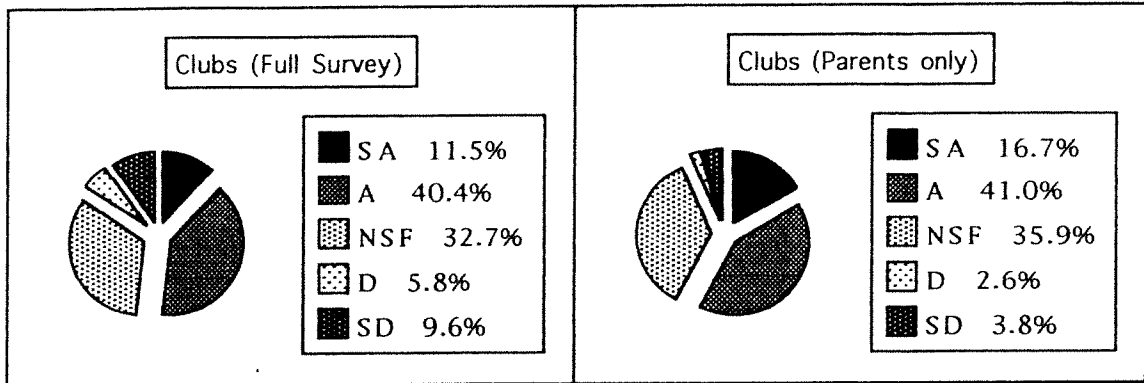
- **Response:** Since this is proposed as a self-supporting service, only parent survey results should be considered for this particular item. 53.3% of parents desire a hot lunch program. This is a slim majority, however, less than 20% object to the proposal. Therefore, we recommend that a hot lunch committee be formed with interested parents to look at options, determine if a self-supporting hot lunch program from a licensed kitchen is possible, and make recommendations to Board with a cost analysis.



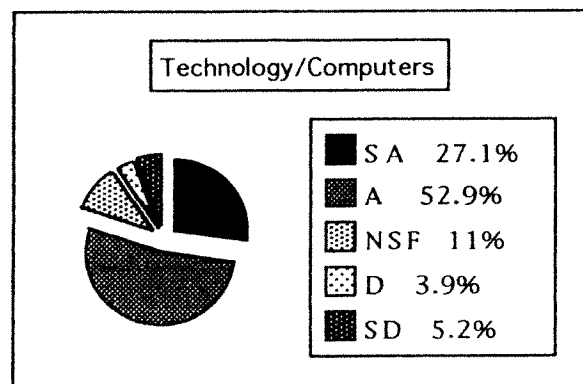
- **Proposal:** Add self-supporting after school clubs, such as chess, drama, computer, and foreign languages, etc.

- **Response:** This proposal is also for a self-supporting program and the

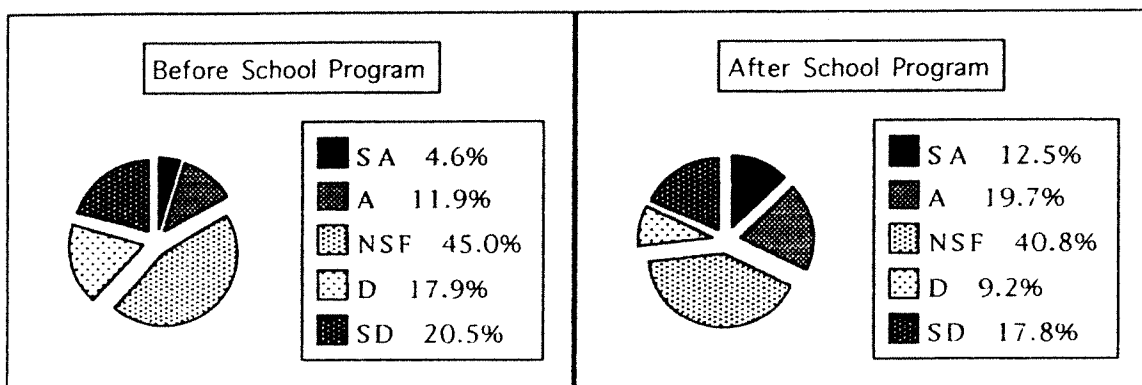
parent responses can be given greater weight. Majority of parents desire after-school clubs, 57.7%. Pursue people within district or from resource list to form after school clubs. Since this is a medium priority, and self-supporting, the school should provide space as needed and be receptive to club opportunities, but need not expend any resources in this pursuit.



- **Proposal:** Expand technology and computer education.
- **Response:** Broad support for increased expenditures on technology and computers. This is the third highest priority item; provide additional budget money and seek outside funding sources. Proceed with the Technology Committee plan.

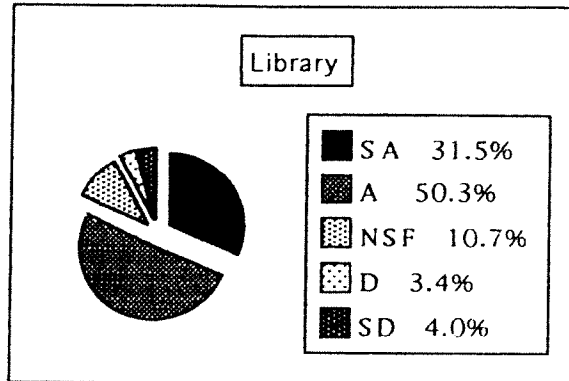


- **Proposal:** Add a self supporting before school program, K-4 graders.
- **Response:** There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan.

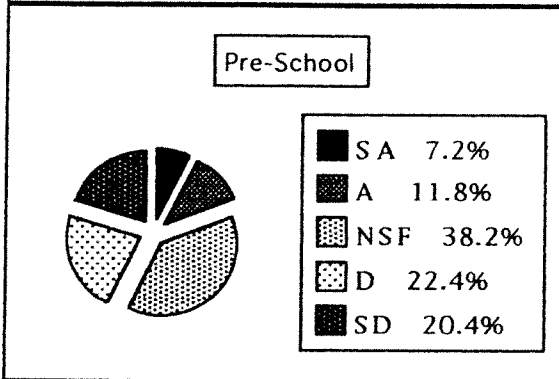


- Proposal: Add a self-supporting after school program for K-4th graders.
- Response: There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan.

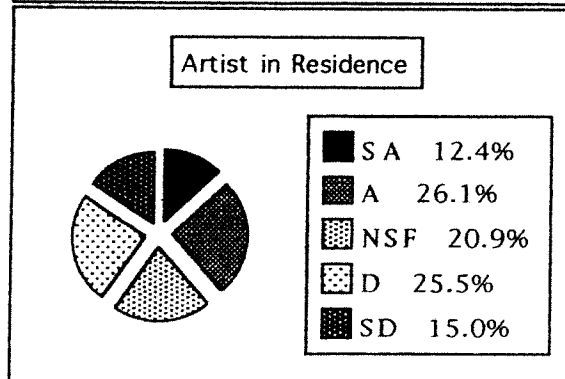
- Proposal: Expand library and reference collections.
- Response: Broad support for increased expenditures on library and reference collections. This is the second highest priority item; provide additional budget money and seek outside funding source



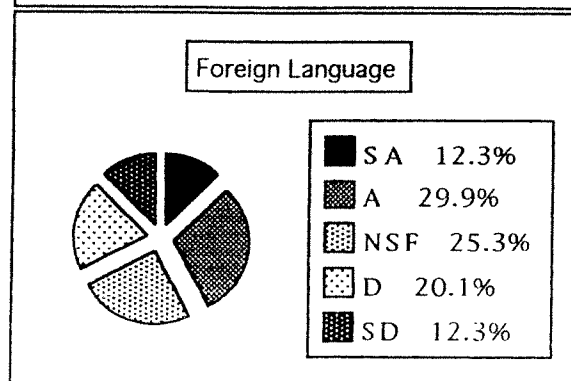
- Proposal: Add a self-supporting preschool age program.
- Response: There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan.



- Proposal: Fund artists to work with all students in grades K-8.
- Response: 38.5% overall favor funding artists to work with students. This is a medium priority so leave in long range plan and seek outside funding sources.

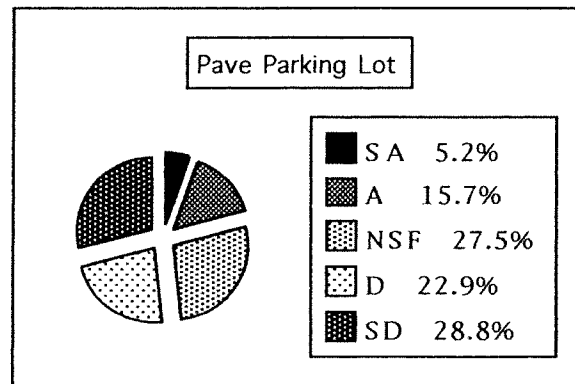


- Proposal: Provide foreign language instruction prior to 7-8th grades, (7th-8th is mandated as of July, 1994).
- Response: There is a moderate interest in providing foreign

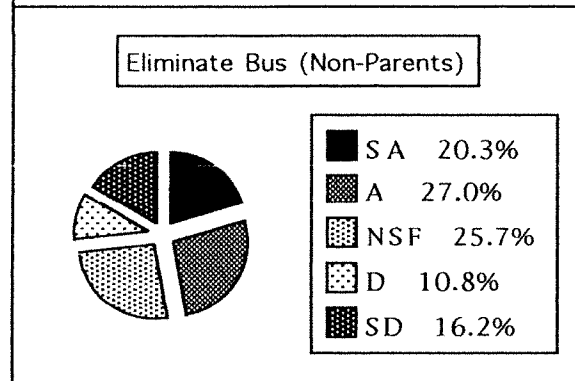
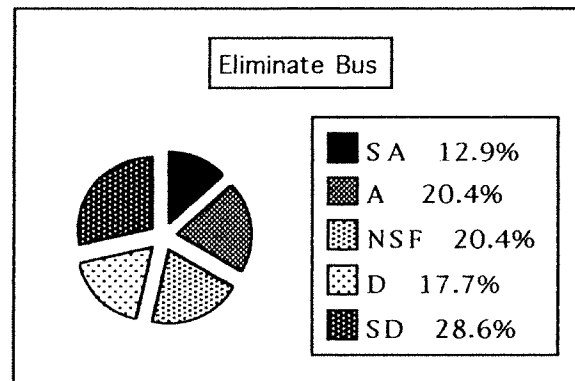


language instruction prior to 7-8th grades with 44.3% overall favoring funding. Pursue lunch hour or after school foreign language instruction as a self-supporting program; do not provide budget money.

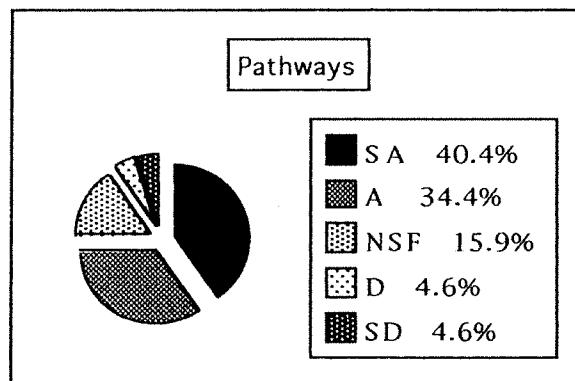
- Proposal: Pave parking lot at Brown School.
- Response: There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan.



- Proposal: Eliminate district-subsidized busing to students living within 3 miles of school.
- Response: The strongest disagreement with this idea comes from parents, the direct users/benefactors of this service. Obviously there is support for the service by the users. The committee recommends maintaining the service and suggests that the issue of raising user fees must be carefully weighed against the adverse results that discouraging bus usage would create.



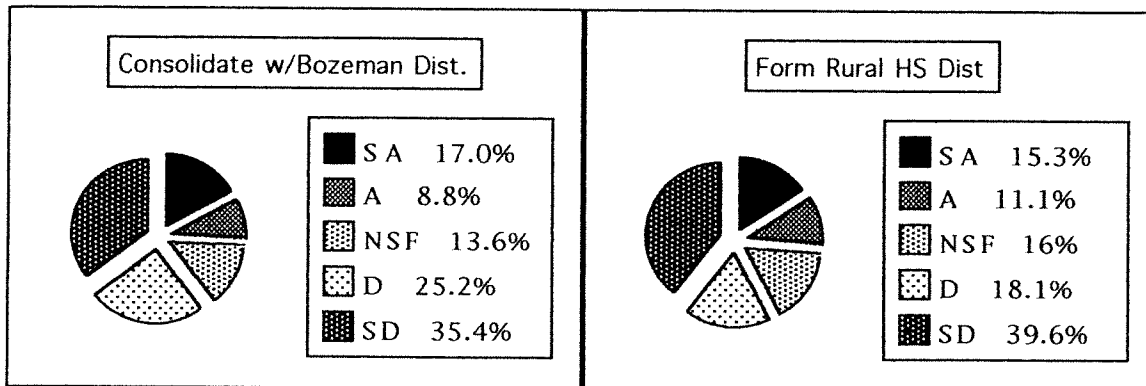
- Proposal: Investigate safe, off-road pathways for bike and pedestrian traffic to and from school.
- Response: There is strong support across the board, 74.4%. This is the fourth highest priority. We recommend forming a



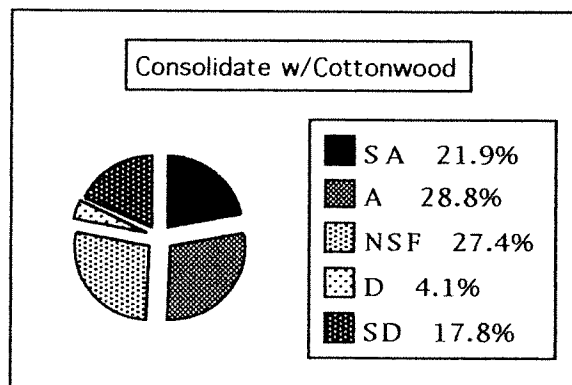


committee to study the issue.

- Proposal: Consolidate with Bozeman School District.
- Response: There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan. Share results with legislators.
- Proposal: Establish our own high school with other rural schools.



- Response: There is low interest; do not include in the long range plan.
- Proposal: Consolidate with Cottonwood School District.
- Response: 50.7% agree with this item; Board should study the ramifications.



## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it appears that our growth will continue but the rate may subside considerably. In light of the fact that several of our classes are at the maximum size recommended by the Class Size Committee and that small classes are the highest priority throughout the community, the issue of further expanding the building for additional classroom space should be taken up immediately. Hopefully, our rate of growth will slow down and enable us to address some of the ongoing problems that had to be deferred under the pressure of our increasing enrollment, or perhaps it may allow us to look into some new programs or expand on others.

The following proposals were considered very important to the entire community and should be given our highest consideration:

- 1) Keep the class sizes small.
- 2) Expand the library and reference collections.
- 3) Expand technology and computer education.
- 4) Investigate bike and pedestrian pathways.

The following proposals enjoy considerable community support and should be included in the long range vision of our school development, however, within the guidelines outlined above: The multi-purpose room, consolidation with Cottonwood, after school clubs, Artist in Residence program, foreign language instruction, hot lunch program, Extended Studies, Bus Service, athletic fields.

The following proposals lack the necessary support in the community to receive any further consideration in our long range planning:

- 1) Develop before and after school and preschool programs.
- 2) Consolidate with the Bozeman School District.
- 3) Form a rural high school district.
- 4) Pave the parking lot.

Comments from Community Survey  
December, 1993

**Former Anderson Parents**

Multi-purpose room: Let people rent the area for meetings and dinner with certain regulations and charge for facilities.

Alot of these new neighbors know absolutely nothing about our school. All they think about is their taxes. They have no children in the school. I hope somehow we can wake them up!!

You are doing a super job!

Hot lunch program: If self-supporting, why do you need to know the communities' feelings?

After school clubs: If there are a group of students desiring to further their experience and an adult who will foster that desire, then good luck!

Technology and computer education: strongly agree.

Consolidation: I am not sufficiently informed to have an opinion.

**Teachers**

Consolidation: Would Anderson teachers have a position as a teacher?

**Upcoming Anderson Parents**

Library: Don't know existing conditions: is important

Adequately informed about school: According to the next sentence, we have an option to be more informed, but we don't know how good the newsletter is.

Multi-purpose center: Yes! But not to be used as a cafeteria during lunchtime. Lunch program Initated from kitchen with trays taken to classroom. Large storage area also needed in this community center, for tables, chairs, equipment, etc.

Hot lunch: If program to be initated, it would be eaten in classroom.

Clubs: Especially for older children this might be appropriate.

Expand technology: Perhaps more interestingly, a co-op with other county, rural schools can be formed, to share and exchange ideas, equipment and expertise.

Add self-supporting programs: Perhaps a breakfast program would be more appropriate than academic or physical activities before school. I have seen the before and after school programs abused by parents, same kids there before and after school everyday.

Community Center: There could be community programming ideas designed for adults, adult-

child programs. Refer to Southwood Comm. Center, Pooh Corner. Such as,  
Monthly seminar for Moms with babysitting.  
Outreach for Moms with daughters of puberty age.  
Community dances, CPR, have laid out what the skills of people in this school district are.  
Community gatherings, Thanksgiving, etc.  
Parenting classes  
Garage sales

Expand library: Expansion always important, have a book sale two times a year at the comm. center. Raising money for this can be accomplished several ways.

Artists to work with students: Perhaps as an afterschool optional program.

Eliminate busing: Safety issue, this would just increase traffic congestion and place more kids at risk.

Off-road pathways: ABSOLUTELY chip or pave ditch.

Consolidate with Bozeman: We need more pros and cons before deciding

Consolidate with Cottonwood: Cottonwood would have Ophir to go to Gallatin Gateway or Anderson. Use their building as Comm. Center.

Establish own high school: If consolidation would take place this is when it would happen 8-12.

### **Taxpayers**

Add self-supporting school program: Unsure about the need for this.

Our property taxes are so high now that we cannot afford any new expenses. Wake up and listen to the property owners or we will have another tax revolt.

No more taxes!

Consolidate schools: Whatever saves taxpayers money!

Pay too much mill levy now!

Consolidate with Bozeman at 6th-H. School

I strongly support the children of the area having a small excellent neighborhood school, however, I would hate to see a taxpayer revolt because the district personnel try for non-essential "nice" things.

Build multi-purpose center: Our community is Bozeman, not Anderson

Contribute to recreation area: Better recreation areas in neighborhoods.

Add self-supporting before school program: If enough parents support it.

Pave parking lot: Many of us do not have paved roads.

Busing: District should have some policy like Bozeman.

I really like the school visits at election time, thanks for inviting our input!

### **Anderson Parents**

Adaquately informed about school issues: Would like to know more about complete spendings on school.

Expand library: We've been doing this.

Busing: Eliminate bus fees after 2nd child, if family has more than 2 children, or prorate lower costs per additional children, after 1st one.

If taxes stayed the same, we'd agree to all of these suggestions.

Money being spent wisely: Do not fund extra training for teachers, instead select from the over-qualified portion of teachers that are out there. Use fund raising money for kid's activities.

Build Multi-purpose center: Once current debt is reduced

Expand gifted and talented: Anderson needs to work on more real integration and less leveling.

Before school program: All grades not just K-4

After school program: All grades not just K-4

Expand Library: Especially reference for upper level.

Consolidate with Cottonwood: For Cottonwood's sake

Adaquately informed: Not timely!

Build a multi-purpose center: Nice idea but where does the money come from?

Add self-supporting preschool age program: Interesting thought but where's the room?

Hot lunch program: A soup kitchen with homemade bread just on Fridays, might be nice. I do like the parent involved hot lunches that are being done now.

Expand library: If Mrs. Costle believes there is still a need.

Foreign language: I loved the noon hour French program we had a couple years ago, my children learned quite a bit in a short time.

