

Happy Hollow Survey Analysis

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025



Overview

To gather community feedback on potential uses of former Happy Hollow Elementary School, West Lafayette Community Schools administered a survey inviting respondents to share priorities and ideas for the site's renovation. West Lafayette received **239 responses** from a variety of stakeholders as indicated in the data below. (Please note that totals exceed 100% because respondents could select more than one stakeholder group.)

- **64%** – Residents in School Corporation Boundaries
- **41%** – WLJSHS Parents/Guardians
- **33%** – WLES Parents/Guardians
- **33%** – WLIS Parents/Guardians
- **25%** – Parents of WLCSC Alumni
- **14%** – WLCSC Alumni
- **14%** – Residents Adjacent to Happy Hollow
- **12%** – WLCSC Staff Members

This document highlights trends from these responses to inform additional conversations on the future of Happy Hollow, including virtual and in-person focus groups.

Assets, Strengths, and Opportunities

The majority of survey responses noted several key assets and programming strengths that should be maintained (or perhaps expanded).

STEM & Robotics

The most prominent theme centered on maintaining and expanding Happy Hollow as a center for STEM education, particularly the existing robotics program that brings "tremendous pride to the WL School system."

Community Education Center

There is strong support for hosting afterschool programs, including marching band, dance, arts, and other enrichment activities. A few responses noted that services for special populations, including alternative school or virtual school programming, could be hosted at Happy Hollow.

Early Childhood Education

Several respondents noted the community's need for preschool programming, including before and afterschool care.

Recreation and Wellness

The outdoor pool, sledding hill, and proximity to the park emerged as strong assets according to the community.

Paying for Programming

More than 90% of respondents indicated they would be willing to pay for programming. One person wrote, "I think rehabbing Happy Hollow represents an important community investment, and as such, I would be willing to pay for an additional referendum/tax increase to support this initiative." According to this survey, there is a clear consensus: The community is willing to pay for programs it values.

Questions & Concerns

- Fewer than 10 respondents suggested selling the property or using it for housing. These comments were in contrast to several that said the site was a "gem" and should be maintained by West Lafayette Community Schools.
- Some respondents wondered if Happy Hollow should be re-opened as a middle school serving grades 7-8.
- Is the four-way stop at Salisbury safe, especially if traffic increases?
- One person noted that the Happy Hollow parking lot is "not safe."
- To fund renovations, could naming rights to the facility (or part of the facility) be provided to a donor?

Closing Thought

This comment encapsulates community sentiment: "I hope the Happy Hollow facility is renovated and provides kids (and adults) in the community with the space and resources that are necessary to stay competitive in a rapidly changing world."