THE MORRIS LEATHERMAN COMPANY BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3128 Dean Court RESIDENTIAL SURVEY Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416 FINAL SEPT - OCT 2017 Hello, I'm , and we are speaking with a random sample of residents about issues facing the Brainerd School District. Even if you do not have children currently in the schools, we are very interested in your opinions and suggestions. I want to assure you that all individual responses will be held strictly confidential; only summaries of the entire sample will be reported. Approximately, how many years have LESS THAN FIVE YEARS...13% you lived in the Brainerd School FIVE TO TEN YEARS.....18% District? 11 TO 20 YEARS.....24% 21 TO 30 YEARS.....25% OVER THIRTY YEARS.....20% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....0% 2. Are you registered to vote at your YES......94% current address? NO.....6% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....1% As you may know, there are many types of elections. In Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, Minnesota has very high voter turnout. In off year and special elections, voter turnout is much lower. 3. Did you vote in the November 2016 YES......83% Presidential election? DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....1% How closely do you follow local VERY CLOSELY.................13% elections, such as the city, SOMEWHAT CLOSELY.....37% county, or school board races -- NOT TOO CLOSELY......31% would you say you follow them very DON'T FOLLOW AT ALL....18% closely, somewhat closely, not too DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....1% closely, or really don't follow them at all? If the School Board proposed an election in April, 2018.... How likely are you to vote in an ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.....31% April 2018 election - absolutely VERY LIKELY.....32% certain, very likely, 1/2-1/2, not 1/2-1/2......19%

too likely, or not at all likely?

6.	How would you rate the quality of education provided by the Brainerd Public Schools excellent, good, only fair or poor?	EXCELLENT
7.	What is the most serious issue, if anything, facing the School District?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED7% NOTHING15% LACK OF FUNDING18% POOR SPENDING11% HIGH TAXES10% AGING FACILITIES13% LARGE CLASS SIZES16% LACK OF DISCIPLINE3% DECLINING QUALITY6% SCATTERED2%
told agree	ald like to read you a short list of us. For each one, please tell me we, disagree, or strongly disagree.	whether you strongly agree,
8.	Our community receives a good value from its investment in its public schools.	STRONGLY AGREE
9.	The Brainerd School Board does a good job of informing residents about the decisions it makes.	STRONGLY AGREE
10.	The School Board and Administration manage our tax dollars effectively and efficiently.	STRONGLY AGREE
11.	The School Board makes decisions in the best interests of our students and their families.	STRONGLY AGREE

12.	The School Board and Administration have used available funds well to maintain and update our buildings.	STRONGLY AGREE
Movi	ng on	
13.	From what you have heard or seen, do you think enrollment has been increasing, decreasing or has it remained about the same over the past few years in Brainerd Public Schools?	INCREASING
	IF "INCREASING," ASK: (n=201)	
	14. Do you think this enrollment growth will continue in the future?	YES
15.	How would you rate the job performance of the Brainerd School Board excellent, good, only fair or poor?	
16.	How would you rate the job performance of the Superintendent and District Administration excellent, good, only fair or poor?	EXCELLENT
17.	And, how would you rate the job performance of teachers and instructional staff excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT
Cont	inuing	
18.	Do you think the Brainerd Public Schools are adequately funded?	YES
	IF "NO," ASK: (n=152)	

	19. Which of the following areas is in the most need of more funding - classroom education, school buildings, athletics and other activities or something else?	CLASSROOM EDUCATION38% SCHOOL BUILDINGS55% ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES3% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED4%
20.	<pre>Which of the following three statements best describes your feelings? A. I would vote against almost any    property tax increases for the    schools; B. I would vote for a property tax    increase under some conditions,    but against it under other conditions; C. I would vote for almost any    property tax increases for the    schools.</pre>	
21.	Compared to neighboring communities, do you consider total property taxes in your community to be very high, somewhat high, about average, somewhat low, or very low?	VERY HIGH
22.	Compared to other neighboring school districts, do you think school taxes levied by the Brainerd Public Schools are very high, somewhat high, about average, somewhat low or very low?	VERY HIGH
Turn	ing to school buildings and facilit	ies
23.	From what you have heard or seen, how would you rate the quality of the District's buildings and facilities - excellent, good, only fair or poor?	EXCELLENT

24.	Do you believe the District has enough classroom space to properly educate its students? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY YES
25.	Do you believe the School Board should develop a long-range plan to maintain and make the improvements needed in our school buildings? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY YES
buil	each of the following, please tell adding meet the needs of educating to NO," ASK:) Do you feel strongly the	day's children. (IF "YES"
26.	Brainerd High School?	STRONGLY YES
27.	Forestview Middle School?	STRONGLY YES       .21%         YES       .57%         NO       .11%         STRONGLY NO       .2%         DON'T KNOW/REFUSED       .9%
28.	The six elementary schools in the School District?	STRONGLY YES       10%         YES       50%         NO       20%         STRONGLY NO       10%         DON'T KNOW/REFUSED       10%
29.	What do you think is the useful life of a school — in other words, how many years can a school keep operating safely and meet modern education goals with regular maintenance and upkeep — is it closer to 25 years, 50 years, 75 years or 100 years?	75 YEARS

30.	Do you believe any of our school buildings have reached the point where they should be replaced with a new school, rather than continuing to invest in maintenance and remodeling? (IF YES, ASK:) Which one?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED
For the last few years, the Brainerd School Board has been discussing options for a long-term facilities plan that will gain community support and meet current and future space needs. Independent experts have conducted an assessment of our current schools, including the quality of classrooms, the adequacy of space, the security measures, safety, air quality and operating costs. The school board is currently prioritizing these building needs in preparation for a referendum next year.		
31.	Would you say that you are following these discussions very closely somewhat closely, not really that closely or not following it at all?	,SOMEWHAT CLOSELY36%
32.	Thinking about these discussions in the district, do you believe the School Board is working hard to find a plan benefiting students and staff of the Brainerd Public Schools? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY YES       16%         YES       58%         NO       .8%         STRONGLY NO       .6%         DON'T KNOW/REFUSED       .12%
33.	Do you believe the School Board is working hard to find a plan that is fair to local taxpayers? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	YES52%

34.	And, do you think the School Board is doing a good job of involving parents, local citizens and community leaders in the discussions about current and future facilities needs? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	YES NO STRONGLY NO.	
Witho	out knowing the specifics of the pla	n	
35.	How much would you be willing to pay per month in additional property taxes in order to fund needed improvements to school facilities? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING POINT, MOVE UP OR DOWN DEPENDING ON ANSWER] How about \$ per month? (REPEAT)	\$4.00 \$8.00 \$12.00 \$16.00 \$20.00 \$24.00	
36.	And, what do you think is the right amount needed to be spent on a long-range plan to maintain and improve eight schools, preparing the District for the next 20 years? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING POINT, MOVING UP OR DOWN DEPENDING ON ANSWER]	\$25 MILLION. \$50 MILLION. \$75 MILLION. \$100 MILLION \$125 MILLION \$150 MILLION MORE THAN \$15	5 MILLION20%
Board for d means inves	going to read you a list of eleven d is considering which could require district residents. Using a scale for an extremely good investment and stant; please tell me if you think of the tend of the stant enough to justify a property to	a property from 1 to 5, version 1 to 5, version 2 versio	tax increase where "5" ery poor nt is
		1 2	3 4 5 DK
37.	Improve school security by restrict ing public access points, adding lockdown technology and improving site supervision?		20% 32% 25% 1%

38. Expand and update the spaces used by students and the community for fine 8% 12% 23% 27% 31% 0% arts? 39. Improve traffic flow around our schools by separating bus areas from drop-off and pick-up areas for parents? 10% 14% 19% 32% 26% 0% Increase opportunities to collaborate with local businesses to improve workforce development? 6% 10% 23% 30% 31% 1% Design classroom space for STEM, the 41. science, technology, engineering and math programs in all schools? 5% 6% 14% 26% 48% 2% Create more efficient cafeteria and kitchen areas to serve more students and staff? 21% 15% 24% 21% 17% 2% Continuing with the same scale.... Improve career and technical education classrooms in our middle school and high school? 8% 9% 23% 27% 32% 2% 44. Update infrastructure to improve the use of technology for students learning in the schools? 8% 11% 24% 26% 31% 0% 45. Modernize the space used for special education classrooms and support services? 5% 5% 22% 31% 36% 1% Provide common areas for students and 46. teachers to use for small group work and planning? 16% 11% 26% 22% 24% 1% Increase the size of elementary class-47.

Next, I want to read you several statements people might make about a plan for investments in the quality of local schools. For each, please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.

Minnesota Department of Education. 11% 10% 21% 24% 34% 1%

rooms from 850 to 950 square feet,

the modern school standard used by the

48.	It is harder to teach in class- rooms not designed properly for the age of the students and the subjects being taught.	STRONGLY AGREE
49.	We may need to replace one or two of our elementary schools, if the cost of remodeling and maintaining them is too high.	STRONGLY AGREE
50.	The school board is moving too fast with this plan - we should slow down and make sure we get this right the first time.	STRONGLY AGREE
51.	School Districts need to develop plans that prioritize what students and teachers actually need, not just what is on their wish lists.	STRONGLY AGREE
52.	Every elementary school should provide the same opportunities for students, regardless of where a family lives in the district.	STRONGLY AGREE
53.	We should design schools for the number of students we expect to enroll over the next ten to fifteen years, not the number of students we have today.	STRONGLY AGREE
54.	We can always find ways to spend money to improve our schools - at some point, we just have to make do with what we have.	STRONGLY AGREE
55.	Increasing taxes to fund building improvements is unfair because cabin owners must pay for part of the levy, even though they don't have kids in our local schools.	STRONGLY AGREE

to be located in the neighborhoods AGREE...............55% where our families are living, DISAGREE.....12% even if it means we need to invest STRONGLY DISAGREE.....10% a little more money to manage DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....6% traffic issues and provide outdoor space. I am going to read you some statements about a possible referendum on school buildings in the Spring of next year. After I reach each pair, please tell me which statement is closest to your opinion. If you feel strongly that way, please tell me. (ROTATE STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH QUESTION) STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.19% 57. A: School districts should use "pay-as-you-go" plans for building STATEMENT A......33% improvements, investing a little STATEMENT B......22% every year on each building to im- STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.17% prove education and safety; while BOTH (VOL.).....5% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....4% holding down the annual burden on taxpayers; OR B: School districts should adopt long-range plans to invest in schools, so funds can be used more efficiently by making all of the needed improvements in a school at one time. 58. A: Local property taxes are going STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.22% up too quickly; we can't afford to STATEMENT A......25% put more school taxes on the backs STATEMENT B........27% of homeowners and businesses; OR STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.19% While the State of Minnesota BOTH (VOL.).....8% provides some money for maintain- DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% ing buildings, local taxpayers need to step up when major investments in schools are needed. 59. A: We should invest in more small STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.15% STATEMENT A.....30% neighborhood elementary schools, which are better for families and STATEMENT B......21% students; OR STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.17% B: We should invest in fewer and BOTH (VOL.).....12% larger elementary schools, so we DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....5% can save overhead and administra-

tive costs.

60.	A: We should improve our schools now, because interest rates and construction costs are still low; OR  B: We should wait at least a few years to make this investment, because the economy in this region still isn't strong enough.	STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.14% STATEMENT A39% STATEMENT B15% STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.13% BOTH (VOL.)11% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED8%
61.	<ul> <li>A: School districts should not have the ability to use eminent domain to buy additional homes or business property around school sites; OR</li> <li>B: As long as school districts pay property owners a fair price and help with relocation, they should be able to add land to improve school sites.</li> </ul>	STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.22% STATEMENT A28% STATEMENT B27% STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.14% BOTH (VOL.)5% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED5%
62.	A: If we are going to increase property taxes, I would use the money for modern schools rather than pouring more money into older buildings; OR  B: We have invested a lot of money in our current schools - if possible, we should continue to update and improve these buildings, rather than tearing them down and starting over.	BOTH (VOL.)10%
like	times, people change their minds du this. Let me return to a few of to d earlier in the survey	-
63.	Do you believe the District has enough classroom space to properly educate its students? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY YES

64.	Do you believe the School Board should develop a long-range plan to maintain and make the improvements needed in our school buildings? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY YES
65.	How much would you be willing to pay per month in additional property taxes in order to fund needed improvements to school facilities? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING POINT, MOVE UP OR DOWN DEPENDING ON ANSWER] How about \$ per month? (REPEAT)	NOTHING       28%         \$4.00       15%         \$8.00       16%         \$12.00       21%         \$16.00       6%         \$20.00       5%         \$24.00       2%         OVER \$24.00       2%         DON'T KNOW/REFUSED       6%
66.	And, what do you think is the right amount needed to be spent on a long-range plan to maintain and improve eight schools; preparing the District for the next 20 years? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING POINT, MOVING UP OR DOWN DEPENDING ON ANSWER]	LESS THAN \$25 MILLION. 17% \$25 MILLION
67.	Are there any other issues the Schobefore making a decision on the low (IF "YES," ASK:) What would that he	ng-range facilities plan?

UNSURE, 6%; NO, 78%; FOCUS ON PROJECTED GROWTH, 2%; CONSIDER TAX IMPACT FOR RESIDENTS, 3%; MAXIMIZE GOVERNMENT FUNDING, 2%; FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION, 2%; SCATTERED, 7%.

Moving on....

68.	What is your primary source of information about the Brainerd Public Schools?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED0% NOTHING3% MAILED NEWSLETTER32% ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER6% E-MAIL2% DISTRICT WEBSITE2% SCHOOL WEBSITES9% LOCAL NEWSPAPER
69.	What is your preferred way to receive information about Brainerd Public Schools - mailed newsletter, electronic newsletter, e-mail, District website, specific school website, local newspaper, local cable or radio, social media, something else? (IF "SOMETHING ELSE," ASK:) What would that be?	SCHL DIST WEBSITE23% SPECIFIC SCHL WEBSITE6% LOCAL NEWSPAPER6%
Now,	just a few more questions for demog	graphic purposes
70.	What is your age, please?	18-24.       .5%         25-34.       .14%         35-44.       .21%         45-54.       .21%         55-64.       .20%         65 AND OVER.       .20%         REFUSED.       .0%
71.	What is the highest level of formal education you completed?	LESS THAN HS GRADUATE38 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE258 VO-TECH/TECH COLLEGE148 SOME COLLEGE228 COLLEGE GRADUATE298 POST-GRADUATE88 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED08
72.	Are there infants or pre-schoolers in this household?	YES

73.	Are there school-aged children in this household? (WAIT FOR RE-SPONSE) Do they attend public schools in this district, public schools in another district, parochial or private schools, charter schools, or home school?	NO
74.	Did you, your spouse/partner, or children, if applicable, attend Brainerd Public Schools?	YES
75.	Have you or any member of your household participated in any Brainerd Community Education programs or offerings during the past two years?	YES
76.	Which political party do you consider yourself most closely aligned with?	REPUBLICAN
77.	Are you employed by a govern- ment agency or political subdivi- sion, such as state or local gov- ernment or a school district; business or corporation; self- employed; student; currently not not working, or retired?	GOV AGENCY/POLI SUB10% BUSINESS/CORPORATION51% SELF-EMPLOYED6% STUDENT3% CURRENTLY NOT WORKING5% RETIRED25% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED1%
78.	Are you a member of a labor union? (IF "NO," ASK:) Are any other members of your household members of a labor union?	YES
79.	Do you rent or own your current residence? (IF "OWN," ASK:) Is your home valued under \$125,000, \$125,000-\$175,000, or over \$175,000?	RENT

80.	Do you live in Brainerd, Baxter, Nisswa, Merrifield or another part part of the District?	BRAINERD
81.	Thinking about your household finances, how you would describe your financial situation, would you say that  A) Your monthly expenses are exceeding your income;  B) You are meeting your monthly expenses but are putting aside little or no savings;  C) You are managing comfortably while putting some money aside;  D) Managing very well?	STATEMENT A
82.	Finally, after taking this survey, are you more likely to vote in a 2018 school referendum election, less likely or has it made no difference?	LESS LIKELY2% NO DIFFERENCE58%
83.	Gender	MALE