

ABOUT THE EXIT POLL

For the first time since 1997, the Greece Central School District conducted an exit poll during the budget vote and Board of Education election. Surveys were made available to all interested voters, who filled them out on tables set up at each of the three polling places. Completed exit polls were returned to District Office by election inspectors after the polls closed.

The results were tallied by school voting location as a means to organize information. Districtwide and school-by-school results have been tabulated for all questions. Written comments, included as part of the “other” designation on each answer bank, have been compiled as they were received and are grouped by polling location. General written comments were added by some respondents. Those can be found grouped by location at the back of this report.

Districtwide

- 6,800 votes were cast
- 1,399 voters completed exit polls
- 20% participation

Arcadia

- 2,464 votes were cast
- 322 voters completed exit polls
- 13% participation

Athena

- 2,520 votes were cast
- 886 voters completed exit polls
- 35% participation

Olympia

- 1,816 votes were cast
- 191 voters completed exit polls
- 11% participation

1) ON THE 2007-08 BUDGET PROPOSAL I VOTED:

Yes

Districtwide
641

Arcadia
141

Athena
433

Olympia
67

No

Districtwide
720

Arcadia
173

Athena
430

Olympia
117

1a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

I agreed with the budget presented

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
316	58	227	31

I am satisfied with the school district

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
218	54	131	33

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
96	31	50	15

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR

1a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

Arcadia

- \$0 cost to tax payers
- Schools need support
- I feel we should be spending more on the kids but could not vote no
- I never vote against education
- I vote yes for the kids
- Don't want or need austerity budget
- Cannot pay more taxes
- Teacher Association position
- I always vote for the kids
- Raise in taxes – no children
- I want kids to get a great education
- Anything to help the children
- I have grandchildren attending Greece schools
- Want to support the district students
- Kids in school
- I am satisfied with the school district – not the school board
- My kid's last year in the district
- I always vote yes for kids
- Don't want to go to austerity budget
- Don't want to go to contingency – no capital expenditures would have virtually been same result
- I am also a teacher and have two children who will be in the Greece schools soon
- If I voted no, it would be perceived that I thought the budget increase is too high (not true)
- Children be served
- Budget defeat = losers!
- I teach and have a child in the district
- The Board punishes kids and parents if budget does not pass
- I work in the district
- I always vote yes but would like more per pupil spending
- For the kids

Athena

- It was my duty as a citizen
- It will get in somehow
- Children need a good education
- I have to believe the money will be put to good use and will benefit the students I work in Greece schools
- Kids

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR

1a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS: *CONTINUED*

Athena continued

- Too much was cut from the budget. We need more money for music programs!!!
- For the children
- This is the best the BOE would accept
- Kids in school district
- School district needs capital for improvement
- Previous school board member
- Property value
- You'll get your way anyway
- What difference does it make?
- If it was voted down, budget isn't really reworked
- No other choice
- I am not satisfied, but I do not want the kids to do without
- I have grandchildren in the District
- Too many cuts already impacting students
- It's not Iraq and defeated budgets depress home values
- Wish to continue to support kids
- Alternatives are worse
- I believe in the investment of our children
- The only way to change things is to vote!
- It is important that there is sufficient funds available for teachers
- It is important that there is sufficient funds available for teachers and students and the union recommended yes
- I disagree with music cuts but I feel I must support education in our community
- I am a teacher in the District and live with the results of a no vote
- Reasonable increases
- Too low/no options
- Kids need to be taken care of
- Contingency NG (not good)
- No real reason to vote for or against
- Do people actually vote no for education
- My kids are in school
- For students
- No real choice
- I didn't want any further cuts
- My kids come first
- Just does not mater. Voting no means you cut things you don't need to.

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
1a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Not sure what the alternatives are. There have been too many cuts and I don't want to see more.
- I have kids in school
- We get a contingency budget
- My children need education
- I support the kids
- I teach in the district and a no vote costs my kids
- Don't want more cuts
- Offset negativity
- Still have children in school
- My wife works for transportation department
- Kids need a yes
- I support education
- For kids
- Don't want austerity
- I vote for the children
- I am teacher in district
- The contingency budget was only ½ million less!!
- Good education counts
- I think we need to spend more on our students education
- For the children
- The contingency is little different and I want to show support
- Do not want employees to lose jobs
- Taxes too high
- I believe in the BEST for our kids
- For the kids
- For the children, always

Olympia

- Why penalize the kids
- Want kids to have the best education possible
- Education is important
- My mom said to
- I have grandchildren in the District
- Kids
- You always screw up on the contingency budget
- Don't want austerity

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
1a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:
CONTINUED

Olympia continued

- We are getting back to basics I feel with this new superintendent
- I want more in the budget but I felt confident that the District is doing what they can for the community
- Kids come first
- Teacher
- Students need consistency and quality

1b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

Taxes are too high

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
559	140	332	87

Too much was cut from the proposal

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
20	10	10	0

Not enough was cut from the proposal

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
114	35	71	8

I didn't have enough information about what was being proposed

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
37	6	26	5

I am dissatisfied with the district

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
177	52	97	28

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
79	6	54	19

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 1b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

Arcadia

- Dissatisfied with the district playing with people's intelligence
- Money not spent wisely
- Not happy with budget
- Spend more for the kids
- Taxes too high
- Not happy with budget
- Didn't use where needed
- Increases
- 79% increase, less students
- Not satisfactory labeled
- Why pay more?
- Taxes pushing people out
- Budget is always higher than inflation
- Too expensive
- Things cut should not have been technology positions
- If taxes go much higher, I have to move – too much goes to administration
- Wrong cuts
- Taxes too high
- Taxes are highest in county
- Bad management of money
- Finish capital improvements – no need to bus to all locations
- Money going to the wrong programs
- Need for better explanation of how previous funds were spent
- 13,000,000 should be enough increase
- Dissatisfied with elimination of music teachers
- We need to cut spending
- Vote is a joke when contingency budget is nearly as much as the proposed budget
- The bus system

Athena

- Enough!
- Too much money
- Too much greed
- Need to better budget/cost control
- Many items not needed – wasteful spending
- No more taxes
- Benefits should reflect what taxpayers are getting in private business
- No more taxes!

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
1b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- No oversight or close management of the budget
- Too much waste
- Too much overspending
- District needs to get teachers/staff to contribute more to health insurance
- Taxes are the highest in the nation!
- More than cost of living
- Taxes are too high
- Too much spending on non-critical items
- Spend more on students
- Due to the screwy ways previous budgets and propositions were written, I do not have confidence in anything.
- Taxes are too high
- School district has no priorities. I'm sorry to say the school board has a bad reputation and no credibility.
- Dissatisfied
- Increase greater than inflation
- Cutting costs in wrong places – too many chiefs and not enough Indians
- Too much taxes. Teacher salaries increase every year.
- Didn't like all the new hires
- Not informed as to how it was lumped together
- Use the money you already have. School district is pitiful.
- Live within your means
- Not enough improvement given all the increases over the years
- Too much spending!
- I am dissatisfied with the District – Greece Athena in particular
- No reserve fund to be funded and freeze senior salaries
- With state money why raise taxes
- Taxes are ridiculous
- 55 years, budget never stayed the same or decreased!
- No jobs to support increase \$ per hour
- Don't trust you board members
- Figures are manipulated
- Did not make the hard choices
- Concerned budget increases are outpacing inflation rate
- Money should be allotted to the budget not the proposition. That doesn't make them free. That just shifts burden to taxpayers.
- Major changes needed

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
1b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- I voted no on all
- School tax should be based on numbers of school age / percentage not just property
- Cuts in music department
- When are children going to sacrifice? They have too much.
- Money is not allocated properly
- Wrong areas receive the cuts
- Teacher pay is too high
- Salaries too high
- On general principles
- Stop taking much needed services from our children
- Higher taxes
- Spending too high
- The high pay of Greece teachers. I feel there are other ways to use to use current money.
- Poor quality education
- Where did all the money go from increased assessments?
- Above inflation rate
- We voted no because we send our children to private / catholic schools and that is costly enough with no way to defer our taxes to help us pay!

Olympia

- Taxes far surpass inflation
- Most is state mandated
- \$8 million in one year is excessive
- Changing the place I vote
- It's hard enough to get ends meet with low raised and everything going up
- I do not want Buckman Heights teaching social justice
- I am not satisfied with use of taxes
- I think the Board is deceitful
- I want to keep my home
- Last budget indicated repairs – deceived
- Too many people making too much money
- My pay does not go up enough to cover all the increases in taxes, food, gas, etc.
- The proposals are not written correctly. If it passes the money will be used for salary increases.
- Salaries are too high at the top
- Too many extras, buses, administration, etc.

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
1b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Olympia continued

- Too many administrators – trim the top
- I think the District lacks transparency
- Cost per pupil is excessive
- Assessments went up this year
- State aid was up 13%
- No accountability
- Teachers salaries and benefits should be cut
- We need neighborhood schools – less busing to control fuel costs

2) ON PROPOSITION 1 (BUS PURCHASE) I VOTED:

Yes

Districtwide
578

Arcadia
145

Athena
355

Olympia
78

No

Districtwide
597

Arcadia
161

Athena
328

Olympia
108

2a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

I feel it is important to maintain our bus fleet

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
525	128	323	74

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
27	11	12	4

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 2a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

Arcadia

- Buy now and save
- Safety for kids
- Kids
- Keep kids safe from walking

Athens

- No added expense to the budget
- I would like to see Greece bus all children with Greece buses
- The union recommended yes
- My kids come first
- Taxes are too high
- It was covered by the state
- Safety
- State funded
- Other funds should be used
- State aid
- Keep fleet in good working order
- I am a bus driver
- There are many working parents who depend on our buses
- We bus too many with very little amount of children on bus
- On general principles
- Fleet does not need all these new buses

Olympia

- I feel it is important to although it should be included in the budget
- I don't think outsourcing is better financially

2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

The cost was too high

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
275	73	160	42

I don't feel new buses are needed

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
275	76	150	49

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
126	41	62	23

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

Arcadia

- Money won't be spent wisely
- You are not in business of running a business company
- Too many buses now – save fuel!
- Fix old buses
- Where is the extra money that was to be in the budget?
- Use less salt
- Should be part of regular budget
- Open enrollment not good
- We already have voted three times for new buses
- Sell some old buses
- Outsource
- Too much busing
- Busing ridiculous
- Too many staff overpaid
- Don't stop at every house – too many buses – save money – let them walk farther
- Not good use – reuse/repair
- They need to budget better
- You just bought 40 new buses
- The reserve fund does not stay with the buses
- I don't feel new buses are needed this year
- Include such purchases if really necessary in the budget
- Cuts should be made elsewhere, but can't vote on that
- Walking is healthier
- I think we need to look at Signature Schools first
- Taxes
- Taxes are high enough
- Cut one person on big bus
- Mismanagement of money
- Contract bus service
- Should not buy on credit
- Approved two years ago
- Budgeting excess is foolish
- Last money year budget for buses was not used accordingly
- Busing to too many locations
- Taxes too high
- Why not buy a bus for each student
- We have an obesity problem in this country – children need to walk more
- Better routes needed
- Need to realign busing in general

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Arcadia

- Go back to neighborhood schools
- Taxes too high
- Don't want district to borrow money
- Don't use buses, drive my kids to school
- Fix old buses
- Some people could walk
- Better technique State should pay

Athena

- Too many unused/half empty buses already
- Use what you have – I do
- No budget reserve fund for buses
- State taxes are paid by us
- Too many bus runs!
- Most buses I see are in Wegmans' parking lot
- More info on use and length of use needed
- I don't like all these buses running around
- Consolidate/district school of choice option
- Too mush busing
- Older buses can be maintained
- Too many buses driving around
- Too much tax
- Too few students ride the buses
- Too many buses going down each street and too many schools
- Neighborhood schools will eliminate the need for more buses
- Taxes are too high
- Purchase of SUV, too many buses
- Can do a better job if Laidlaw did it (cheaper)
- Stop busing kids all over Greece
- District run poorly: Needs to be run like a businesses
- Too many bus routes already – let kids walk and exercise
- More buses and less students – too many different schools
- Stop all the busing
- Buses were purchased
- Buses could be used more efficiently
- Stop multiple buses on one street
- Should be routinely replaced

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena

- Less kids – reroute the buses to save \$
- Upset with Athena politics
- Have more bake sales
- Too many bus stops in one neighborhood
- I see brand new buses every year. Reuse them and harsher punishments to the students who abuse them.
- Costs need to be reduced – not added
- I don't feel buses are needed every 5 years
- Buy smaller numbers at a time
- Not enough explanation
- Too many buses with too few students
- Every year it's buses
- Should board steals \$ from budget
- Cut the fleet – neighborhood schools
- Need to get out of the transportation business
- I see too many buses with too few children on them
- More \$
- Take care of the buses we have
- Too many ½ filled buses
- Money not used for busing
- Few children ride the buses (their parents are all driving them)
- Find another way
- Funds could be transferred to general fund
- You already purchased new buses
- Laidlaw is driving kids given there aren't enough drivers
- I don't feel so many should be replaced at once
- The district is spending too much money
- Put the word taxi on the side of bus
- Third time voting on buses. Where did our \$10 million dollars go!
- Too many routes
- You have fairly new buses
- Need less stops for buses. Too many door to door stops.
- Way too many buses – four stops on my street alone
- Bus expense would be down if students attend school near their homes
- Get small buses
- Fix the boundaries
- Buses last longer than 10 years in my day

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena

- Go back to K-5, less buses
- I think many children choose not to ride – they should refuse service up front and number of bus routes needed could be revised
- Kids should walk
- Older kids can walk
- Don't agree with so much busing
- Too much busing through the district
- Maintain repairs to present buses
- Questions on reserve
- Too many buses – too many stops
- Don't believe the money will be spent right
- 1.5 million two years ago – that was enough
- They had enough for buses
- Should be in budget
- Voted before on buses – what happened
- What happened with the buses from two years ago
- Should be part of budget
- Too many buses – let's go back to neighborhood schools

Olympia

- Buses in use are never full
- Too much “specialized” busing
- Too many bus stops
- I do not trust that the money will only be spent on buses
- Keep kids in schools closest to their homes
- Leave kids in their area to walk. Better for their health too.
- We already have too many buses
- I think there is a ridiculous amount of busing with so much choice allowed in picking schools
- Why don't you get buses on a routing schedule
- I don't like money going into a reserve
- Enough buses
- State aid has been and is ignored
- Repair what you have. That's why we pay for a bus garage.
- Should be in the budget
- Cut back on transportation
- Go back to neighborhood schools
- I do not trust the District

WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM
2b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Olympia

- Make better use of buses
- I think this is just another excessive expenditure
- Use less, make them walk
- Constant busing to non-neighborhood schools needs to halt
- Taxes are too high already
- Pupils should go to neighborhood schools
- Mismanaged bus stops, schools of choice
- Have you seen how many parents drive to school???
- New buses were already purchased
- Just spent money last year
- Students should go to neighborhood schools
- Teachers were cut – keep teachers, save money on buses

**3) ON PROPOSITION 2 (ESTABLISHMENT OF A
BUS PURCHASE RESERVE FUND) I VOTED:**

Yes

Districtwide
534

Arcadia
155

Athena
313

Olympia
66

No

Districtwide
593

Arcadia
169

Athena
308

Olympia
116

3a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

I agree with the creation of a bus reserve

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
463	123	280	60

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
26	10	11	5

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 3a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

Arcadia

- Pay as you go
- For kids
- I just wish it went into bus fund not general fund
- Should not buy on credit
- Kids
- We need to bus for kids

Athena

- Need to plan for new bus purchases
- Need buses to get kids to school safely
- It should be included in the budget
- No added expense to the budget
- I would imagine if one votes for buses you need a reserve to maintain them
- Cost is miniscule
- I don't want an increase sprung later
- Moneys are best controlled through dedicated reserve funds
- Agree with planning ahead
- It's essential
- We just purchased buses
- No new taxes
- On general principles

Olympia

- They need it
- Plan ahead

3b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

I don't feel a bus reserve fund is needed

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
304	82	170	52

I am against reserve funds in general

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
172	58	86	28

I don't understand what a reserve is for

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
31	8	23	0

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
95	30	39	26

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 3b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

Arcadia

- Taxes too high
- Too high
- Will not be spent wisely
- You are not in business of running a business company
- Where is the reserve fund?
- Don't need
- Taxes too high now
- Use state \$\$ to fund reserve
- Why do kids need buses for sport transportation
- Too much spending/staff
- Use state reimbursements to fund
- Money not used correctly
- Money could have been used for tech sides instead of paying more for technicians
- Appears to be a slush fund
- We can't afford a "reserve"
- I don't want to pay more
- It will be spent on other items
- Need to become more efficient instead of asking for more money
- Lease the buses
- If you have reserves lower taxes
- Consolidate – have buses area schools
- Contract bus service
- Budgeting excess is foolish
- They had a reserve at one time. Where did the money go?
- Taxes too high
- Too many bus routes
- Taxes too high
- Use the money in the classroom - \$ belong in classrooms
- I think the system needs to be changed before considering a reserve fund
- Should be state percent funded

Athena

- Too easy to squander
- Taxes are too high! Too much money.
- Budget cost itself – outrageous
- NYS funds come from my taxes
- Distrust in current Board
- Thought we already had a reserve. What happened?

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
3b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Use what you have – I do
- Would mean more taxes
- No control over reserve funds
- More info needed – we're always buying buses
- We already have reserve funds
- If it was a good idea, what took so long?
- You don't use it, it goes back into general
- Too much for a reserve
- Costs too much
- Four buses on every street
- Wording – what happens to funds reimbursed by the state?
- No restriction on money coming back – needs reworking
- No, let parents provide
- Taxes
- Too easy to spend
- Used wrong last time
- Had in past and screwed up
- We need to restructure the existing routes. Go back to K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 schools.
- Taxes are too high
- District run poorly
- The District needs to do a better job of handling its finances!!!
- Reserve fund has been abused in the past
- Exercise for kids – save fuel
- Too much spending
- Stop have been covered in previous bond
- Busing is out of control
- Taxes too high
- Sub busing out
- Contract Laidlaw!!
- Money will be misused then, just like everything else in Greece
- I feel money needs to be handled more efficiently
- Tendency to borrow from a reserve to pay for other projects
- Feel/think/know there is too much waste in the District's spending
- Costs are out of control
- The district is spending too much money
- It's called a SLUSH fund
- Buses would last longer if you returned to the old local school system

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
3b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- What are the “other sources” for this fund?
- It is my understanding these funds can be used for anything
- I understand this reserve could be used wherever – not just for buses
- The term unlimited is no control situation
- Buy when actually need
- Too costly – not needed
- Taxes too high
- They are misused
- Bus pickups for athletes is not needed
- Taxes
- They would spend it on other
- No need for new
- Should be in budget
- Should be part of budget
- End up spending it for something else
- Need to cut transportation – Costs too high. Unhappy with number of buses coming into neighborhood and to too many different schools

Olympia

- A tempting amount of money to misuse
- I feel kids should go to their own schools and not be bused all over
- Did not use last time
- Money coming back may not go back into fund
- Still paid by taxpayers
- District needs to demonstrate responsibility
- Money used poorly in the past
- What happened to the \$5 million reserve established years ago?
- Again, taxes are too high
- I think it should be raised as needed. If money is available it will be used for other reasons.
- Another attempt to hide a tax
- The wording of the proposal – what happened to the money several years ago?
- Use what you have
- Probably be used for something else
- Money was used for other things in the past
- We had one 25 years ago. Where is it?
- Make a reserve for building and curriculum. Less buses.

**4) ON PROPOSITION 3 (CAPITAL PROJECT) I
VOTED:**

Yes

Districtwide
456

Arcadia
128

Athena
260

Olympia
68

No

Districtwide
551

Arcadia
179

Athena
257

Olympia
115

4a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

I believe our buildings are in need of repair/renovation

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
314	64	197	53

This work could be done at little cost to taxpayers

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
116	30	69	17

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
19	7	9	3

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 4a) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED YES WAS:

Arcadia

- Important to have good facilities
- Appearance / condition of buildings need to be comparable to other districts
- Too much was spent the first time
- Pay now and keep buildings sound
- For kids
- Finish the job from other Bond
- Good practice to plan and budget for repairs so prepared when needed
- I see it daily
- Very much in need of repair
- I believe our buildings are in dire need of repair
- Because I work in the school district and we are in need of repairs and new technology
- Look at Britton Road – a good school was torn down

Athena

- Just like home repairs are needed
- Especially Olympia
- Constant repairs would prevent bond proposals when repairs are significant
- We'll have to revote till get your way anyway
- Especially Greece Olympia
- Nothing is too good for our teachers! I would imagine that if it wasn't needed it wouldn't be asked for!
- Desperately (at some buildings) even after last capital improvement fiasco
- OVERDUE!
- Most will be paid by state
- Still not sure what happened to all the prior building funds?? I voted yes because we need repairs!!
- State funded
- One needs to have buildings in good condition at all times. Long and short term plans are needed.
- Buildings need work
- On general principles

Olympia

- Maintaining a safe and healthy environment is needed
- I know they are spending our money wisely

4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

I don't believe our school buildings need this level of renovation

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
126	9	82	35

Building repair costs should be built into the operating budget

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
251	53	137	61

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
174	5	137	32

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:

Arcadia

- Taxes too high
- Need more info / improve on planning
- Nobody knows if the last set of repairs were made
- More will not be well spent
- Much just spent on renovation
- Wasted money last budget
- Money wasted on fluff on last capital project
- Taxes too high
- Taxes too high
- Didn't understand
- Past lies about capital expense and failure to consider total cost
- What happened to the \$120 million already spent two years ago?
- Money is used to build or do things that are not warranted
- Cuts should be made in administration, but can't vote on that
- I don't to pay more
- \$278 million in renovations should have covered things
- Walts had the money
- We spent a fortune just a few years ago!! What about a TV studio?
- Where is the last \$119m?
- Money used unwisely in 2001
- You had a renovation project a few years ago
- Too broad description
- You had \$115million to fix things already
- I feel prior renovation was poorly budgeted. Money was used in poor judgment / mismanaged funds
- Accountability needed!! Building improvements are outrageous – modest improvements are acceptable.
- Planning inappropriate
- Should have been done ahead of refacing the buildings
- Too many punch list items not completed from previous capital improvements
- Why pay twice for same work – 2001 - \$110m
- No explanation of previous budget expenses that were supposed to have been used on building maintenance
- Taxes too high
- Taxes too high
- Too costly

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena

- Most have been renovated in the past two years
- Benefits to buildings will in turn benefit students and faculty
- Ask for volunteer help for your repairs
- Would mean more taxes
- I still don't feel I had a full comparison on account of what I voted for during our last superintendent's tenure
- Day-to-day operations should come before performing arts centers
- Need specifics first
- Money was voted on in past and work was not done
- Just got through
- Too costly
- We just spent a minor fortune on our buildings
- Parents should pay
- We just spent a significant amount of money to do this
- Spend on the wrong items "theater"
- Taxes
- Some things just have to wait, as with home repairs
- Poor handling of last capital project funds
- Didn't we just do this?
- Taxes are too high
- Management of last proposal was poor
- Why wasn't this done when Walts was superintendent? He did everything else – new offices – Athena Performing Arts Center.
- Repairs should have been made from the general fund. In the last few years we spent lots of money on buildings last time, mostly cosmetically!
- Too soon after \$120 million just spent. Too many bells and whistles and entrances in the last one.
- No one even knows if work was done/done right after last round. Bad – needs to be run like a business.
- Don't want to create new athletic facilities for schools. Should be separate.
- We already surrendered \$150 million on all the wrong things!
- Visiting Athena makes one realize how extravagant this building was made
- What happened to all the state money?
- You had silly things that aren't needed. Focus on academics.
- Too much improvement in glamorizing schools. Not necessary.
- You got me once. Why wasn't this done vs. a new Performing Arts Center at Athena? Where are your priorities?
- Prior capital improvement money was poorly managed

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- We had no list of what needed to be done
- Astro turf an unnecessary (or unexplained) cost. Separate it from budget and I'd vote yes.
- Do not trust that state aid will pay for as much as mailings indicated / hope for
- I am frustrated with how money was squandered on previous capital expenditures
- Upset with Athena politics
- Should have been up keeping the building for years
- Greece Performing Arts Center poorly designed and poorly utilized
- Renovations were already done that weren't needed like fancy entrances
- Enough is enough!
- We already paid (\$182M) for fixes that weren't done
- Money wasted during last renovation, ie arts center @ Athena complex @ Olympia
- We already spent huge capital dollars for new building entrances and parking lots. Should have used this money for "must" projects.
- Just spent a lot of money last year
- \$1.8 million for each school? 13 schools??
- Need better audit of last spending
- I thought I already paid for capital improvements on a previous budget. I also am hearing (too frequently) that work was not completed or done unsatisfactorily on the previous capital vote.
- Taxes are too high
- More money
- Repairs should have been made because superfluous additions and other luxury items were added
- This is unnecessary
- Over building/student per capital has decreased
- Should be part of the budget – not broken out!
- I believe we over do it as with Athena's Art Center
- You had your chance with earlier budgets
- Should have been covered and done prior to all unnecessary capital improvements that were done under Walt's reign
- Would like to see more accountability and cost control efforts
- What happened to the \$119 million I voted on the last vote
- What happened to the last \$100 million you jokers stole from us
- Money wasted on new lobbies by former emperor
- No astro turf
- Use the money the performing arts earns

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Athena continued

- You can't have capital projects every year. What about the last one?
- Taxes already too high
- Unlimited gives no control
- No reason at this time
- Overspent updates five years ago. Repairs to capital spending should reduce.
- Just finished paying off one a couple years ago. All school were improved at that time.
- Repair costs could be reasonable with employing talented people who don't charge prices that are unreasonable.
- Money was wasted on entrances to buildings on last capital project
- Results of audit from just completed repairs
- Why did all the "fancy" stuff get done before the needed improvements?
- Last time it was all cosmetic – fancy offices. What happened to needed roofs and windows?
- What happened to past money?
- What happened to last year's money
- Previous \$120 million was wasted on fields
- Should have been done two years ago
- Voted before on capital project
- Should be part of budget
- Include in main budget
- Should be in budget

Olympia

- Should be part of the budget
- No clear direction on what is being done. Too many change orders behind closed doors.
- I would be OK with building repairs but not the turf stuff. That's overkill.
- I thought this was what the last raise was for, not new fronts on buildings. No health or education value was benefited before.
- Funds are used for "gold" shovels
- Too much overtime in buildings
- We already paid once
- Should be part of the budget
- You wasted past money
- Money goes to the wrong place
- Misuse of funds
- Should have been done last year

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
4b) THE MAIN REASON I VOTED NO WAS:
CONTINUED

Olympia continued

- Were new entrances more important than roof maintenance?
- Taxes are too high
- We didn't need curved walls and fancy entry ways. Wasted money.
- I believe the TV studio was built with capital improvement money, yet there are questions about where money came from and who approved it.
- No truth
- Wasted money on last budget improving school entrances – no educational value
- What are you doing with all the money
- Should not be all at one time
- Finish 2000 project first
- Many repairs not completed previously with money already obtained
- Did we ever sue the contractor from the first capital project???
- What happened to all renovating funds and expansion? We need a TV studio in high school?
- Money was used poorly in the past
- What happened to last surplus
- It should have been taken care of with the last proposition

5) DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE BEEN WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AND PROPOSITIONS?

Yes

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
835	143	575	117

No

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
403	83	259	61

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?

Arcadia

- More info sent out with pros and cons. More info on School Board candidates.
- Simpler explanations
- Corrected day of vote info?
- Break down of bus operating cost
- Much less general info – less published this year
- Any
- Very hard for disabled people – too far to walk
- Line (item) justification
- Just where is the money going?
- More detailed mailings
- Any
- We are new in district
- Public discussion of specific issues
- Email blasts to parents
- Televisе budget meetings
- Larger print please
- I had to search for info
- Information on each Board member who was running and what they will do to make changes
- Cut the gobblegook
- Why budget always must exceed inflation
- How you save money
- Explain where money goes
- More literature
- Information in general
- Not too much was sent out – waste of money
- More publications of the propositions
- Where to vote exactly
- Broken down expenses
- I would like a breakdown in administrative costs
- Honesty
- Costs of intramural – county-wide sports – too much money for very little return
- More complete info on capital project costs
- A mailing on it without propaganda to vote yes
- Not as much publicity as past
- Have item account of each item

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?

CONTINUED

Arcadia continued

- League of Women Voters questionnaire
- Follow-up to monies spent
- With poll change info
- Why not Laidlaw
- Not asking for something you have asked for two years earlier
- Lower taxes
- Better communication of breakdown of budget
- I don't follow it. Think education is very important.
- Bring back neighborhood schools
- Correct new location of vote
- Only receive main budget info from school district not school bus and building maintenance add on
- A better place (perhaps Web) to put the propositions in detail (make the site known)
- More on how it was to be spent and why!
- More info on school board candidates – got off Internet
- More of what usually is in the papers etc. public info sessions etc.
- Let voters actually see what schools need, bring it home to the voter!
- Newspaper info – “Post”
- Honest total impact and past accountability
- More state aid options
- Options

Athena

- That Greece understands the need for new computers, books, etc. to ensure quality education for our community and our kids.
- Additional newsletters, clearer to read
- More answers to why are taxes are so high
- Budget displayed by function
- Flyers to all homes in Greece explaining everything
- More info on the cost of benefits (health care, retirement)
- Better coverage in newspapers
- Categorize what we're spending money on
- More about school board candidates
- Provide what the administration see
- Emails from Athena High School are very helpful

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD HAVE
BEEN HELPFUL?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- More specific
- Accountability
- More open
- Not enough in the media
- Not enough in *D and C*
- More graduation and better marks needed
- Clearer, simpler explanation of the budget
- Athena Middle School needs new lockers
- More detailed breakdown of expenses
- I never saw the proposal
- Bring salaries/benefits to vote
- Fiscal responsibility
- So little of the budget is not mandated. People should know that.
- Candidate for school board info
- More specific information
- Be truthful
- Useless, budget gets passed anyway
- Clearer, concise and honest
- Clearer of what it means in dollars and cents to me personally
- What is in the teacher's contracts
- Where each candidate stands in regards to the issues two weeks before
- Outline capital improvements
- Supplied information is too vague
- A more unbiased report
- Had not the union called me yesterday, I would have known nothing about the issues
- Honesty
- People running need to be focused
- What is the affect of additional state money on the budget
- Mailing detailing what current spending is specifically. Current mailings are too general.
- What are expenses for maintaining the central office?
- What are the expenses for maintaining the central office?
- More detail
- More new ideas

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Tell the public the cost of Signature Schools/Schools of Choice
- More understandable summaries
- Propositions were misleading about impact
- Why don't we get some business professionals on the school board who understand lean six sigma approach
- Greece historically does a horrible job of presenting information to the voters clearly
- Honesty about propositions
- Send out copies of the budget. No PR.
- Employee benefits as percentage of total compensation – especially administrative staff
- How much money wasted on interim superintendent because a person making \$100,000 or more should be paying for own transportation
- Real believable numbers that add up
- Did not receive any information
- Boily and group paid too much for glossy info
- Stop telling the twisted figures
- Put public access program with candidates online
- Simple, informative breakdown of budget and propositions
- More info mailed to homes
- More about propositions
- What anyone stands for
- Mailings for meeting should be sent out
- Use laymen terms when outlining
- Literature sent to homes – have kids distribute literature
- Anything
- Anything
- No mailing and the Web site weak
- I didn't seek info
- I was not informed of propositions at all
- On Web site list renovations
- Info pamphlets
- Explaining how you're increasing taxes on top of Albany's 13%
- Propositions – almost zero info. Specific comments of state aid amounts.
- More detail relating to spending
- Need more info on prop 2

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD
HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Needed more details
- An itemized budget in detail with a more definitive plan
- Nothing, I was well informed
- Didn't advertise much
- More info in papers
- Details!
- Mailing to home and TV coverage
- Information via mail – pros and cons
- More info on propositions
- More information justifying propositions
- Anything
- It's there, you just have to read it
- Residents aren't given straightforward facts
- EVERYTHING
- Prior year analysis
- They were clear – that's why I voted NO
- Earlier on the Web site
- Detailed info to explain increases
- More literature
- Cost control efforts
- Be honest
- More info about the candidates
- More info nights
- Not enough info
- The families with children should pay the taxes only
- Seniors should not pay school taxes
- The public meetings were a venue for people who's department is facing cuts to speak
- Additional mailings
- Long term plans for the district in all areas
- I didn't seek (my fault) out a lot of info
- Not sure
- No last minute
- More honesty
- Every property owner should regardless of citizenship
- Better cost breakdown for schools needing repair

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR 6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Make clear what got cut and why
- A little sooner with advertising
- More details of need and cost
- More information on candidates
- More media attention
- Simplify what is being proposed
- Never are!!!
- More detail earlier
- Mail or publish
- Repair and maintenance instead of replacement computers
- Actual numbers – not summary – not discussion
- More TV airings
- Cut administrators
- Any! Since nothing given was – just half truths
- Propositions should have been better publicized
- Literature sent to homes should go in the *Greece Post*
- Board is NOT informed
- Not even Board is informed enough

Olympia

- More information on the propositions
- More detailed to cost breakdown
- Outline all Board candidates with their experience and views
- More commercials
- I need more information regarding the candidates for school board. Why is this not surveyed?
- Coverage on RNews
- Breakdown budget completely
- More flyers home. I know this is controversial but I think more needs to go home.
- More on each budget line. Make it available on the Internet.
- More information sent home
- More detail, explain in plainer language
- More
- Details regarding positions cut
- A more thorough report to taxpayers
- Why has the budget increased more than inflation
- Teacher retirement benefits

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
6) WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD
HAVE BEEN HELPFUL?**

CONTINUED

Olympia continued

- Why do we have much high taxes than other states with comparable test scores
- Detailed information sent to homes
- Where the CIP money went
- How about why administration is overpaid
- Capital project was a surprise
- More openness about “hidden” costs
- Honest disclosure
- Accountability of expenses and clarity of repairs proposed
- Some honesty
- The truth
- Honest disclosure
- Written in easier to understand language
- Right information and more detail
- I don’t know enough about the board members and what they stand for
- Why no real alternatives
- How about the truth
- How about the truth
- The truth
- Assessments
- I read blogs for the truth
- What do all the Board members stand for
- Budget could have been made more easily available
- Information on candidates

7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST IMPORTANT. (PLEASE INDICATE YOUR TOP THREE CHOICES.)

Maintaining a reasonable tax rate

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
768	158	477	133

Maintaining reasonable class size

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
650	108	462	80

Quality teachers and support staff

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
768	145	511	112

Updated classroom materials (books, maps, microscopes, etc.)

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
457	86	307	64

Student access to updated technology

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
398	62	286	50

Maintaining school choice

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
208	39	131	38

Continuing all current transportation

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
186	38	111	37

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
127	23	68	36

** Some respondents choose to select more than three areas of importance. In those instances, we included all of their responses. Many did not rank their answers so the order of importance was not calculated. The above numbers are totals only.*

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING
THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST
IMPORTANT.**

Arcadia

- Cutting – lowering – taxes
- Too much spent on teacher wages and students who do not live in the district.
- I was education - was the main value!
- Maintaining school choice – NO
- Education results
- Have teacher and admin pay health insurance
- Kids have best education
- Back to less busing
- Just teach and do away with everything else – if a kid acts out – get rid of it
- Less staff/less waste
- Intelligent use / reuse resources
- Consider senior citizens and those affected by layoffs
- Bringing costs into reasonable line with current employment down sizes
- Elementary schools need extra help in technology
- Fix the buildings – high school hearing plants do not work
- Quality teachers and support staff – what does that mean?
- Maintaining school of choice – some schools are lottery
- Cutting administration costs
- Employees would pay for health care
- Updated correct, non-leftist material
- Become more efficient – too much overhead, district staff
- Quality education for kids
- All are important
- Unless all schools are going to teach the same curriculum, maintain the choice
- All for the kids – quality – you get what you pay for!!! Quality, quality.
- Larger classes
- Busing by Laidlaw would be cheaper
- Other districts have proven that good results can be had without breaking the bank, and massive expenditures do not guarantee good results
- There should not be schools of choice. If they are so good, every district school should be run that way.
- Reduce district office expenditures – trim fat
- Start cutting back on staff
- Residents without children should not be paying the same amount of taxes as those with children using district services

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING
THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST
IMPORTANT.**

CONTINUED

Athena

- Be aware of high spending up top
- Maintaining current school buildings
- Cut way back on administration
- Go back to neighborhood schools
- Cut back on expenses
- Keep administrative cost reasonable
- Cut teachers' pay
- We don't need unions anymore
- Knowing that taxpayers have finite resources
- Special education
- Cut busing all over
- Definitely not schools of choice. Six buses on my street alone when all they should need is one.
- More discipline in schools with better security
- Go back to district schools, not schools of choice
- Too much school choice
- Let students go to neighborhood schools – too much bus service
- Alternatives to public schools
- Acquiring a reasonable tax rate
- Delete the non essentials
- More kids should walk. No reason to bus so many.
- Neighborhood schools!!!!
- Stick with academics, get rid of all the clubs and activities not related to education
- Get rid of some assistant superintendents
- Expanding the curricula to include geography, anthropology, and more world history and civics! Students should know the difference between conservative and progressive philosophy and teach basic living skills like how to write a check.
- Getting back to the basics of education
- Reducing taxes
- Spend money more wisely
- Go back to neighborhood schools – stop wasting money on transportation
- Controlling costs – explore other divisions to decrease transportation needs
- Start saving money and stop busing 20 buses from the same neighborhoods

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING
THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST
IMPORTANT.**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Union contracts too restrictive
- Extend school buses' use/service life
- Curb energy requirements of facilities
- More State money than ever and yet tax increase exceeds inflation
- Stop kowtowing to teachers union. Cut pay and cut administrators
- Keep salary cost at bay – no more built in increases
- Quality teachers and support staff are sadly lacking
- Reasonable salary (if fired, no pay!!)
- Cutting the budget
- Reducing administration/overhead to more reasonable level
- Kids first
- Remove $\frac{3}{4}$ of pictures from student textbooks; save cost, save weight, save spinal damage
- Affordable tax rate. Go to income source for tax!
- All of the above require additional funds. I am dissatisfied with this District.
- Reducing non-teaching staff, reducing busing
- Restrict benefits!
- Cut transportation. Negotiate more rigorously with unions. Give and take not just "take."
- Kids should go in their own neighborhood schools
- Too much administration
- "zero base"
- Assumes rank and reward system in place for good teachers and way to remove poor teachers who may have tenure
- All are important
- 3 monitors on buses
- Strong music and art
- Going back to neighborhood schools, limiting school choice to reduce numbers of buses needed
- Educating children. The % of children who graduate is too low!
- Let student choose schools
- 30 students minimum per classroom

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING
THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST
IMPORTANT.**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Maintain school choice. Why dismantle what is already successful? Maintain AP programs and IB accreditation programs in district and expand. There are many mandates for special needs kids, we also need to help and encourage our high functioning kids to succeed and be challenged.
- Students should walk – good for your health
- Continuing all current transportation is too expensive!!
- Athletic facilities
- All of the above at reasonable levels
- Hold teachers accountable based on performance
- Let them walk a little further to lose weight
- Enforce classroom discipline
- Focus on core academics and less sports and extracurricular activities
- You can actually take classes on the computer
- Eliminate school of choice
- Increase benefit cost to employees. Teacher salaries are too high.
- Reduce busing – fix boundaries
- Cut back – get back to the three R's of learning and stop entertaining kids
- Decrease upper management salary
- Bring back neighborhood schools
- Go back to neighborhood schools and let them walk at the price of gas
- Good basic teaching skills in reading, math, computers, and trades
- Continuing all reasonable transportation
- Excess spending – establish reasonable tax. What we have is too high
- Neighborhood schools
- I would make all sports intramural – less competitive
- Children go to school close to homes – save on transportation
- Stop busing to summer school
- Get rid of the assistants
- No school choices
- No – continuing all current transportation
- Reuse of current books and materials
- Too many administrators – one principal per school is enough

**WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR
7) IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE
DISTRICT'S BUDGET, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
WOULD YOU RANK AS MOST IMPORTANT.**

CONTINUED

Olympia

- Safety, buses, buildings, facilities, etc.
- Maintaining top music education
- Gifted courses
- Creating programs to address the needs of the gifted
- Longer school days or less holidays
- Add back late buses
- We don't teach our children enough citizenship skills
- Cut back on busing from house to house. Have a central pick up point. Don't need all these buses.
- More attention to cleaners in buildings. They are a big support to kids that aren't ever mentioned or recognized. Kids come to us about everything. Too many bosses.
- We need neighborhood schools
- Cost effective district – no bloat
- Should not have choice then we would not need all the transportation
- Let the kids walk to the corners instead of door-to-door. Quit having buses go back for parents not home.
- Maintain current tax rate
- Stop wasting the money
- Reducing unneeded personnel – administration
- Do with what you already have
- Reduce top wages
- Streamlining central office
- Eliminate sports
- Cut busing on same streets
- Negotiating reasonable contracts with Superintendent –appalled that Steve Walts has health insurance for life
- Do not only have home schools
- Keep tax rate increase to 3% or less
- More books, fewer computers
- Focusing on education!!
- Conforming to area economy
- Eliminate tenure

8) HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE NEW CENTRALIZED POLLING PLACE?

Positive

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
810	182	493	135

In need of improvement

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
459	96	325	38

**8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)**

Improve traffic coming into the parking lot

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
170	43	118	9

Increase the number of parking places reserved for voters

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
249	41	192	16

Decrease the amount of time spent waiting in line

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
105	18	83	4

Increase the number of voting booths

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
76	22	50	4

Other

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
232	60	144	28

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)**

Arcadia

- Define location clearly
- Better directions for those who don't know difference between middle and high schools
- Pretty good for first time
- Too far for handicapped people
- Liked voting at elementary schools – too busy here
- Local polling at schools
- Signs as to location
- Need more organization in lobby
- Signage to parking and building entrance
- Better information about the location
- Better signs in parking lot
- Not set up for handicap
- I disliked coming, I want neighborhood schools again
- Neighborhood schools are easier to get to
- So–so, need more senior places
- Improve parking
- Told to vote at high school – actually at middle school
- Signs / directions to polls
- I like the old polling place (EV)
- Signs and listing of Board members and propositions to review
- Parking should be reserved immediately south of voting venue
- Go back to old polling spot
- Extremely inconvenient – too far to travel – no signs up
- Books too large – took time
- Have it be where told
- Great idea!
- Difficult for senior citizens to walk so far
- Signs
- Totally inconvenient for handicap access
- I preferred other location – but not that big a deal
- I loathe it – Return me to Kirk Road
- Better signs and better/correct notifications
- Too crowded
- Post signs outside!!
- Better signage

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Arcadia continued

- Location sucks for handicapped
- Back to elementary
- As a volunteer/worker I heard complaints about handicap parking being too far away
- Not enough room
- Signs, direction, and location
- Bigger area
- No sign by its parking lot – handicap not there
- Work on traffic flow inside
- Don't say “go to high school” and move it
- Quit sticking it to the voters
- Return to old voting places
- Satisfied with prior system
- Go back to neighborhoods!
- Too crowded
- I prefer voting close to home
- Go back to voting in your district
- Go back to the old way – Arcadia can't be improved because it requires a left hand turn on to Island Cottage
- Neutral
- Like other place
- Sucks!!
- More organized – letters of streets about people, perhaps
- The area inside is too congested and poor inside traffic flow
- Better signs explaining the sign-in procedures
- Not enough room for sign in and line to vote
- Send correct polling place
- Put it back
- Use neighborhood schools
- Improve traffic inside voting area
- Better positioning of tables – clear view of voting machines
- Went faster than I thought
- Too many workers starting
- More signage
- Overhead signs for street names

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Arcadia continued

- Unorganized, unlabeled, not close, bad idea
- Positive but crowded
- No handicapped parking
- Layout of operations – should be more lines

Athena

- Faster than anticipated
- Too far from home
- Too crowded
- Wait was much longer to sign in. Parking –atrocious. Go back to elementary schools.
- Crowded – poor parking
- Signage needed for back entrance
- Go back to elementary schools. We saw people leaving because of parking, distance to walk to the polls.
- Have to walk up steps
- Not feasible, go back to elementary schools
- Need to improve books for polling addresses
- I feel this may keep some people from bothering to vote!
- Keep it in the neighborhood for convenience
- Terrible, unnecessary. Get volunteers and save residents’ gas money.
- More room in sign in area
- Student parking takes up spots. No direction on where to go and where the vote was located.
- It was fine
- Go back to the way it was
- Quit moving people to other voting areas
- Parking was too far way for the elderly
- Closer parking
- Closer to door
- Need parking closer to the door. If inclement weather, I would have left.
- Did not know where to park – front or back – no signs!
- I have a 92-year-old in the car who couldn’t vote because of the walking distance
- Parking is a problem – too crowded. Much better at Autumn Lane and Brookside
- Not enough space for people to line up

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,” WHAT
COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Street signs behind registrars
- Table where you get addresses was too close to polls – bottlenecked at the door
- Not enough space at sign in. Should have been obvious to who’s who. Think a little more!
- Larger signage for street above and behind workers
- The location does not have enough convenient parking
- Bad decision – return to elementary school sites!
- Restructure boundaries
- Location – I’m nearer to Olympia than I am to Athena
- No signs – couldn’t park in front of Athena
- Needs to be more organized
- Go back to the way it was
- Better signage at polling
- Reorganize where
- Too congested
- Step in the right direction consolidating things!
- Too far for me to travel to get here
- You lost many senior votes because they could not get to/were not willing to travel to central location
- Difficult to access to the elderly and handicapped
- Had no problem
- More polling locations – the way it was
- I prefer neighborhood locations – mine used to be within walking distance
- Not laid out correctly. If you came in the back you were crawling over people to check in!!
- Relocate voting booth for easier flow
- More closer polling places
- Don’t crowd people near entrance
- Too far and too much traffic
- Increase number of inspectors
- Move to center where there is SPACE
- Parking shouldn’t be so far away – Athena
- More room to register not in the doorway
- Too crowded inside the building
- Lines too congested – not sure where to go
- Registration table too close to door and line for booths

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Consolidation did just fine for first time
- Spread out. Use the whole atrium. There were too many people jammed in the corner.
- Reorganize lines so not blocking doors
- Too congested at sign in
- I don't feel that sufficient attention was paid to incoming voters – possible voter fraud could be a problem
- Step up at Athena was poor
- You walk past the booths, then get in line. Unorganized.
- Go back to elementary schools
- Bad placement of booths
- Neighborhoods schools
- Too far to walk. Difficult for elderly.
- Check that people who vote are registered. I could have just walked to booth. Six booths, one person attending at 6:45 p.m.
- More room at tables
- Longer line to booths – line was in the way of registration tables
- Flow of people not well planned out – crowded
- Very poor – blocked exits, not control
- Very unorganized
- Signs leading into building. Street signs unusable, too small an area for all people
- Flow was confusing
- Discourages people to vote because it takes ½ hour
- Like local polling better. Does this save \$?
- This new polling place is inconvenient for voters living south of Ridge Road
- Move tables inside more so people don't have to wait outside
- Move lines away from doors
- Set up was crowded
- Congested at the entrance. Need to spread out booth and registration tables.
- Rearrange the tables so people coming in are not walking into people waiting in line
- Poor set up with the lines at Athena. Should have been spread out more.
- Everyone bunch up
- People traffic flow
- Too little space between doors and tables – too crowded

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Space used to check in was too congested – not enough room for the line that formed
- The tables for registration is poor traffic flow
- Go back to elementary schools
- Move tables out pf the way or entrance/exit – too crowded
- I liked it the way it was – very unorganized and confusing
- Tiny space for a lot of people!
- Spread out the lines for voting and sign in
- Long line cramped
- Unorganized, need more room
- Use larger area
- You have a problem with this
- Too crowded
- Organize lines better
- Much better with multiple locations
- Too smushed together
- Horrible!!! Get your act together!
- TERRIBLE! More space.
- Very, very bad. Go back to regional locations as before.
- Have where there is more room in the building – not by entrance
- Improve check-in – too congested
- Never had a problem with old voting method
- Go back to elementary schools
- Out of the way
- Worked well
- HORRIBLE! Accountability for voters signed in and using machines.
- Some machines should be to the left as well as the right. Too congested at machine.
- Too far to walk
- Elementary schools. Offer \$12 per hour and call the AARP for help.
- Better in on where to enter/park
- Go back to the way it was
- Athena – street sign-in too congested
- Too far from home
- Lack of security

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- More supervision
- Poor flow. Most people parked in back and had to walk past the booths to get in line
- Not easy for the handicapped
- Too far to go. Liked the elementary school.
- Too much confusion
- Return to multiple site polling places
- Difficult for handicap and elderly
- TERRIBLE – more polling places
- I liked the old way
- Have all the poll booths farther from the sign-in table to relieve confusion of lines
- This sucked
- Too far, too crowded in long line
- This place was terrible
- Put in a larger area where lines can be better established
- I preferred middle school – less traffic in a.m.
- I liked the old way
- Inform people if appropriate place to vote – where streets are cut off
- Don't split a street
- All was fine
- More signage, more space
- A little disorganized
- Go back to neighborhood schools voting at all 20 locations!!
- Check-in right at the front of the doors – caused a lot of congestion
- Closer to the entrance
- Too tight inside registration
- Parking not too well labeled, neither was the door
- Don't do it in a hallway
- Awful. There was no security. You could vote 2-3 times. Go back to my home voting.
- Was too crowded/difficult to access – especially for elderly!
- Too tight inside for registration
- Brookside was more convenient
- Move it back to Autumn Lane
- It was too congested inside but wait was not long actually

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- The congestion of the check-in tables was ridiculous! You've got the whole school
- Better area – larger for registration
- More space needed for the process
- Keep voting at local elementary schools
- Books need to be revamped
- More space to sign-in!
- Make more room for lines
- Very confusing. Need better area to wait in line.
- More buildings to vote in
- Check-in for streets and voting are too close together. Greater confusion
- More space around tables
- Parking too far for seniors
- I like my last polling place – Autumn Lane
- Parking
- Okay today
- Too crowded at entrance – booths should be moved farther down the hall
- Everything was fine
- Increase handicap parking
- Quite far for seniors
- Too many at one spot
- Sad to see so many older people walk that far
- Distance to walk from back lot is difficult if you have mobility problems
- I came in early – that probably helped!
- Wider space between line to vote and sign in table
- It should be held away from windy doors – left of the main doors
- Cramped space when entering area – too close to doors!
- Closer voting places, as before
- Vote at school closer to my home
- Too long a walk
- Protect the registrants from the wind
- Are you trying to make it more difficult for the elderly?
- Vote at closer school site to homes
- More signs in parking lot where to go
- Traffic

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Athena continued

- Signs – which lot – which door to use
- Placement of voting booths – had to walk in front of people to get to tables
- Did not like voting so far from residence – It was inconvenient to drive here and I bet deter others from voting
- More people should have same books
- Was told to go to wrong polling place!
- Slang at building
- Was better closer to home
- Easier access for seniors – no steps
- All right the way it is
- Too far to drive
- Lack of parking
- Make parking closer

Olympia

- Flow inside the building – Keystone Cops running around
- Books of addresses and others not organized
- Go back to using neighborhood schools
- I forgot at first. Thanks for the sign at Holmes Road. The wait time was reasonable even though I was in the longest line.
- Widen parking spaces (cars are wider)
- Noisy and confusing
- Go back to previous locations
- Have help for senior citizens. It seems you did not want our votes.
- Kids not owning tax properties
- Make it close to my home
- Go back to old system
- Move me back to fire station
- Olympia is 5-6 times farther than Holes Road
- Everything was great
- Inconvenient
- I was not listed in the voting booth
- Too far away
- Have to dodge sports activities. I prefer K-2 buildings. They are more convenient.
- Having fewer places is more difficult for senior citizens

**WRITE IN COMMENTS FOR
8A) IF YOU SAID “IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT,”
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BETTER SERVE YOU
NEXT YEAR?**

CONTINUED

Olympia continued

- Decentralize
- Names not get transferred over
- Closer to homes – not 5 miles away
- Had to drive rather than walk
- Better signs
- Go back to the way it was
- No signs out front; it’s intimidating to go to the high school instead of the elementary schools
- Go back to old way
- Liked local schools better
- Facility set up was too noisy, confusing
- More help and workers, reduce number of machines

**9) WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?
(PLEASE CHOOSE ALL THAT PERTAIN TO YOU.)**

A parent with children in Greece Central schools

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
377	73	266	38

A parent with children in private/parochial school

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
38	8	25	5

A parent with children who are home schooled

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
5	1	3	1

A parent with pre-school age children not attending District-run pre-kindergarten programs

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
10	1	8	1

A parent with no school age children

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
128	53	65	10

A parent of former Greece Central School District students

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
344	90	215	39

A resident without children

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
140	52	64	24

A student or recent graduate

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
37	8	24	5

A District employee

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
88	23	56	9

A senior citizen

Districtwide	Arcadia	Athena	Olympia
478	96	221	161

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ARCADIA

POLLING LOCATIONS

- Go back to neighborhood voting places – traffic at the high school is impossible. Conflicts with college night at Arcadia.
- Way too congested! Especially for people coming after work – conflict and unsafe with buses, children, etc. Other polling places were much better! The town is running voting procedure as poorly as other issues!
- The main idea on centralized voting locations was to make it easier for people to vote. This centralized plan is not as convenient. As a former elementary school principal I initially objected to using our 13 elementary schools. However, I soon realized that the advantages FAR outweighed the only disadvantage – staffing the polls. Advantages are: convenient to voter; exposes the voter to school life; exposes children to the voting process. From the staffing I see here I bet the number of people needed approached the number need to staff our former 13 locations. I'd be interested in comparing the voter turnout between our 13 locations and the new locations. Convenience for the voter is very important. Perhaps you should track voter participation over several years.
- You can't even mail me the correct polling place . . . how can you run a school district!!!! No signs where to park!!
- No street sign to designate polling place – we know Greece is windy we live here – put up signs that won't blow away – maybe two signs would work?
- Getting into Greece Arcadia was not properly marked.
- Parking should be reserved immediately south of voting venue.
- Just take a look at the circus at the schools in the parking lot.
- The letter told us to vote at Arcadia High School.
- Better signs for parking.
- Too far to travel to vote. Extremely inconvenient. Put polls back where they were.
- Centralized voting locations suck!

TAXES

- NO TO HIGHER TAXES!
- Taxes are increasing too quickly, too much. I work in not-for-profit and haven't had a raise in six years. Everything goes up each year. I have lived all my life in Greece (57 years) and have always voted "yes." It has to stop or I stand to lose my home!
- I come from a small poor town with a fantastic educational system (still today). Every penny in school taxes was used for student education – not office furniture, raises for administrators, etc. Raise teacher salaries all you want, not support services.
- We don't get what we pay for. Results don't justify additional spending. School should be funded out of general tax funds; not property taxes.
- Single residents without kids should get a tax break. People with kids in the system should pay more.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ARCADIA *CONTINUED*

- This district is way over taxed which is resulting in people and businesses moving out. Look around and wake up!
- Stop raising school taxes. Make due with what you have, you are destroying the tax base in this area. Pretty soon you will have nothing. Let the people with kids in school pay for the extras you need. I'm tired of paying for others extracurricular activities.

PROPOSITIONS

- There's no detail on what the previous \$104 million was used for – or where the newly approved millions will be spent?????

EDUCATION

- I feel the schools of choice should be stopped and fewer late buses at the schools.

SCHOOL BOARD

- The current school board is a disgrace to our community. Where I have young children and can't always attend, I watch on television. The childish and disrespectful behavior of certain board members (Oberg and Hubbard) is a terrible example to our children. They should be ashamed!!
- School board needs to work together.
- When the Greece school board can send off a superintendent with full health care, pension, perks, etc. (who served without stellar results from the classroom) it is apparent that no one understands fiscal responsibility or how to run a business. This district is out of control!
- No listing of candidates for the school board until you get into the voting booth – why?

MISCELLANEOUS

- Did not find much information on the candidates for the Board. Felt I was voting blindly!
- Let spots be with “extra” money – “real” money for better results on the number of students heading for college!
- Stop the big school sports. Uniforms, buses, rentals of ice time, lousy citizenship, wishing old people to be dead have to go!!!
- There is way too many staff and they are overpaid. Fatter and fatter and getting ever more degenerate.
- Why do the teachers and administration keep getting raises while many of us live on a fixed income?
- Congratulations on the waste you have created with this poll and in the budgets that the school boards keep coming up with.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA

POLLING LOCATION

- Ask for an ID from everyone. Good habit to get into. You may be surprised at what you find out and who things they should be allowed to vote!
- I also feel we need to start asking to show ID for voting privileges.
- We should be able to vote at Pine Brook like we used to, instead of crowding everyone together. Very confusing and crowded.
- Why did we spend millions of dollars on this building, then have so little space to sign in and line up for the booths?
- What a Mickey Mouse way to put people in line to “sign in” and then go back out and get in line around the doors. Everyone is the same spot in a big school. I could have just got in line over and over again. This is supposed to be an advanced age!!!!
- A volunteer said the centralized location because of lack of volunteers. There were plenty of volunteers at Athena – they just need to be split and placed at more location as before. Also, there was no way to check if those in line to vote actually sign in. Way to chaotic.
- How about six or seven neighborhood polling places? Parking is terrible at Athena! Too far and inconvenient vs. Parkland.
- Inconvenient parking ☹ Return to previous polling school.
- Local schools were fine for voting. Poor parking here!!
- Go back to local polling places.
- More room upon entering voting area. Couldn't readily see street initials to get into line – not enough room between entrance doors and signing in area.
- It is unnecessary to centralize the polling places. I feel the district and Board want to hinder the senior citizens who have limited mobility to vote. I am not a senior citizen.
- I wonder at the need for the voting location changes. It creates more of an inconvenience to vote, thus perhaps having a worse turnout.
- We found that using Athena HS was very inconvenient. Harder to find a parking place, longer walk in, difficulty with finding our street and name in book.

TAXES

- Only those who have to pay property and school taxes should be allowed to vote. We are the ones footing the bill, and we should decide what happens!
- I also think public schools get a lot of tax dollars to educate a child. People who use other means of educating their children still have to pay public schools, and you still want more dollars. Get rid of the extra staff, and you'll have plenty of money. Try budgeting like all of us have to do!
- District budget costs are unreasonable, driving people out of Greece.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

- Budget costs should be more controlled, especially salaries and benefits. Teachers should give concessions too.
- Your tax rate is too high. You are driving people out of the area
- There is too much excess in Greece! Why the exorbitant desks/ offices at Central Office? Why so many “assistants to the superintendent.”
- Why was the school tax rate not decreased when it was learned about additional state money being allocated to school districts?
- School spending is definitely ramped. Our money needs to be spent wisely which is not the way it is now spent. Previously, there was larger amounts spent on wasteful things and general public was unaware.
- Get the idiot seniors off the Board. They are ruining our schools and destroying property values. No parent wants to move here! If you want to lower taxes, stop Auberger’s spending and staff increases! Or are the seniors afraid of him!
- Does anyone understand that business (where people work to get income to pay taxes) has to do more with less today? There is a lean-six sigma approach that could give schools more without asking for tax increase every year. It is easy to just keep demanding money, but, we the taxpayers do not keep earning more every year. In fact, I earn the same that I did seven years ago.
- If the district was given extra money by the state at the last minute, where is it going? - 13 million
- You expect a lot from taxpayers and seem to withhold important information. Maybe you all need to get into the classrooms to see the real needs of our students and teachers!
- Please, there needs to be a plan to curb costs, especially given the current financial condition of our nearby industries. Make better use of available resources, such as the school buses. Extending their useful life is a good option. Reduce energy expenditures in facilities after a certain time of the day. Teach our children some critical thinking (and acting) skills. (Not just how to find stuff on a PC.) Personally, I believe it is shameful that you take into your accounting the Governor’s Star Refund to us (we) citizens. (It smacks of covetousness). That (STAR) is strictly between the citizen and Albany. Your school Board has nothing absolutely to do with it nor to “figure” as someone’s tax return. To think that an elderly person could be turned out of their home, having lived there many years. Tony DeCrescentis
- Taxes are too high. Staff needs to begin paying more of their health care costs!! Like the rest of us.
- Leave out all references to STAR. We are voting on a budget, not a tax rate.
- If we have 100’s of thousands to pay to disgraced superintendents we should be able to cut taxes. Why are taxes up 74% and cost of living 20% since 1995? School costs are out of control!

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA ***CONTINUED***

- Budget and contingency both mean tax increases. My wages do not go up yearly but your budget does.
- We did not receive info on any budget item. 516 E, Moreno Dr. C. Valik. Cap items (and other propositions). Don't tell me \$0 impact to my tax bill if you have not secured the money. You are falsifying the information out there.
- School tax based on cost of property does not make sense. Increase in cost of real estate – increase school tax? Improve your home, give people work increase tax. Too many administrators / school consolidate jobs. Run like a private business. Plenty of money now do you use it wisely.
- Every year the only thing I am assured of is that the taxes of this District will outpace the cost of living. That my children will end the school year more confused and uneducated than when they began. If it was not for the diligence of my wife and I to drive our children, they would be mediocre at best. The health insurance and pension of the teachers are way too high with no out of pocket cost to them. You allow schools of choice as a lottery with no regard to the student's academic ability. I am ashamed of all of you and your self righteousness and with your careless disregard to the children. Education is definitely not your top concern! I was not going to sign this but changed my mind. Steve Ostrander 227-9345.
- School budgets should be income based, not property value. Most seniors do not have increasing incomes every year. Most seniors (property owners) do not have children in schools. On average, seniors pay much more in school taxes than parents with kids in school (seniors have lived in Greece much longer than parents with school age kids.) Apartment dwellers are not subject o school taxes (or property taxes). If income based, every resident would pay. Do not want to be forced to move out of Town, or give up independence of home for non-payment of taxes.

PROPOSITIONS

- There was no information available about the political views of the five candidates. Which ones are conservative? Which ones are progressive? Coming into this building it is a beautiful building. Why do we need to spend more on capital improvements then? I voted for it because I am assuming that there are capital improvement needs that I can't see. Is that correct? While driving around, I am often stopped by buses – they all seem to be working just fine. Why do we need to spend more on buses then? I am assuming there are problems that are not visible. All of these issues should have been clarified in a booklet that should have been mailed to all voters, giving them both sides of the issue.
- Why when there is a sub bus driver do they never stop at our house and we have to be late to work and drive our kids to schools?

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

- This school district has to get their priorities straight. When Walts wanted additional to schools and a great performing arts center it was very evident that some schools needs repairs (roofs, windows, and painting). The children also need better technology equipment. Isn't it a few years late!!
- I voted yes on the propositions but I can't say I was well enough informed.
- Go back and look how you worded questions #7. Loaded answers – offer some that hint at reform. Like – evaluate transportation costs and spend less money busing kids all over the place and reinvest it into their actual education.
- \$170,000 or more should be paying for own transportation.

EDUCATION

- Some programs add unnecessary costs.
- Test scores are unsatisfactory given the high cost of the district and taxes.
- Schools are not performing well for the amount of money spent.
- Students today can not find where they live on an unmarked map. They need more geography, anthropology (including human evolution and cultural diversity), civics, politics, and world history. They should be in school M-F, 9-5, just like most of their parents are at work. They need to learn basic life skills like writing a check, or using credit cards sensibly. They need to know the difference between conservative vs. progressive political philosophy. Most high school students cannot tell you the difference between a Republican and Democrat, and couldn't care less.
- Benefits should be based on accomplishment and scholarship of the students. What is the school ranking is – then we might see fit to reward their efforts.
- I think Greece has favored special interest groups while not considering a balanced education for all the prime objectives.
- Remember the schools are for learning – before sports, music, everything. We need to raise test scores, class averages, and graduation rates, including SAT and ACT scores. We are embarrassed when applying to colleges! We have lost ground lately!!! The school environment needs to be safe and conducive to learning. Remove the barrier and encourage the teachers to do their best – most are great!!!
- When is Greece going to cut upper administration and focus on the needs of the students and support their teachers!
- Goal on standardized tests is 100% pass. Since a dismally low pass level is in place, a realistic goal would be more like 80% score 80% or higher!
- I am now sending my children to a catholic school. Hopefully McQuaid can assure a quality education seeing that the District cannot.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

- Neighborhood schools are what we want. If you live close to a school, you should be able to go there. This lottery for schools within ¼ of your house is ridiculous.
- Back community and neighborhoods – go back to K-5 or K-6.
- Stop unnecessarily changing of schools every three years. Busing kids away from closest school to a school that teaches the same curriculum is ludicrous.
- Student should go to local schools to cut down on need for busing.
- Why school of choice?
- The district needs to stop sending out these “signature school” mailings – big waste of money. Also with three kids in school, I end up with three calendars, three student code of conduct, etc. You could save more money by streamlining these mailings so families just get one. More could be available at schools for those who need them. The “lottery only” schools should go back to being neighborhood schools, with any leftover openings going to outside students. It’s silly to have three buses coming through my street for three kids in first grade that go to three different schools. Plus these kids don’t really get to know each other because they are all at different schools. Also, I would like to see the district go back to keeping classes together as they move through the grades. Every year when the entire class gets shuffled up, it’s like my kids are at a new school! Having the same classmates every year (more or less) gives them a sense of continuity and they know what to expect from each other. It also allows them to develop long-lasting relationships with their peers. By the way, whatever happened to desks? Tables do not work well. Kids need to have their own personal space to work in and when it comes to cheating, tables are too easy for them to look at other peoples work.
- I think Schools of Choice is now outdated. I favor K-5 at all elementary schools. And away with the lottery which has favored board members.
- Having children/parents choose school locations is insane. This should be cut so transportation cost can be lowered.
- Stop the school of choice idea – it costs way too much to transport everyone all over the district as well as outside of the district for the special stuff.
- We need to return to neighborhood schools for a variety of reasons: 1.) decrease transportation costs – on my street we have four elementary buses going off to four different schools; 2.) decrease competitiveness among neighbors (ie “My school is better because...”); 3.) Schools of Choice are not equitable. Not everyone can attend who would like to. It is pure chance that your child gets in. Are these schools better??? If so, why do a certain few deserve better? I am a parent of children at a school of choice and I truly feel it is not the right method for the above stated reasons.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

- I don't see the need for separate schools – 2-3, 3-6 etc. A family does not isolate the second and third graders, and fifth and sixth from the rest of the family and then put them together later on. They live together daily – they can learn from each other – too much emphasis on new ideas – the Board and administrators should exercise common sense and ethical interest in education as opposed to publicity.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please put to vote whether district residents want to continue elementary schools of choice or change back to K-5 neighborhood schools.
- We should not try to run 12 & 15 cable. Stick to our business. Use the facility to teach – OK? Do not run that station. C. Cortese 254-4485
- Not enough info.
- The books (binders at the polling locations) that have the people's names, addresses are sprung and hard to keep together.
- Administrative positions should be cut.
- Where is Super Achramovitch – silent, invisible leader?
- A voter can never have enough information. Every employee (or former employee) of this district knows where the waste exists. Where is accountability as far as finances/expenses?
- Small class size has been proven to show that it can increase success in the classroom.
- When making new contracts do not offer benefits to District staff (Superintendents) that are not aligned with community benefits (ie – few people in Greece receive health care for life from their employer.)
- Teachers/school employees should pay more on health insurance and other benefits. Tax payers are required to do so. Why are they special?
- The current philosophy seems to be that any district problem (or educational problem) can be fixed by throwing more money at it.
- I think there are still many ways to trim the “fat” and make employees accountable. I know of a few very well paid employees who will not put in any extra time even though they only work nine months per year! Show me where this occurs in private business!
- The School Board needs to learn to get along and deal with the important district issues – still! The Board needs to identify and address some of the issues no one will touch - 1.) “The old boys club”; 2.) “The keep your mouth shut and no one will know” philosophy; 3.) The pay security guards and staff how much money to cover sports events?!; and Run more like a business – rule with accountability!!

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

- Think outside the box! Start inviting the district senior citizens to free matinees in the APAC – build ties so they can remember how important money is to schools!
- The School Board really needs to work as a unit. The older Board members do nothing but cause disruption to the whole system. Making an issue out of wearing hats was an embarrassment to the district in general. Do we not have better things to worry about? Greece is known as a dysfunctional school district. Have you ever watched the Board of Education programs on channel 12 – do you realize that it looks and sounds like a three-ring circus to people in and out of your district. If you really want students to learn to be respectful, maybe you should show some to each other. My son attended one BOE meeting and was totally amazed at the amount of disrespect your Board showed for each other and the people in attendance. I wish only people with children in the schools could serve on the Board.
- These teachers need to get a life – they must contribute to their medical and retirement programs on a percentage similar to private industry – after all, they only work nine months / year.
- Should be listing for grandparents with grandchildren in Greece School District. We are still very involved in school issues for them – even more than I had time for when my own were in the system. Board has not shown me that they have done everything to lower costs. I wonder why, when they say our kids are not getting enough exercise – they have to be bused from their front doors? As a volunteer with MECNY – I understand that safety issue – but the transportation department is not doing a good job. Too many buses picking up kids on the same street, for same school at different times – Some just minutes apart! Slow response time to parents when we complain.
- Need to re-calibrate to 2 ½ - 3% being a “normal” raise.
- Larger holes in notebooks to facilitate turning of pages.
- Please cut out the extra bus routes after dismissal and the high teacher salary. Do not build another building like Athena if the Amish can learn in a small school house what is a building like this doing to learn in? Our children are going to school for an education, not a Broadway appearance. We do not need another Performing Arts Center.
- Stop the paying of high teacher salaries.
- The district needs to be more cost sensitive. Areas needing attention include: 1.) Busing – It has nothing to do with education. Companies do not pay employees to get to work, nor do they make travel arrangements for them. It is up to the parents to see that their kids get to school. If more kids walked, we would have less obese kids. Also, why can't the district negotiate with Rochester Regional Transit and set up routes which the kids could use. It could be a win-win. 2.) Salaries – we have to stop with pay raises each and every year. The private sector does not do this, nor should the public sector. 3.) Pensions – As a retiree from Kodak, I have not had a single COLA to my pension. Yet, teachers and staff get COLA's every

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ATHENA *CONTINUED*

year. This has to stop. We simply can't afford it. 4.) Non-teaching staff – the district is top-heavy with staff. My experience is that staff creates work more than it does work. All you have to do is walk through Apollo to get an idea of the excessive staff.

- I am concerned at how cuts are proposed and certain salaries increased. As a teacher, I can see where there is waste and how things could be better managed.
- You are doing a great job!
- Your teachers are overpaid babysitters
- Thanks for asking for opinions. I am angry and I need to explain that.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM OLYMPIA

TAXES

- The taxes in Greece and Monroe Count are too high. People have been laid off at Kodak and the trend of spending continues. Why is it I can move to North Carolina and pay ¼ of the tax I pay here?
- Greece Central's student body has decreased by 153. Why is another administrator "needed?" What are 38 more teachers needed? Fewer students yet 21 more support staff? The school board operated as though every land owner has at least two money trees in the back yard. Honestly folks, I do not have a money plant.
- Why do you think mostly parents vote on these issues? What about those of us without children and on fixed incomes? We have to share the school expenses, too. Quite honestly, I don't think we're getting our money's worth. The budget is too high and so is the contingency budget.
- With the increase of assessments to the Greece homes, the over all increase was unnecessary. Due to the overall assessment increase \$1 more per \$1,000 is outrageous.

PROPOSITIONS

- The budget should be inclusive – no propositions. Only voted yes for the school buses because my husband drives for the District.
- We need better publicity of the propositions.

POLLING LOCATIONS

- Not set up for senior citizens and disabled – particularly those who cannot stand in line. I didn't have a problem with we voted in the neighborhood schools.
- Books of address are cumbersome and too large. Not easy to turn pages. The women working the polls told me.

GENERAL WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM OLYMPIA *CONTINUED*

- Street name on signs (at the polling places) need to be VERY LARGE. People only see A-B, C-D etc. We need a traffic/people director. Binder holes need to be larger so pages slide easier.
- This makes driving difficult for anyone who cannot drive far. Some of the seniors can't get to the new voting areas. They should be able to vote because they are paying taxes. It seems like you don't want them to express their views.
- The Greece Olympia parking lot was not saved for voters. Thank goodness it was a nice day to "walk" from cars to the polling place! The kids should have had limited driving privileges today.
- I feel that moving the voting schools was a bad idea. I have heard it was because of lack of workers. I have worked in the past and would work in the future if anyone had bothered to contact me. Someone (in our district many some ones) is not doing their job.
- Three polling places is a bad idea – should have many more places to vote convenient to the voters!

EDUCATION

- Poorly behaved students are allowed to act as they please, disrupting children trying to LEARN – isn't that the goal and motto?
- We need to focus on the basics not social justice, diets, being a good "world citizen," Spanish class for elementary students, etc.
- I went to school in Greece and didn't have all the frills that are expected now a days and I don't feel that I got an inferior education. It is about time the school district goes back to basics. An education is needed but all the extra frills are not needed, such as turf fields. That is stupid. Get back to basics, an education.