The school district said it appreciates the Mayor’s questions.

District staff have been in communication with his office over the past few months and school leaders will be responding in writing directly to the Mayor with appropriate details on the questions presented on The Morning Show.

Curry asked about a financial plan. The district said it has a detailed financial plan showing revenue projections and bonding costs. The plan will also benefit from significant savings in current maintenance costs over the years.

A district spokesperson said the financial analysts from PFM LLC constructed the financial plan, a company that does similar work for the city.

In response to Curry asking about the cost of projects at each individual school, the district said it has completed a detailed analysis of each school campus and the cost associated with each school’s condition in the plan.

Duval Schools used Jacobs Engineering to conduct the study and said the firm is another that is familiar to the city.

Another external analyst assisted in constructing the scenarios and anticipating costs. That company was Cooperative Strategies, a firm whose core competency is school facility planning and financing, according to the district.   
  
In response Curry bringing up charter schools, the district said it has communicated throughout the process its desire to share equitably with charter schools. The superintendent shared her recommended approach this week with community leaders and with the City Council and mayor.

The district said transparency is a priority. The state process requires a special audit from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). That audit must be posted to the school district’s website at least 60 days prior to the ballot.

The school district will also continue to have its normal annual audit from the state and reminds that the referendum language commits to an independent citizen oversight committee that will monitor expenditures in relation to the facility plan.

Finally, school leaders addressed Curry’s questions about what the priorities are and said the plan specifies the method for designating priorities. The levels of analysis on the scale of urgency from most urgent to less urgent are: Mission critical systems, impact on educational mission, short-term conditions, long-term requirements, and enhancements.

With the condition of the district’s facilities, it said too much could change between now and a prospective November 2020 ballot date. Therefore, specific project priorities cannot be stated at this time. Priorities today may not be priorities in 2020 as new problems emerge during the school year, the district said.