



9 FACTS EVERY VOTER SHOULD KNOW

ON NOVEMBER 5, VOTERS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH ONE QUESTION FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1. Why is the scope the same as last year's referendum?

The school board reviewed feedback from a post-referendum community survey and received a unanimous recommendation from the Facility Task Force to proceed with the same projects. The facility maintenance needs haven't changed.

The projects focus exclusively on critical infrastructure needs and on health and safety improvements.

2. What are the proposed projects?

SAFE AND HEALTHY SPACES

- Create safe and secure entry and visitor check-in (HS/MS)
- Replace roofing (All Schools)
- Upgrade ventilation and HVAC (All Schools)
- Upgrade electrical distribution (All Schools)
- Replace domestic water piping (HS/MS)
- Remove asbestos material (ES)

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Complete the addition of HVAC improvements in all classrooms at both Rockwell and Sheffield campuses that was started with Phase 1 SAYE work during the summer of 2023. This includes fresh air ventilation and temperature control.
- Update current lighting with LED lighting in classrooms to improve the learning environment and reduce utility costs.

3. Is HVAC in the gyms included?

Yes. The gyms in both Sheffield and Rockwell are among the most used community facilities in the district. Not only are the gyms used daily as classrooms by students, but they are also frequented by community members for concerts, sporting events, and graduations.

Excessive heat in the gyms has been an issue in the past. Regulating the temperature and air quality will make a difference for everyone in our community.

4. Doesn't the high school already have a secure entrance?

Currently, when visitors are buzzed in, they can continue anywhere in the high school building without having to check in at the office. A new safe, secure entrance ensures that the school can control who enters the premises, reducing the risk of unauthorized persons gaining access to school grounds, making the school safer for students and staff. The elementary school recently upgraded to a secure entrance that meets industry safety standards, but the high school has not.

5. Why can't the School District afford this work on its own?

The School District receives annual funding from the Federal and State governments and local taxpayers. Federal and State funds primarily cover daily expenses like salaries, programs, and supplies. However, building repairs and upgrades largely rely on local communities.

For significant building projects, the district must seek voter approval through a referendum to borrow necessary funds.

6. I have a budget in my household; why didn't the school district save money to make these improvements?

The school district has done a good job of taking care of general upkeep of the building. However, our annual revenue is only able to fund general operating costs like staffing and routine maintenance. When districts are faced with larger projects, like roof replacement and HVAC updates, it becomes necessary to finance these through the use of a school building bond which requires voter approval.

Not unlike significant projects for our homes, school districts often need to finance larger projects over time.

7. How can we be sure the dollars are spent as promised?

The School District is legally obligated to only use referendum funds as stated in the ballot language. Separate line-item accounting records must be kept for all bond-related expenses to ensure the funds are being used legally and appropriately.

The School District's finances are audited annually including the use of referendum funds. The referendum project expenses would be a part of the annual audit until all funds are spent.

8. Who chooses the contractors? Would local contractors be used?

Once the referendum passes, bids are solicited from qualified companies by the school board and contractor/supplier decisions are made by the board.

9. How are construction costs calculated?

When costs are estimated at this stage of the process, they are based off industry-wide database information (Hortonsen and RS Means) that construction companies use, similar recently completed work by Skidmore, and at times, conversations with specific suppliers/contractors for specialized work.

An industry-wide escalator is also used to account for inflation and construction increases for work that would be scheduled out a year or more.

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