



Tiger Pride News and Notes

Belinda Selfors

Superintendent of Schools

Facilities Planning

The School Board has been working to address the ongoing facility needs of the District. Since April, the Board Facility Committee has been meeting to determine a path to move forward with our Facility Plan. Kristy Cook, Ryan Ravenhorst, and Will Welch have done an excellent job of representing the District and the members of our community throughout this process. Additionally, they were intentional about including the members of the District Facility Team in the discussions and decision-making processes.

The Board Facility Committee met with stakeholders, including elected officials from Stewartville and Racine, the Stewartville Chamber of Commerce, community leaders and business owners, and school staff. During these meetings, the Board Committee gathered feedback and input regarding the possibilities and options for moving forward with a Facility Plan. The Committee also collected data from a High School student focus group that provided feedback and input from their perspective.

The Board Facility Committee met with the District Facility Team to review all of the information collected during the feedback and input sessions. They worked on identifying and prioritizing facility plans that will meet the current and future needs of the District. The Board Committee developed recommendations that were shared with the School Board on Monday, June 26. These recommendations were based on what has been determined to be the specific needs that the District has. The Board Committee was very careful to not include anything that would be considered as "frills" or "wants." The full presentation is available on the School Board page of our website.

At the meeting, the School Board gave their approval to move ahead with planning for construction projects to be financed through a voter-approved bond referendum election on November 7, 2023. On the ballot, the District is planning to have two questions. A brief description of the projects is provided below. More detailed information will be provided to district residents in the coming weeks.

Question 1:

- A new Kindergarten-Grade 2 school would be built north of Bear Cave Intermediate School.
- Tiger Tots, Early Childhood Special Education, PreSchool, and District Offices would be relocated to the Bonner building. The renovations to this building would include ADA-accessible restrooms and secure entrances.
- The Middle School and High School renovations would include secure entrances, MS Science, MS STEM, HS FACS, MS/HS Special Education, HS general classrooms, Media Center, and ADA accessibility in the Wrestling locker room. Due to space concerns, an addition of four classrooms is also included.

Question 2:

- A new Fitness Center at the High School, potentially available to community members after school hours.
- Renovation of the current Weight Room into a Middle School classroom.
- Expansion of the gym at the New K-2 building to include a second court.

During the coming weeks, the District will be sharing information with residents regarding the specifics of the proposed referendum, including details about the projects at each building, total costs and tax impacts, and opportunities to learn more at in-person and virtual meetings, etc.

Go Tigers!