



Tiger Pride News and Notes

Scott Romens

School Board Director

Bond Referendum 2023: Safety First, Always

Hello! This is Scott Romens and I am writing to you as a member of the Stewartville School Board.

Ensuring safe, secure, and healthy accessible schools is the School Board's top priority, and our communities agree. Based on direct feedback from our community, over 80% of residents believe in putting the safety, health, and security of our students and staff first. To make this a reality, we have included it as a top priority in the upcoming bond referendum to include secure entryways and healthier accessible learning environments in all our schools. When students and staff feel secure, they can concentrate more directly on important things like teaching and learning.

One key focus of this project is enhancing security at the Middle School, High School, and Bonner. These revamped entryways will serve as the first line of defense against potential threats. Controlled access points, surveillance systems, and visitor screening will ensure that we know who every person is entering our buildings, why they are there, and where they are going. Since Bear Cave Intermediate already has this type of secure entryway, this project will provide the same level of security at each of our buildings across the district.

Having a safe, secure, and healthy environment goes beyond entryways though. The bond referendum also includes upgrading the fire alarm systems at the Middle and High School, making them more reliable. Additionally, we will make ADA accessibility improvements to the Wrestling Locker Room. Early Childhood and Tiger Tots students will relocate to Bonner Elementary, a much healthier environment where we'll also renovate restrooms to meet ADA accessibility standards. Fortunately, we've already updated the heating and ventilation systems at our schools, ensuring healthier and more efficient indoor air quality for our learners and staff.

Question #1 on the ballot is for the construction of a new K-2 school facility, new science classrooms at the High School, renovated science, STEM and general purpose classrooms at the Middle School and High School, secure entrances and offices at the Middle School, High School, and Bonner in the amount of \$55,670,000. Question #2 includes the construction of a second athletic court at the K-2 facility, a new community fitness center and weight room at the High School, and renovation of the weight room into a classroom at the Middle School in the amount of \$7,250,000.

The Stewartville School District is seeking your approval to invest in our community's expectations for safe, secure, and healthy accessible learning environments for our students and staff. In these projects we are prioritizing investments in the well-being of everyone from PreSchool through Grade 12 to make our schools the best they can be.

If you have any questions about the bond referendum, please contact any School Board member and/or Mrs. Selfors, Superintendent of Schools. You can also find additional information about the bond referendum at our school district website (ssd.k12.mn.us) under the **2023 Bond Referendum** tab.

Go Tigers!