



Tiger Pride News and Notes Will Welch School Board Clerk

Bond Referendum 2023: Community-Powered Priorities

Hello! This is Will Welch and I am writing to you as a member of the Board Facility Committee and the Board Clerk.

After the bond referendum failed in August 2022, the School Board decided to do a deeper dive into what the community would support in regard to our facility plan. While the referendum did not pass, the District still had many facility needs to address in order to continue our tradition of educational excellence. Understanding that a school district is a direct reflection of the community it serves, we continued to be committed to a process that was aligned with the priorities of our taxpayers and met the needs of our students and communities. Therefore, we needed to hear from our district residents about how to move forward.

In a community-wide survey, we asked district residents to give us feedback regarding the scope of the facility plan, the areas that needed the most attention, and the issues that were not considered to be a priority. In addition to the survey, we conducted multiple listening sessions for community members, staff, and students. During the listening sessions, participants were asked questions that were focused on the priorities that must be considered in our facility plan. Finally, we obtained feedback from officials from the Cities of Stewartville and Racine, Stewartville Chamber of Commerce, and business owners.

The scope of the referendum includes items that were identified as high priority items by in the survey, listening sessions, and meetings.

- Secure entryways at each of the schools
- Providing additional instructional space at the Middle and High School
- Upgrading educational spaces at the Middle/High School including science rooms, career learning spaces, media center, and creating updated collaborative and project-based learning spaces
- Eliminating the use of Central Education Center for both health and safety reasons as well as improving operational cost efficiencies

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 of these projects as we prioritize the investment into the well-being of everyone from PreSchool through Grade 12 and 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!