



Tiger Pride News and Notes
Stephanie Kiefer
School Board Director

Bond Referendum 2023: Bright Beginnings at Bonner for our Youngest Learners

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

Early education is extremely important. The early years for children are the foundation for their future development and provide a strong base for lifelong learning. Creating an early childhood center for our PreSchool and Tiger Tots programming at Bonner would prepare them for their educational futures. Dedicated classroom space for PreSchool students who receive services for special education, as well as Early Childhood Family Education and Community Education classes, would be provided.

In total, approximately 15 classrooms will be specifically used for Early Childhood and Community Education programming. The district offices and storage would occupy the remaining spaces at Bonner. It is important to note that we would have the space needed at Bonner if and when the State mandates school districts to provide universal PreSchool for four-year olds.

The renovations at Bonner would be minimal to include secure entrances for PreSchool and Tiger Tots as well as the District Office. The restrooms would be updated to be ADA compliant. To minimize costs, no other construction or remodeling would take place at Bonner.

In regard to the plans for Central Education Center, the school district has had a very preliminary conversation with the Stewartville City Officials regarding its future. The district trusts that City Officials would do what is in the best interest of the community in regard to what the building could be used for. In light of this, the district would be interested in working on an agreement that would involve a nominal investment from the City to take ownership of the building. The district does not plan to "hold on" to the building for the foreseeable future. As a last resort, the district would put the building on the market. It would be the intention of the district to apply any proceeds gained from the sale of the building to maintenance projects at other sites and/or applied to the overall bond debt.

On November 7, the School District is seeking voter approval of two questions on a bond referendum. Question #1 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.

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!