



Tiger Pride News and Notes Ryan Ravenhorst School Board Vice-Chair

Bond Referendum 2023: A Boost from Beyond

Hello! This is Ryan Ravenhorst and I am writing to you as a member of the Stewartville School Board and a member of the Board Facility Committee.

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.

The state of Minnesota allows families and students to open-enroll to school districts of their choice. Minnesota's public school choice option allows students and parents to have access to schools that are not within their resident district. This program allows student enrollment from one school district into another. State applications are used for any open enrollment situation involving two school districts in Minnesota. Once accepted for open enrollment, the student may attend the nonresident district through high school graduation. Under this program, siblings of the open-enrolled student receive priority consideration to attend the same nonresident district. A school board may limit, by resolution, the enrollment of nonresident pupils in its schools or programs.

Students from other districts who open-enroll into our schools help to fund our specialty and advanced learning programs, especially at our High School. In order to schedule a course, we need to have at least 15 students enrolled or the course is not offered. Without the additional funding we receive through open enrollment, we would have several courses that would not be able to meet this requirement. As a result, these courses would not be available to any of our students. In total, open-enrolled students attending Stewartville Public Schools generate approximately \$4 million in revenue each year. The school board and administration pay attention to enrollment trends to keep things balanced in order to maintain our budget. We only open enroll students into classrooms that have existing space and use the option of limiting open enrollment to keep our class sizes balanced.

The School Board and the Board Facility Committee have invested time and effort into developing a plan for our facilities that will meet the needs of our students and their futures. The proposed projects will impact programming and opportunities of all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

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!