



APRIL 6, 2021 REFERENDUM

On January 13, 2021, the Board of Education adopted a resolution to place a referendum question on the April 6, 2021 ballot. The resolution follows months of evaluating our existing high school facility, working closely with community partners, and conducting a community-wide survey to gather feedback.

If approved, the referendum question will allow the District to update the high school tech ed department and improve site traffic.

THE NEED

Demand is growing in our region for employees in the trades, including construction and fabrication. At the same time, we have seen a large increase in the number of students interested in careers in these areas and enrolling in technical education (shop) courses. Enrollment for these courses is up 52 percent in just five years. In response, the District has also added several new course offerings in construction and computer-aided design. While the District has invested in new tech ed equipment over the last few years, our classrooms and labs have not been updated in over 20 years.

An expansion of the tech ed department also gives the District an opportunity to review and improve our middle/high school site. Our middle school lacks parking, making parent visits and hosting events challenging. At the high school, student drop-off, traffic, and bus patterns need to be redesigned to better separate vehicles and pedestrians and to improve safety.

THE SOLUTION

- Build separate and expanded spaces for woods and metals/welding subjects to improve workflow and safety.
- Provide areas for a design lab, a fabrication lab, and robotics that would be accessible by students from both the middle and high school levels.
- Make space for a home construction class, which will allow the District to build and auction a tiny home.
- Create a flexible automotive and technology lab that would allow for vehicle service training and instruction in Sport/Power and small-engine repair.
- Improve site safety by changing traffic configurations, creating drop-off areas, and expanding parking.

THE INVESTMENT | not to exceed \$6,550,000

The District has worked hard to provide the best educational experience while operating within our budget. In fact, the District:

- Has not held a debt referendum since 2007.
- Took the opportunity to pre-pay that debt when possible to save interest expenses.
- Will soon be paying off a loan that funded past building projects.

These efforts significantly reduce the tax impact.



If voters approve the referendum, the tax impact will be *\$2.00 per \$100,000 of property value.*

More information regarding the upcoming April 6 referendum will be forthcoming. Watch your mailbox in the coming month for additional details. Informational meetings will be held in the high school library on February 22 & March 9 from 7:00-8:00PM.