



June 28, 2022

Mr. Astein Osei, Superintendent
St. Louis Park Public School, ISD #0283-01
6311 Wayzata Blvd
Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

Dear Superintendent Osei:

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires a review and comment statement on the educational and economic advisability of your proposed school construction project. Information supplied by your school district and from Minnesota Department of Education sources is the basis of this review and comment. With this positive review and comment, voter and school board approval is required for St. Louis Park Public School District, Independent School District #0283-01, to proceed with the proposed projects.

The district shall publish a summary of the review and comment statement (the final page) in the legal newspaper of the district at least 20 days, but not more than 60 days, prior to holding a referendum for bonds or soliciting any bids for the construction, expansion, or remodeling of an educational facility. The department may request a statement certifying the publication, and require the submission, review, and approval of preliminary and final construction plans.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires the commissioner to include comments from residents of the school district in the review and comment. As of the date of this letter, no public comments have been received. In addition, Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires the school board hold a public meeting to discuss the review and comment prior to the date of the bond referendum election.***

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires that a school district, prior to occupying a new or renovated facility after July 1, 2002, must submit a certification prepared by a system inspector to the commissioner and the building code official that will provide an occupancy permit.*** The certification must verify that the facility's installed or modified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operates according to design specifications and code, a system for monitoring outdoor airflow and total airflow of ventilation systems has been installed, and any installed or modified heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system provides an indoor air quality filtration system that meets ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Standard 52.1.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kubesh, Education Finance specialist, at 651-582-8319 or chris.kubesh@state.mn.us. Thank you for working with us to improve school facilities for Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Mueller, Ed.D.".

Heather Mueller, Ed.D.
Commissioner

cc: Mary Tomback, School Board Chair

Enclosure

**The Commissioner of the Department of Education
Review and Comment on the School Construction
Proposal of St. Louis Park Public School District, ISD #0283-01**

A review and comment must be provided on a school district construction project proposal before the district conducts a referendum, solicits bids, or issues bonds for the project. A project proposal has been submitted for review and comment according to requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, subdivisions 9 and 10, and Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72. The district provides the following information:

1. The geographic area and population to be served:
 - a. preschool through grade 12 student enrollment for the past five years, and
 - b. student enrollment projections for the next five years.
2. A list of existing school facilities:
 - a. by year constructed,
 - b. their uses, and
 - c. an assessment of the extent to which alternate facilities are available within school district boundaries and in adjacent school districts.
3. A list of specific deficiencies of the facility:
 - a. demonstrating the need for a new or renovated facility to be provided,
 - b. the process used to determine the deficiencies,
 - c. a list of those deficiencies that will and will not be addressed by the proposed projects,
 - d. a list of specific benefits that the new or renovated facility will provide to students, teachers, and community users served by the facility.
4. A description of the project, including:
 - a. specifications of site and outdoor space acreage,
 - b. square footage allocations for classrooms, laboratories and support spaces,
 - c. estimated expenditures for major portions of the project,
 - d. estimated changes in facility operating costs, and
 - e. dates the project will begin and be completed.
5. A specification of the source of project financing, including:
 - a. applicable statutory citations,
 - b. the scheduled date for a bond issue or school board action,
 - c. a schedule of payments, including debt service equalization aid, and
 - d. the effect of a bond issue on local property taxes by property class and valuation.
6. Documentation obligating the school district and contractors to comply with the following items:
 - a. Minnesota Statutes, section 471.345 governing municipal contracts,
 - b. sustainable design,
 - c. school facility commissioning under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72, certifying the plans and designs for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air filtration for an extensively renovated or new facility meet or exceed current code standards, including ASHRAE air filtration Standard 52.1,
 - d. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acoustical performance criteria, design requirements and guidelines for schools on maximum background noise levels and reverberation times,
 - e. state fire code,
 - f. chapter 326B governing building codes, and
 - g. consultation with affected government units about the impact of the project on utilities, roads, sewers, sidewalks, retention ponds, school bus and automobile traffic, access to mass transit and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

St. Louis Park Public School District, ISD #0283-01, is proposing a single question bond referendum on August 9, 2022, that would authorize \$136 million in bonding authority to finance districtwide facility upgrades. A majority of the proposed projects would focus on upgrades to the existing high school, including: commons area/food service additions, significant renovations to classrooms and music areas, track replacement and the installation of artificial turf on the football field. Central Community Center would also be targeted for significant upgrades, including renovations to accommodate the District's administrative offices. Other proposed projects include a building addition to the existing maintenance building to house the District's technology services.

The projects proposed would be scheduled for completion in the 2022–2025 calendar years. Cost estimates by location/project type are as follows:

High School Projects		Central Community Center Projects		Aquila Elementary School	
<u>Kitchen / Classroom / Media / Commons Area</u>		<u>Playground Area</u>		Site Improvements	\$755,000
Additions	\$9,505,000	Site Improvements	\$550,000	Fees/Permits/Services	\$5,000
Renovations	\$15,300,000	Deferred Maintenance	\$944,000	FF&E	\$25,000
Site Improvements	\$5,530,000	Fees/Permits/Services	\$41,000	Contingency	\$15,000
Fees/Permits/Services	\$2,595,000	Contingency	\$65,000		\$800,000
FF&E	\$1,920,000		\$1,600,000		
Contingency	\$1,500,000	<u>Gym/Locker Room</u>		Middle School - Locker Room	
	\$36,350,000	Renovations	\$4,850,000	Renovations	\$3,556,000
<u>Music and Storm Shelter Project</u>		Deferred Maintenance	\$153,100	Site Improvements	\$63,000
Additions	\$4,430,000	Fees/Permits/Services	\$986,900	Fees/Permits/Services	\$691,000
Renovations	\$3,300,000	FF&E	\$750,000	FF&E	\$835,000
Site Improvements	\$750,000	Contingency	\$260,000	Contingency	\$755,000
Fees/Permits/Services	\$950,000		\$7,000,000		\$5,900,000
Structural Beams	\$560,000	<u>District Offices - Relocation to Central CC</u>		Lenox Community Center	
FF&E	\$560,000	Renovations	\$4,750,000	Site Improvements	\$935,000
Contingency	\$950,000	Site Improvements	\$350,000	Fees/Permits/Services	\$7,500
	\$11,500,000	Deferred Maintenance	\$35,000	FF&E	\$57,500
<u>Classroom Renovations</u>		Fees/Permits/Services	\$755,000		\$1,000,000
Renovations	\$8,100,000	FF&E	\$860,000		
FFE / Technology	\$1,103,000	Contingency	\$350,000	Park Spanish Immersion - Playground Area	
Fees/Permits/Services	\$847,000		\$7,100,000	Site Improvements	\$550,000
Contingency	\$450,000			Playgrounds	\$944,000
	\$10,500,000	Data Center/ Maintenance Building		Fees/Permits/Services	\$41,000
<u>Track / Field / Stadium Shelter</u>		Additions	\$6,657,000	FF&E	\$15,000
Additions	\$599,000	Site Improvements	\$2,359,800	Contingency	\$50,000
Renovations	\$7,120,000	Fees/Permits/Services	\$857,700		\$1,600,000
Site Improvements	\$5,495,000	FFE / Technology	\$3,270,500		
Fees/Permits/Services	\$1,406,000	Contingency	\$1,755,000	Districtwide Project Costs	
FF&E	\$185,000		\$14,900,000	Security Improvements	\$2,470,000
Contingency	\$1,195,000			Mechanical System	\$3,200,000
	\$16,000,000			Electrical Improvements	\$1,550,000
				Boiler Replacements	\$2,500,000
				Roofs/Parking Lots	\$5,000,000
Total Project Costs	\$136,067,466			Fees/Permits/Services	\$2,160,000
				Bond Issuance	\$1,377,466
				Mobilization Trailers	\$3,500,000
				Contingencies	\$60,000
					\$21,817,466

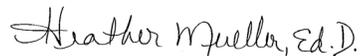
The district has supplied cost estimates to operate and staff the additional building space and it appears existing revenues will be sufficient to fund any associated operational cost increases. The proposed project appears to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.



Heather Mueller, Ed.D.

Commissioner

June 28, 2022