2024 Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the exact wording of the referendum?

   Shall the School District of Abbotsford, Clark and Marathon Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $17,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project at the Middle/High School and Elementary School building consisting of: construction of additions, including for a safe and secure entrance, classrooms and a library; renovations, including to classrooms, the technical education area and district offices; safety, security, building infrastructure systems, parking and site improvements; technology and ADA accessibility updates; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

2. Considering the cost of building materials, is now a good time to build?

   The construction industry like most industries encountered record inflation and extreme lead time challenges after the pandemic. Since then, we have seen the construction market stabilize, lead-times back to normal and interest rates decreasing. However, projects, short of a major economic event, are estimated to continue to rise at a more normal inflationary rate. For that reason, we feel now is the time to proceed as the industry does not project any “decreases” in costs moving forward.

3. How will this project affect all students?

   The safety and security upgrades will impact all students and staff. The additional classrooms will also provide more room for all students. The technology education and agriculture students will have enhanced facilities for learning hand-on job skills. There will also be additional space for special education students and student in need of intervention.

4. What will six MS/HS classrooms be used for?

   There are currently space needs for health class, intervention space, and English Learner/Dual Language classes. Our current high school English classrooms are smaller and are tight for space. We would be most likely moving those classes into the new classrooms.

5. What will two elementary classrooms be used for?

   Based on the current growth, we are on the verge of adding additional sections for grade levels at the elementary and the classrooms would be utilized to house the additional sections.

6. Would the heating/cooling system be improved at the MS/HS?

   We have spent the last 6 years updating the vast majority of the heating/cooling system in the MS/HS while using existing budget. The only areas that would get new units would be the North gym, Pool, Welding area, and units affected by construction.

7. Why does the HVAC need to be updated when that was brand new not that long ago?

   We have made great strides in updating our HVAC units to meet the highest efficiency standards but the reality is that several of our areas still have original 1960's era equipment that are not efficient and do not have the capability to have air conditioning. The only newer piece of equipment that would be affected by construction can be moved to a new classroom.

8. What is being done to the greenhouse and shop area?

   We understand the importance of a shop/welding area and how essential it is to local businesses. Right now the welding department does not have adequate ventilation since the department has experienced tremendous growth compared to when it was originally built in the 1970's. The referendum would ensure proper ventilation while still being efficient.

9. How will this capital referendum impact taxes?

   This referendum has been timed up with our current debt falling off to minimize the tax impact. By doing this, there is no anticipated tax impact for our taxpayers moving forward.

10. What will happen if the referendum does not pass?

    If an April 2024 referendum is not supported, we will take feedback and try to put together something that will be supported in November 2024. Without a referendum, our classrooms will continue to get more crowded and infrastructure items will need to be prioritized and taken care of when the budget can absorb it. It would most likely lead to band aiding things.

11. Why wasn't the pool ventilation and plumbing fixed when the pool was remodeled in 2021-2022?

    The pool remodel came at a difficult time as we were also moving forward with the FEMA addition. We utilized community donations, any available district money, and took out a short term loan for over $700,000 to pay for the pool remodel. There was not additional money to do further work at that time. Additionally, the companies involved with the work did not know about the ventilation and water main issues. The referendum

would provide for adjusting the systems and restore the improvements that were made back to the intended status.

12. Why weren't any of these items addressed with the 2022 referendum?

    Much like this referendum, minimizing the tax impact was a priority. The 2022 referendum did not negatively impact taxes. Adding anything to it would have increased taxes.

13. What is the project schedule, when does construction start?

    The design process would take place in the spring/summer of 2024 with the bidding process to take place in the winter of 2025. The construction process would be April 2025 to July 2026.

14. Where can I find voting information? (Need to update the following)

    Election Day
    Tuesday, April 2, 2024

    My Vote Wisconsin
    To determine your voter status, register to vote, request an absentee ballot, find your polling location, and view sample ballots, please visit My Vote Wisconsin.

    Absentee and Early Voting
    Early voting begins on March 19. There are different deadlines to request an absentee ballot or vote in-person depending on where you live or if you are in the military, overseas, indefinitely confined, or in the hospital.

    An absentee ballot must be returned by mail or delivered to your municipal clerk and must be received no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day, April 2, 2024.

    Visit the My Vote Wisconsin Deadline page to learn more.

    Voting Locations and Hours
    Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Visit My Vote Wisconsin My Polling Place page and enter your address to find your voting location.