WEST BEND
SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

NEWS RELEASE

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West Bend School District to Hold Informational Events on Facilities Referendum

WEST BEND — While getting a morning coffee, residents of the West Bend School District can also get information on the upcoming West Bend School District facilities referendum from Superintendent Jen Wimmer. In addition, open houses at East High School and Jackson Elementary School will also provide opportunities to learn about the November 5, 2024 facilities referendum.

The referendum will ask for voter approval for the West Bend School District to borrow a not-to-exceed amount of $106.25 million to fund integral security improvements, address critical capital maintenance improvements, improve operational efficiency by closing several buildings, realign grade levels to maximize the remaining buildings, and replace Jackson Elementary School.

Community members, families, staff, and students are invited to an open house to learn more and ask questions. There are two open houses:

- Wednesday, September 18 at West Bend East High School cafeteria, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 14 at Jackson Elementary gymnasium, 6-7:30 p.m.

In addition, Superintendent Jen Wimmer will be present at three locations to answer questions and provide information in an informal setting. The locations and dates include:

The Hub, 393 Water Street, West Bend

- Saturday, September 14 from 7-10:00 a.m.
- Friday, October 4 from 7-9:00 a.m.

Coffeeville, N168 W20101 Main St, Jackson

- Saturday, September 14 from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 1 from 7-9:00 a.m.

Dunn Brothers, 950 W Paradise Dr, West Bend

- Tuesday, September 24 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

The referendum plan includes closing Decorah Elementary, Fair Park Elementary, Rolfs Education Center, and the Education Service Center (district central office), allowing the district to avoid more than $51 million in identified capital maintenance costs while also adjusting the footprint to better match current and projected enrollment. In addition, there are a number of proposed facility improvements as part of the referendum, including:

- Construction of a new Jackson Elementary building on district-owned land on Jackson Drive, adjacent to the community center
- Targeted renovations and construction of additions including for safe and secure entrances at East/West High School, Green Tree, and McLane to provide additional layers of security throughout the schools
- Targeted renovations to the high schools building to integrate the Education Service Center (district central office)
- Targeted renovations to Green Tree, McLane, Silverbrook (K-5), and Badger (6-8) schools to support grade level reconfiguration
- Relocating Early Learning Program classrooms from Rolfs to McLane and Green Tree and adding bathrooms to accommodate early learning and renovating to create a larger health room in each school
- Addressing high priority district-wide capital improvements at the remaining buildings in the following categories: safety and security, building systems, building envelope, building interiors, and site

If approved by voters, the $106.25 million referendum will have an estimated tax impact of $102 per $100,000 of fair market property value for approximately 20 years. Preliminary tax impact estimates are based on the following financial assumptions:

- 20-year repayment for Tax-Exempt General Obligation Bonds/Notes (AA rated)
- 4.75% interest rate
- 2% annual fair market property value growth
- Approximately $59.2 million in estimated interest costs at 4.75%, inclusive of financing costs, for a total of $165.45 million

- Note: The actual September 2024 borrowing interest rate of 3.95% would lower the interest cost estimate by $13 million.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve about 5,700 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a high-performing learning environment. Visit west-bend.k12.wi.us for more information.

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