



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Final Facilities Planning Work Session for West Bend School Board Formal Board Action to be Taken on August 12

WEST BEND — During a work session this evening, the West Bend School Board continued its efforts to finalize details associated with a proposed facilities projects referendum for the November 5, 2024 election. Based on tonight's direction, the board will formally act on the legal ballot resolution language at its regular board meeting August 12, 2024.

The board reviewed and discussed information summarizing the final proposal for Phase 1 of the long-range facility plan, which has been crafted over the last year in direct response to identified facility needs, declining enrollment, and community feedback. Throughout the year-long process, the board and district have been committed to facilities that are safe, secure and accessible; welcoming, well maintained, and operationally efficient; and adaptable to evolving student needs.

The board discussed moving forward a capital facilities referendum question to school district residents for a not-to-exceed amount of \$106.25 million on the upcoming November 5, 2024 General Election ballot. If approved by voters in November, this would allow the district to accomplish 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.

The main features to be covered by the referendum remain the same from a previous meeting in June:

- Targeted renovations to areas at East/West High School, Green Tree, and McLane to create secure main office entries and provide additional layers of security throughout the schools.
- Closing Decorah Elementary, Fair Park Elementary, Rolfs Education Center, and the Education Service Center, and converting Green Tree, McLane, and Silverbrook schools to serve as K-5 elementary schools. Badger Middle School would serve grades 6-8.
- Integrate the Education Service Center into the high schools building.
- Improve secure entry for the high schools.
- Replacing the existing Jackson Elementary with a new grades K-5 building on district-owned land on Jackson Drive, adjacent to the community center.
- 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.

Critical capital improvements at the remaining buildings are also included in the first phase proposal. They address items in the following categories: safety and security, building systems, building envelope, building interiors, and site.

View the presentation slides from the July 22 meeting on the School Board section of the West Bend School District website for more details (west-bend.k12.wi.us).

“My sincere thank you to the West Bend School Board for its detailed work to create a comprehensive referendum plan that addresses many of the facility needs in our school district buildings,” said Jen Wimmer, Superintendent.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve nearly 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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