WAUNAKEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Survey Informational Session

Dr. Monica Kelsey-Brown, Steve Summers, and Allie Newton
April 14, 2026

Mission, Vision, and Equity Statements

- **Mission Statement**: “Committed to Children…Committed to Community…Committed to Excellence”

- **Vision Statement**: The Waunakee Community School District is a collaborative learning community that works with students, staff, families, and the community to ensure that every student is ready for college and career; through a focus on data, research based best practices, and engagement with students to be active partners in their learning.

- **Equity Statement**: The Waunakee Community School District embraces the differences among our students, staff, and families. We work to provide a safe environment with access to resources, opportunities, and instruction for all students to reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond. We strive to create a culture of dialogue, acceptance, and inclusion. We are committed to engaging all students so that they may thrive academically, socially, and emotionally in an ever-changing multicultural society.

Agenda - Community Survey Informational Sessions

1) Our School District - Thank YOU
2) Community Survey
3) Financial Challenges
4) Long-Range Facility Planning
5) Facility Challenges
    a) Waunakee Community High School
6) Potential Facility Projects
7) Facility Plan Funding
8) Discussion and Questions
9) Opportunity to complete the community survey

THANK YOU

Proud of schools and community!

“Committed to Children…Committed to Community…Committed to Excellence”





WAUNAKEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

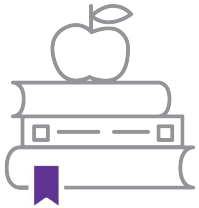
#WaunakeeWAY

24- 25 REPORT CARD

Points of Purple Pride



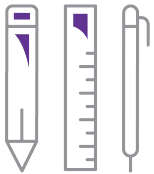
600+ Staff
15 Average Years of Experience
27 Current/Past Kohl Fellowship Winners
12 Teachers with National Board Certification



4,413 Students
6 Schools
8 4K Partner Sites



99.1% + Graduation Rate
71.5% + HS students with 3.0+ GPA
30 + National Merit Scholar finalists



Five Star Report Card
High Academic Standards
13 AP Courses
22.2 + Average ACT Score

State Accountability Report Card

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	NEED
Arboretum Elementary School	92.1	90.4(-)	86.6(-)	84.4(-)	85.2(+)	---
Heritage Elementary School	85.7	79.6(-)	71.7(-)	72.5(+)	81.2(+)	2.8
Prairie Elementary School	87.2	85.9(-)	86.2(+)	87.8(+)	87.5(-)	---
Waunakee Intermediate School	91.5	89.1(-)	86.6(-)	88.4(+)	95.1(+)	---
Waunakee Community Middle School	74.3	72.7(-)	69.8(-)	70.5(+)	76.9(+)	7.1
Waunakee Community High School	80.3	78.4(-)	78.5(+)	76.8(-)	80.5(+)	3.5
Waunakee Community School District	83.0	80.7(-)	79.4(-)	78.9(-)	84.6(+)	---

KEY

Significantly Exceeds Expectations (SEE)	(84-100)
Exceeds Expectations (EE)	(71-83.9)
Meets Expectations (ME)	(60-70.9)
Meets Few Expectations (MFE)	(49-59.9)
Fails to Meet Expectations (FTME)	(0-48.9)

** Performance category cut scores were increased beginning with the 2024–25 report cards.*

Community Survey

The Waunakee Community School District is partnering with School Perceptions to conduct a community-wide survey to gather feedback on operational referendums and the high school facility planning process.

TWO WAYS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY

Online: (saves postage expense)

Go to: **www.SPFeedback.com**

Enter your code:

Paper: Return to any school office or mail it to School Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 608.849.2000.

Para pedir una copia traducida de esta encuesta en español, favor de llamar 608.219.2000, op. 2.

Survey deadline: April 27, 2026

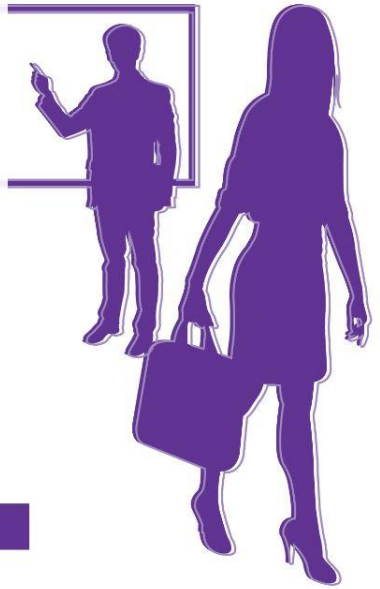
Financial Challenges - Expiring Operational Funding in June 2027

What did the Community Approve for the November 5, 2024 Election?

Funding Initiatives	2025-26	2026-27
Maintaining current programs/services (recurring)	$8.1 million	$8.1 million
Increasing hourly employee compensations (recurring)	$500,000	$1,000,000
Increasing employee compensation costs (non-recurring)	$1.05 million	$2.1 million
Total	$9.65 million	$11.2 million

Staff Retention (employees continuing from previous school year)

	# of Employees	AUG 2025	AUG 2024	AUG 2023	AUG 2022
Administrative Assistants	37	94.7%	97.3%	81.6%	78.0%
Custodial & Maintenance	44	84.7%	89.1%	83.0%	69.8%
Classified (Full-time & Part-time)	153	80.1%	74.6%	87.3%	73.3%
Teachers	392	94.1%	91.6%	94.2%	90.4%
Administrative Support	31	96.6%	96.4%	91.6%	90.9%
Administration	24	95.8%	95.8%	90.0%	100%



Administration (Cabinet) Succession Planning

29

(24 Admin / 5 Admin Support)

Eligible for retirement (age 55)

2025–2026	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030
10	2	4	0	0

6–10 yrs.	11–15 yrs.	16–20 yrs.	20+ yrs.
3	4	3	3

Financial Challenges

The Waunakee Community School District spends below the regional average of our comparable districts.

The continuation of the $2.1 million allows Waunakee Community School District to offer competitive salary/wage increases to all staff.

School District	Per-Student Spending
Verona	$19,476
Middleton-Cross Plains	$17,160
Sun Prairie	$16,966
Monona Grove	$16,860
Regional Average	**$16,839**
Stoughton	$16,605
Mount Horeb	$16,461
Oregon	$16,398
Waunakee	**$16,106**
DeForest	$15,515

Financial Challenges

The costs of operating our schools continues to rise.

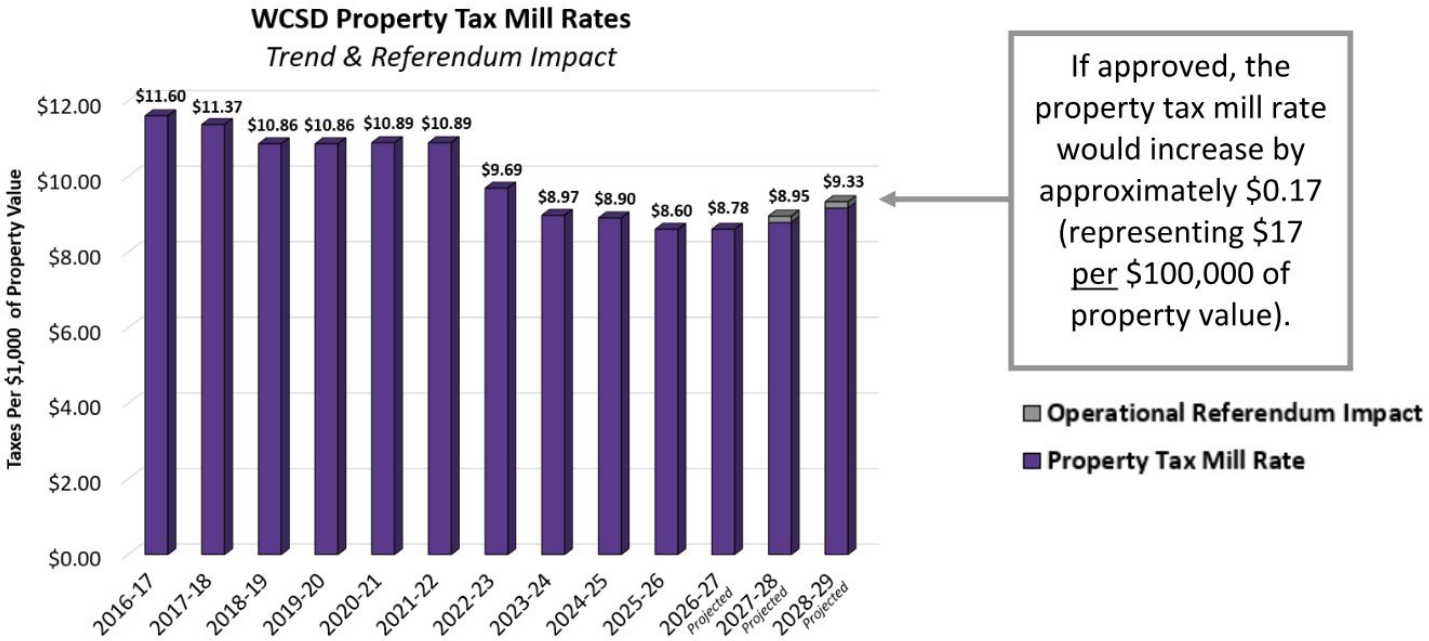
The chart identifies the inflationary costs from 2008-09 to 2026-27 compared to the increase in state funding per student.

This translates to $14.7 million in Waunakee.

School Year	Per pupil adjustment under prior inflation indexing / CPI	Actual Combined Per Pupil adjustment	Difference between Inflationary per pupil adjustment and actual funding	Cumulative difference
2008-09	$274.68	$274.68	$0.00	
2009-10	$274.68	$200.00	-$74.68	-$74.68
2010-11	$281.00	$200.00	-$81.00	-$155.68
2011-12	$288.59	-$554.00	-$842.59	-$998.27
2012-13	$296.38	$100.00	-$196.38	-$1,194.65
2013-14	$300.83	$100.00	-$200.83	-$1,395.48
2014-15	$305.34	$150.00	-$155.34	-$1,550.82
2015-16	$305.34	$0.00	-$305.34	-$1,856.16
2016-17	$308.09	$100.00	-$208.09	-$2,064.25
2017-18	$315.48	$200.00	-$115.48	-$2,179.73
2018-19	$323.05	$204.00	-$119.05	-$2,298.78
2019-20	$329.19	$263.00	-$66.19	-$2,364.97
2020-21	$334.13	$179.00	-$155.13	-$2,520.10
2021-22	$342.82	$0.00	-$342.82	-$2,862.92
2022-23	$371.96	$0.00	-$371.96	-$3,234.88
2023-24	$390.56	$325.00	-$65.56	-$3,300.44
2024-25	$404.23	$325.00	-$79.23	-$3,379.67
2025-26	$413.12	$325.00	-$88.12	-$3,467.79
2026-27	$429.23	$325.00	-$104.23	-$3,572.02
Amount of per pupil defunding relative to inflation			-$3,379.67	

Potential Operational Referendum

Would you support renewing the operational referendum at a rate of $2.1 million per year for four years?



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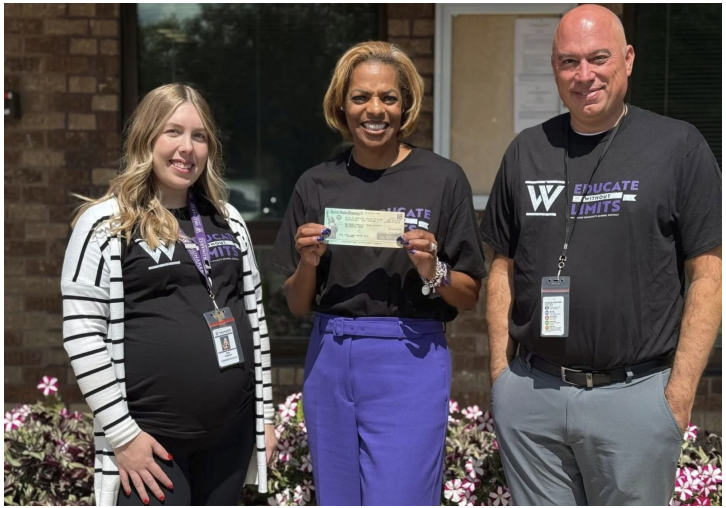
What has Waunakee Schools done to save costs/increase revenues outside of referendums?

Examples of Cost Savings

- Health insurance plan design changes to limit annual cost increases to 5%
- Utility savings through the energy efficiency efforts and data management systems
- Reduced number of bus routes

Examples of Revenue Increases

- Received Federal Funds for energy efficiency efforts at Heritage Elementary, WCSD will be applying for the new Waunakee Community Middle School
- Maximized special education aide by seeking high cost categorical aid reimbursement (top 10% in the State of Wisconsin)



Resources - Learn More about Wisconsin School Finance

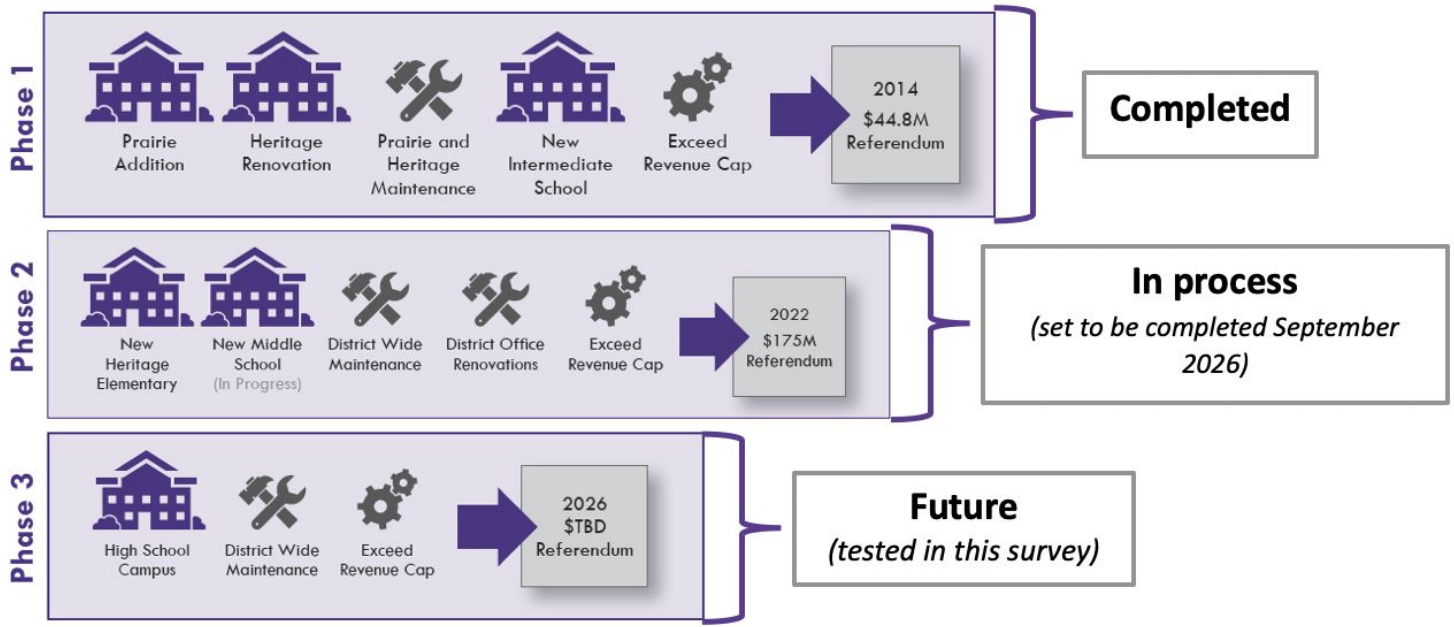
[DPI School Funding Video Link]

[Department of Public Instruction]



Long-Range Facility Planning

Planning began in 2010. The three phases were as follows:



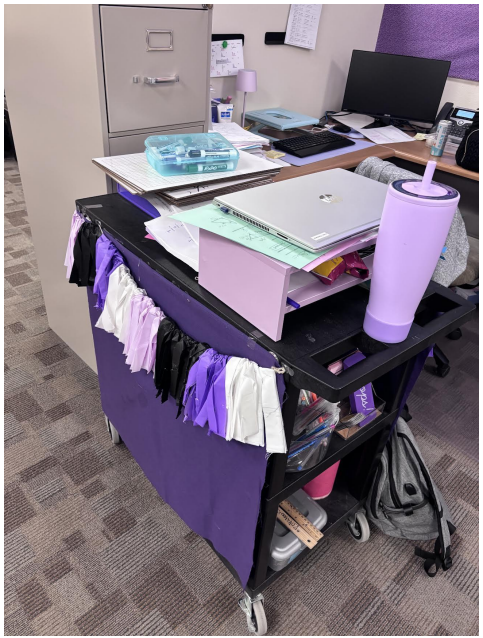
Facility Challenges - Why this matters?

- **Improve safety and security:** Reduce the number of exterior entrances, better compartmentalize the building so visitors can only access designated areas, and combine student parking lots to better separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- **Expand and modernize learning spaces:** Build new science labs and classrooms so every teacher has a dedicated classroom, add flexible spaces for both small- and large-group instruction, and relocate the library to provide natural light and improved student collaboration areas.
- **Improve student and activity spaces:** Expand cafeteria seating to reduce congestion and noise; construct two outdoor athletic team centers near the fields with changing areas, restrooms, athletic training space, and severe weather shelter; and turf the varsity baseball and softball fields to match comparable schools in the area.
- **Update major building systems:** Upgrade HVAC systems with more efficient geothermal technology (these systems are eligible for rebates, just like the $1.2 million we received from the federal government for Heritage Elementary).

Facility Challenges at Waunakee Community High School

1. Safety
2. Classroom spaces
3. 1970s portion of the building
4. Library
5. Family and Consumer Education





Facility Challenges - Safety and Security

- The high school does not have the building segmentation to lock down portions of the schools in the event of an emergency.
- A secure entrance near student and staff parking locations is limited at Waunakee Community High School.
- Community Drive provides a lack of separation for student and staff vehicles, parent drop-off, Aquatics Center/athletic fields entrance, and and pedestrians.



Facility Challenges - High School Classrooms

The high school does not have enough classroom space. Beginning next year, high school students will use space at the existing middle school. To manage this in the short term, the Board will invest in technology and safety measures so students can travel safely between buildings. However, the long-term goal is that all high school students learn together in the high school building.





Facility Challenges - High School 1970s

Portions of the high school are more than 55 years old and have had limited updates since they were built. The layout makes it difficult to support modern learning environments.



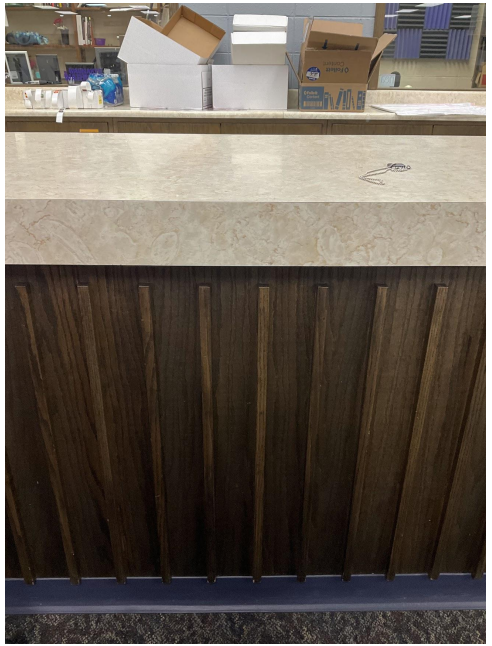
Waunakee Community High School lacks natural sunlight in older sections of the building.

Facility Challenges - High School Library

The library sits in the center of the building with little natural light and limited space for student collaboration, research, and group learning.







Facility Challenges - High School FACE

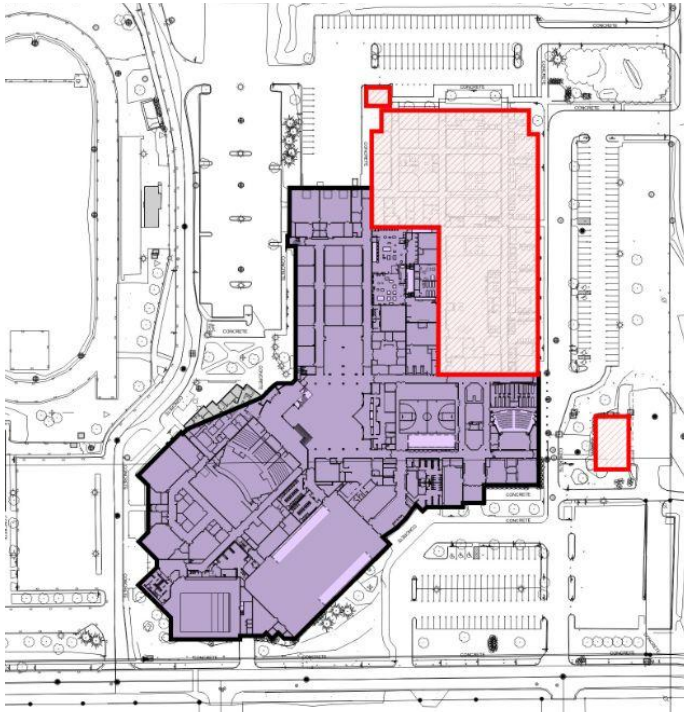
Family and Consumer Education (FACE) classrooms are outdated and do not have the proper equipment and layout.

- We lack sufficient classroom capacity and have turned away on average 45 students annually who have requested culinary classes during course registration.
- We lack a commercial grade culinary classroom, which is necessary for providing a high level career prep experience for students interested in pursuing careers in these industries. Many peer high schools in Dane County and beyond have commercial grade culinary classrooms.

			
Waunakee	**Middleton**	**Verona**	**Nicolet**

Potential Facility Projects - High School

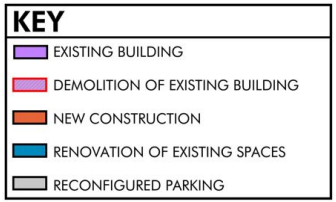
- Demolish oldest portions of high school building and Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)
- Replace previous 1 story portion with a 2 story additions for additional space.

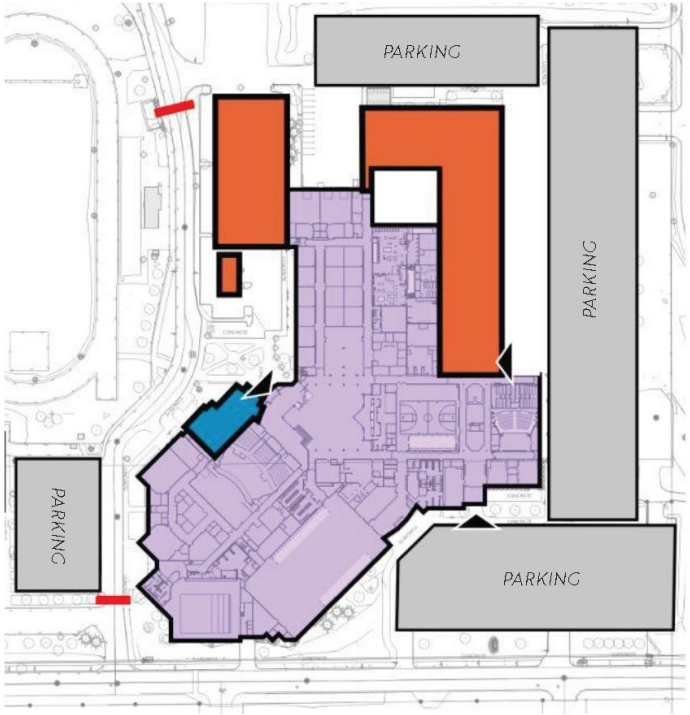


Potential Facility Projects - High School

Construction Budget:	$71,634,600
Contingency:	$11,732,579
Soft Costs:	$ 9,488,900
Total:	**$92,856,079**

Contingency:	10%
Escalation:	6%
Total SF:	160,000
Duration:	30 months



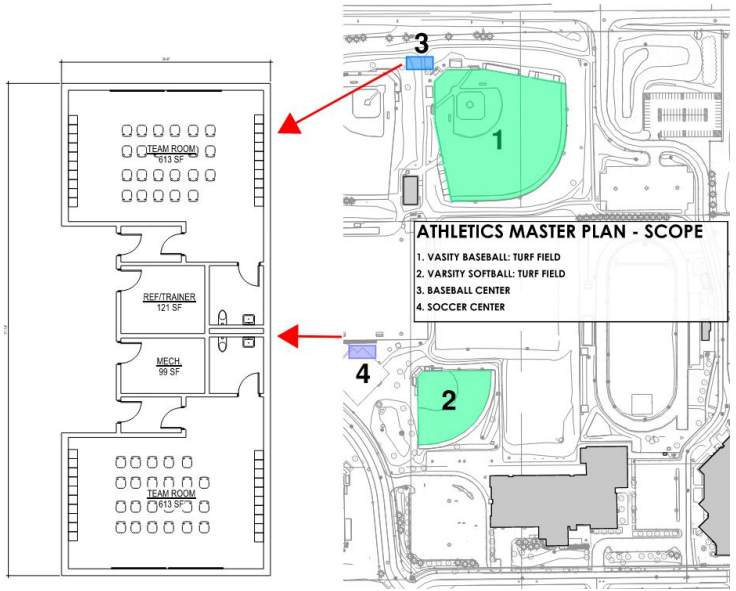


WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Potential Facility Projects - High School

Construction Budget:	$ 1,335,010
Contingency:	$ 219,479
Soft Costs:	$ 402,990
Total:	$ **1,957,479**

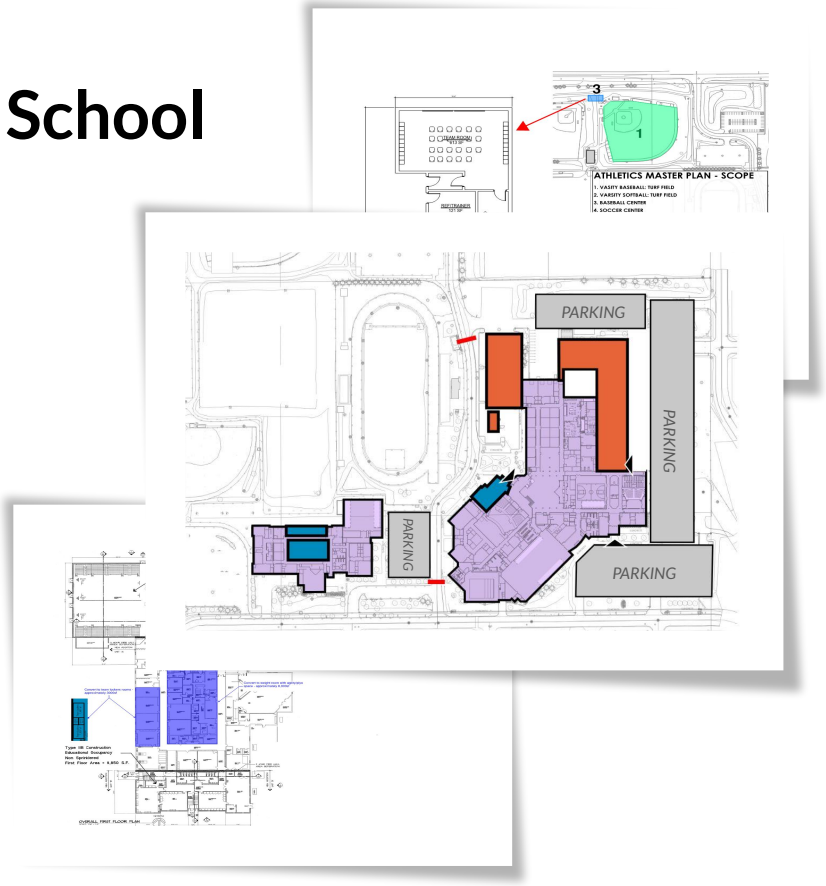
Contingency:	10%
Escalation:	6%
Total SF:	3,500sf
Duration:	6 months



Add Alternate 1: Turf at the Varsity Baseball and Softball Fields: **~$3.3mm**

Potential Facility Projects - High School

HIGH SCHOOL WORK	$ 92,856,079
WCSD SOUTH BUILDING	$ 4,559,314
ATHLETIC TEAM CENTERS	$ 1,957,479
Total:	**$ 99,372,872**
VARS. BASEBALL & SOFTBALL TURF	$ 3,307,898
Total:	**$ 102,680,770**

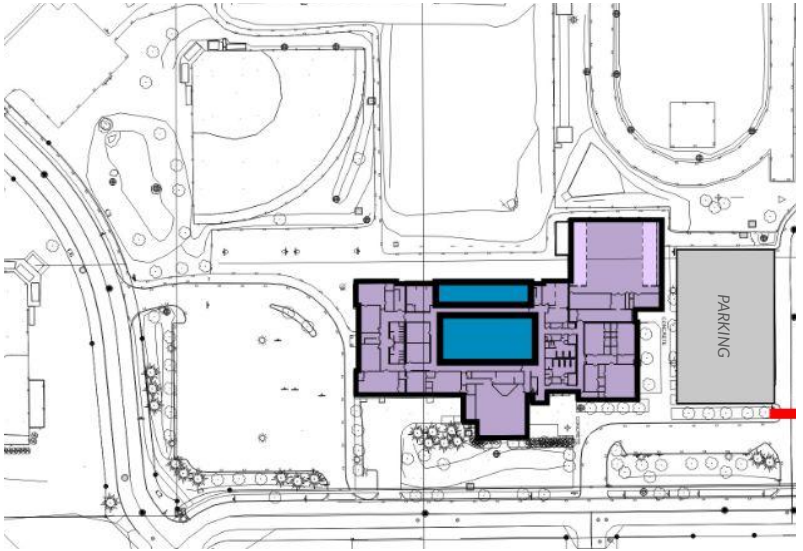


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Potential Facility Projects – South Building/Existing MS

Construction Budget:	$ 2,873,470
Contingency:	$ 621,774
Soft Costs:	$ 1,064,070
Total:	$ **4,559,314**

Contingency:	10%
Escalation:	6%
Total SF:	12,000
Duration:	6 months



**South Building budget includes locker room and weight room.*

Facility Plan Funding - Tax Impact



If both referendums are approved, the property tax mill rate would increase by a total of $0.43 (representing $43 per $100,000 of property value).

- Capital Referendum Impact
- Operational Referendum Impact
- Property Tax Mill Rate

WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Village of Waunakee Example Tax Bill - Comparing 2017 to 2025 Tax Bill

Tax Amounts for 2017 Tax Year

Jurisdiction	Amount
STATE OF WISCONSIN	$0.00
DANE COUNTY	$2,179.86
LOCAL	$4,242.65
WAUNAKEE SCHOOL DIST	$6,582.50
MADISON TECH COLLEGE	$653.28
Total Taxes:	$13,658.29

Assessed Land Value	Assessed Improvement Value	Total Assessed Value
$159,500.00	$467,800.00	$627,300.00

Tax Amounts for 2025 Tax Year

Jurisdiction	Amount
DANE COUNTY	$2,491.35
LOCAL	$4,317.59
WAUNAKEE SCHOOL DIST	$7,027.22
MADISON TECH COLLEGE	$597.08
Total Taxes:	$14,433.24

Assessed Land Value	Assessed Improvement Value	Total Assessed Value
$271,000.00	$725,800.00	$996,800.00

- 3.1% is the average rate of inflation between 2017 and 2025
- ≈ 0.82% per year is the average increase in the school property tax levy between 2017 and 2025
- Assessed value 37% - $627,300 to $996,800
- The property above is an example of new construction brought onto the tax rolls in 2017 at full value with no improvements since.

Questions?

Survey Due:
April 27, 2026

Results Shared at BOE Meeting:
May 11, 2026

Website:
www.waunakee.k12.wi.us

Email:
wcsd_communications@waunakee.k12.wi.us



How can we help you with the survey process?

- Chromebooks available.
- Additional codes for adults in your household.
- Translation available.



WAUNAKEE

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