Shawano School District
Facilities Project – Progress Report
How We Got Here and What Is Coming Up

How *did this current process start?*	The Shawano School District community has discussed, proposed, and implemented solutions concerning our school facilities for many years. With every discussion, the administration, staff, and community have responded with feedback supporting the goal of improving the Shawano School District and the Shawano area community. The district is in the financial position to take advantage of current debt retirement to address facility needs with little or no additional tax impact to the community. This makes it an ideal time to focus on improving our district's facilities. With a renewed focus on a comprehensive understanding of facility needs and educational goals, the district contacted and interviewed several firms to assist in identifying needs and exploring potential solutions. Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc. (Hoffman) was hired to assist the district in that process and promptly began in April 2023.
WHAT *was the process that brought us up to today?*	Hoffman completed an information gathering phase that included architects and engineers conducting several facility walk-throughs and studying our existing building drawings. Additionally, they gathered building user information from staff, students, and community with interviews and listening sessions. Hoffman also conducted educational adequacy reviews to determine how our schools respond to our educational needs. The identified needs were classified as either immediate—should be addressed in the next five years—or long-term—should be addressed in the next 5-20 years. Needs were identified in all buildings and all areas including the site, building infrastructure, and educational programs. Further information about each of these projects can be found by accessing the Facilities Assessment Report on the Shawano School District website. The district and Hoffman identified 14 potential solutions to address our needs with variations on some of those options. These options included a range of solutions, from addressing only immediate needs to addressing both immediate and more long-term planning needs. The needs of all facilities were considered in the planning process. The school board has played a key role in evaluating these options. A final option was selected to be included in the community survey for further resident feedback and review.
HOW *has the community been involved in this facilities project?*	The team from Hoffman engaged the community during five community events held in April and May of 2023. The following Community Listening Sessions Summary was created to capture the responses that were shared at more than two of the listening sessions. This was previously available on our district website. Every community member was also provided the opportunity to participate in a survey, administered by School Perceptions during the month of October. The School Perceptions - Community Survey Report was shared with the Shawano School Board on November 27, 2023.
WHAT *are the next steps related to the facilities project?*	The Shawano School District is continuing to work with Hoffman to finalize our plan. The following dates are important as the details of the project are being finalized: December 18th - Board Work Session to finalize direction January 8th - Regular Board Meeting - Approval of Resolution January 22nd - Referendum notices must be filed and noticed January 22nd - Referendum information campaign begins April 2nd - Spring Election and Referendum Vote After the plan for an April referendum has been finalized, we will begin a series of articles outlining more information on different aspects of the process and solution. Keep watch for additional information to come and check out the district's website at **www.shawanoschools.com**