Hoffman

Shawano Community School District – Fall Referendum Considerations

June 19, 2024

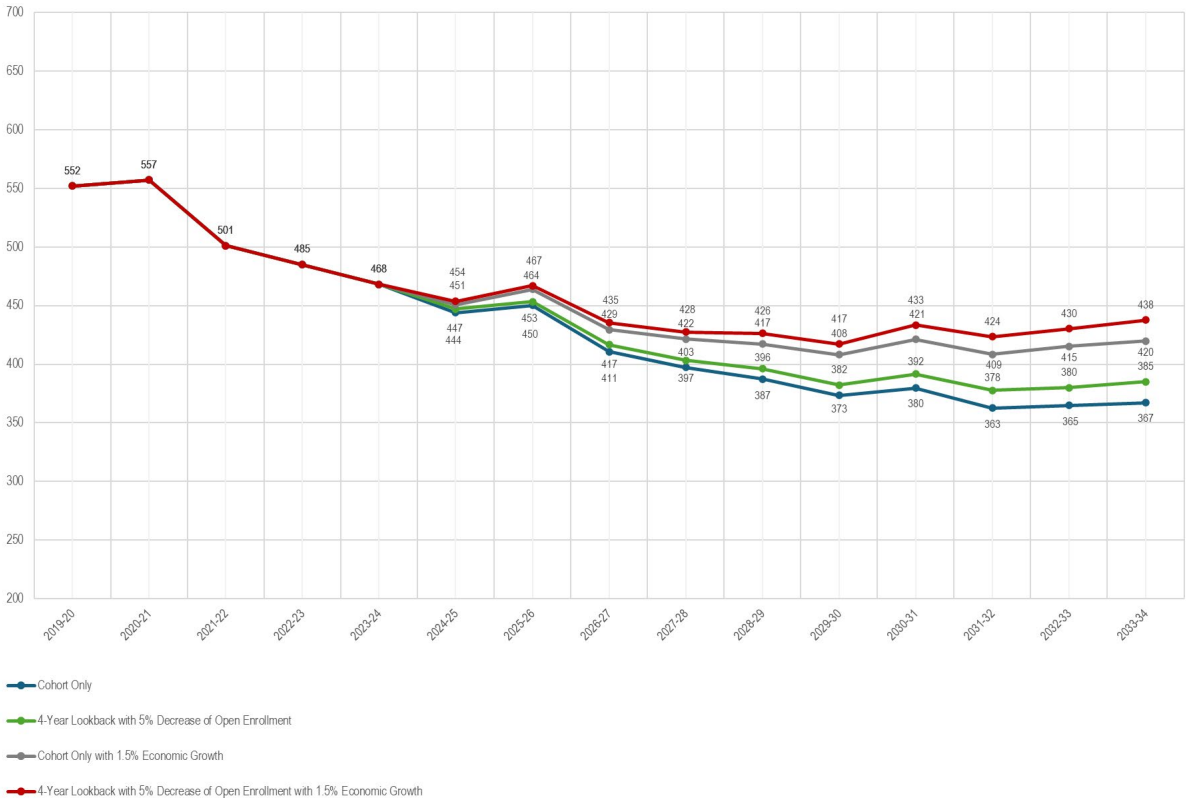
Shawano Middle School Recommendation

Building History

The building currently serving as Shawano Middle School was constructed in 1955 as Shawano High School. It continued to be used as the high school until the 1997-1998 school year. Small additions were constructed in 1961, 1968 and 1976. A 1967 addition almost doubled the size of the school. When the school transitioned from high school to middle school in 1997, roughly 20% of the building space was remodeled with minor updates to building systems. In 2016, roughly 15% of the building space was remodeled, but more significant updates were completed on the building systems. The middle school is currently the district's oldest facility.

Enrollment

Middle School Enrollment Projections



Enrollment is a significant factor in educational facility planning. The current enrollment at the middle school – 468 students – is projected to continue a decline based on current birthrate trends and open enrollment trends.

Based on the projections, the trend will slow and stabilize. The pace of the stabilization will depend on any economic growth seen in the community and the ability of the district to open enroll more students into the district than leave the district.

Hoffman

Shawano Community School District – Fall Referendum Considerations

June 19, 2024

Planning for the future of the middle school will be impacted by the understanding of enrollments. If trends continue, the building capacity needed for a middle school could be 6% to 10% smaller than current enrollment needs. This is a potential difference of $3M to $4M in construction cost reductions.

If remodeling of the existing middle school is considered, needless remodeling and renovation of space not necessary for projected enrollments can be avoided.

Maintenance

The projected update of the infrastructure – not including educational program needs – will be substantial in the next 10 to 15 years. We project $16M of maintenance items will need to be addressed. Some of the most critical needs would be addressed in a Fall 2024 referendum.

With the last major infrastructure update occurring in 2016, the district should consider the planned replacement of those updates in the 2036 to 2041 timeframe. The referendum amount in 2015 was $9.25M ($13.8M in current value).

Recommendation Statement

We recommend an immediate investment in critical maintenance needs to preserve the structural integrity of the middle school.

We recommend in 2031, the district and community further analyze options for the future of the middle school.

Enrollment is projected to stabilize in the timeframe of the recommendation. A better understanding of enrollment will allow the community to accurately plan and implement a solution for the middle school.

The age of the facility and systems will necessitate another major infrastructure investment in the middle school in the 2034-2039 timeframe. Maintenance and system replacement will reach a critical milestone.

A planned implementation of addressing the middle school issues at that time will allow the community to have flexibility without the constraints of short-term investments in repairs. As an example, items such as the roofs being implemented now will be nearing the end of their useful life.