Why are we not building a new Middle School or doing more work at the existing Middle School?

Feedback from our community survey conducted in October of 2023 did not show strong support for a project that would have us move from the current Middle School building to a new structure built adjacent to the existing Olga Brener Intermediate School.

As our community's oldest active school, the Middle School has both physical and educational environment needs that ultimately need to be addressed. The community indicated an interest in further discussion of how to successfully address those needs.

In contrast to the feedback on the Middle School, there was stronger support to address facility needs at our other three schools and sites. After careful consideration of the most critical needs and the information and feedback you provided through the community survey, the board of education has chosen to use a two-phase approach to address all facility needs.

Phase 1 - The community votes on April 2, 2024, on a $54,500,000 facility referendum to fully address all facilities except the Middle School and the pool. The board did include critical, immediate infrastructural needs at the Middle School and pool, but not complete replacement or renovation. The critical needs at the Middle School and pool to protect the building and extend its useful life include:

- Roofs, envelope repairs, electrical code issues
    - $2,233,654 total project budget

- Swimming Pool Repairs
    - $500,000 total project budget

Phase 2 – After April 2024, the District works towards resolving the needs at the Middle School and pool with the future goal of a separate referendum.

This two-phased approach allows the District to address critical needs throughout the District while remaining fiscally responsible. The $54,500,000 Phase 1 facility referendum has a $0 dollar impact on the mill rate. Because the District is retiring existing debt this year, the new debt WILL NOT raise the mill rate, but instead maintain the current rate of $6.85.

A second phase to the project will allow the District more time to determine—with the community—support for improving the existing Middle School and pool, or building a new Middle School.

The community survey results and corresponding board working sessions and community listening sessions can be found on the District website (Referendum 2024 | Shawano School District (shawanoschools.com) .