HISTORY OF THE 1988 WING

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

1988 - Foundation Filled - An addition of a new wing with a gymnasium and classrooms was completed. The foundation of new building was constructed on loose fill from 1956.

1989 - Settling Leads to Cracks - Heikki K. Elo Consulting Engineers investigated cracking in the foundation and walls and found that the soil settled unevenly over time. They installed expansion joints and concluded. However, the cracks continued to appear over time.

2016 - More Cracks Appear - Parette Somjen Architects (PSA) implemented a crack monitoring program and found that the cracks appeared to have “minor to no movement.” The monitored cracks were repaired. However, cracking continued to appear over time.

2023 - **Additional Professional Investigations** - Stillwater School sought additional professional opinions and hired ENV Architects and Sor Engineers to further investigate the cracking. The investigation included soil boring tests and test pits. Both firms concluded that, “the existing fill does not appear to have been placed and compacted in a controlled manner and has settled unevenly, causing distress to the addition which is appearing as cracks in the walls and floors.”

Most importantly, both architectural firms in 2016 (PSA) and 2023 (ENV) provided professional opinions that the 1988 addition was deemed safe and there were no imminent concerns. However, many things could have a significant impact and accelerate the issues being experienced. This includes but is not limited to excessive rain fall, snow and other environmental conditions. The professionals recommend addressing the issue immediately.

Spring 2026 - The Stillwater Board of Education (BOE) approved its architects of record, Parette Somjen Architects (PSA), to design a solution that will stabilize, repair and renovate the 1988 issues identified.

The BOE authorized PSA to conduct further investigations and collaborate with French & Parrello Associates (FPA) for additional geotechnical engineering services. The research found the soil below the foundation to be “loose to very loose.” This investigation aligns with the investigation done by SOR in 2023.

FPA and PSA recommend stabilization is required to prevent further settlement and greater issues by installing compaction grouting around the exterior and interior perimeter of the gym walls. See presentation for specifics.

December 8, 2026 - **Referendum Vote** - Since the school district cannot afford to fund these improvements through our annual budget, a referendum is needed and has the additional benefit of $1.3 in debt service aid from the State and an ability to pay for this over 20 years. If the referendum passes, Stillwater will receive $1,349,335 in state debt service aid—covering .34 cents of every dollar spent and over a third of the total project costs.

June 2027 - Projected stabilization construction will begin.

REFERENDUM WEBSITE