SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MENOMONEE FALLS

2026 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY & FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL FUNDING DEFICITS, POTENTIAL REFERENDUM PROPOSALS, BUDGET PRIORITIES, & FACILITY UPDATES

October 2026

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
MENOMONEE FALLS
COMMUNITY SURVEY

DISTRICT FACES $8M DEFICIT BY 2031 DUE TO REVENUE LIMITS & UNFUNDED MANDATES

$8 MILLION

PROJECTED DEFICIT BY 2031

- *14% of current operating budget*
- *Cash reserves will be depleted if unresolved*

$13 MILLION

REVENUE LIMIT INFLATION LAG

- *State revenue caps stopped adjusting for inflation in 2009 ($3,571 gap/student)*
- *If state revenue adjustments had kept pace with inflation, SDMF would be receiving $13M more/year.*

$5 MILLION

SPECIAL EDUCATION GAP

- *9% of operating budget is redirected annually to fulfill mandated, yet unfunded, special education services*

FOUR PRIMARY OPERATIONAL DRIVERS ACCELERATING REVENUE DEFICITS

1. STATE REVENUE LIMITS & INFLATION GAP

State caps on state aid & local taxes stopped indexing for inflation in 2009, creating an annual $13M gap for Menomonee Falls

2. UNFUNDED SPECIAL EDUCATION MANDATE

Special education services are under-reimbursed by the state, forcing the District to redirect $5M (9% of budget) from regular education.

3. STAFF COMPENSATION COMPETITIVENESS

Starting teacher salaries & support staff wages lag behind almost every school district in Waukesha County.

4. STUDENT ENROLLMENT DECLINE

District serves 620 fewer students than in 2019. Lower student membership directly reduces state funding allocations.

HISTORY OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

$5 MILLION

IN CUTS SINCE 2023-2024

Over just the past four years, the District has reduced more than $5 million of expenses by reducing staff positions, benefits, and other expenses in order to balance the budget each year.

The District has a long-standing history of balanced budgets and fiscally responsible budgeting practices.

THREE POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM OPTIONS UNDER COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION

OPTION 1

$7.3M PER YEAR

- *Maintains most academic programs & student services*
- *Improves staff pay to stay competitive in Waukesha County*

TAX IMPACT: ~$110/year per $100,000 property value

OPTION 2

$6.2M PER YEAR

- *Maintains most academic programs & student services*
- *Maintains current employee compensation levels*

TAX IMPACT: ~$93/year per $100,000 property value

OPTION 3

$5.2M PER YEAR

- *Requires cutting an additional ~$1M next year from staffing & programs*

TAX IMPACT: ~$78/year per $100,000 property value

COMMUNITY SURVEY GATHERS INPUT ON POTENTIAL BUDGET CUT PRIORITIES



STAFFING & CLASSROOMS

- *Reduce district office staff*
- *Increase class size by cutting teaching staff*
- *Reduce student support services (counseling, mental health)*



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- *Reduce elementary specials (art, music, PE)*
- *Reduce middle/high school athletics & extracurriculars*
- *Reduce course offerings (foreign language, shop, art)*



OPERATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE

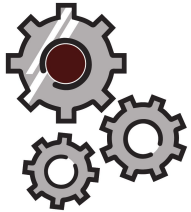
- *Delay updating technology (servers, Wi-Fi, computers)*
- *Reduce routine building maintenance (roofs, HVAC)*
- *Delay updating curriculum materials & textbooks*

PROPOSED $15M CAPITAL REFERENDUM ADDRESSES URGENT FACILITY NEEDS



SAFETY & SECURITY

Reconfigure drop-offs at Riverside & Valley View, replace doors, & expand security camera coverage



INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Repair plumbing, HVAC, electrical, roofs, parking lots & shop area ventilation



ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

ADA access upgrades at Riverside Elementary & playground safety improvements

PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPACT

$15M

TAX IMPACT: ~$10/year per $100,000 property value

ASSUMED REPAYMENT PERIOD: 5-year bond structure

Note: Community Center funds (Fund 80) are legally restricted from school operations. Fund 80 dollars are those that built the Community Center expansion.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TIMELINE & DECISION MILESTONES

STEP 1

FALL 2026

FACILITY STUDY

- *Outside partner conducts comprehensive building assessment*

STEP 2

OCT/NOV 2026

COMMUNITY SURVEY

- *Resident feedback collected via online portal & paper forms*

STEP 3

DEC-APRIL 2027

POTENTIAL REFERENDUMS

- *School Board reviews feedback & determines ballot proposals*

STEP 4

SPRING-FALL '27

FACILITY PLANNING

- *Ongoing community discussions for long-term facility planning*

THANK YOU