



Referendum FAQs

Serving You Today and Tomorrow

The three referendum questions that will be on the April 4, 2017 ballot are the result of two years of gathering feedback from the community, staff, and parents. The District strives for continuous improvement and finding ways to better serve the needs of students with the ultimate goal of college and career readiness. With students and the community in mind, the referendum questions seek to broaden the District's ability to serve students and the community today and tomorrow while addressing aging facilities and safety.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is a new middle school needed?

A. The original section of Karcher, built in 1924, is in need of substantial repair. The building needs replacement of the heating, ventilation, and other mechanical and structural systems. Worn flooring, ceilings, doors, and windows need replacement. A new building will increase energy efficiency and improve security. Merging two schools could give more students access to academic and extracurricular opportunities.

Q. Why are District-wide infrastructure projects needed?

A. Waller, Cooper, and Dyer were built in the late 1950s and 1960s which makes them close to 60 years old and in need of significant maintenance upgrades. At 17 years old, even the “newer” buildings have maintenance needs. Secure entrances and better lighting will improve safety and security.

Q. Why combine fifth through eighth grades?

A. Combining grades 5-8 in one building and having the Montessori program in one location gives students continuity of program, increases student affiliation with the school and its staff, and offers a more personalized learning experience.

Q. Why are five elementary schools needed?

A. Converting Dyer into a fifth elementary school accommodates space needs and means no schools will be closed. The District needs to rebalance the number of students versus building capacity - even with declining enrollment. Overcrowding at Cooper and Waller has placed vital instructional services in storage closets and former locker rooms.

Q. What is the benefit for having the Montessori program in one location?

A. Having the Montessori program in one location facilitates the program’s fluid curriculum. Burlington offers the only public school Montessori option in the area for the same cost as traditional classrooms.

REFERENDUM WEBSITE:

www.basd.k12.wi.us/referendum2017.cfm

Q. Why is more athletic space needed?

A. Accommodating approximately 1000 events annually creates logistical challenges. More gym space would reduce this strain. The wrestling and gymnastic teams don't have adequate space. To keep facilities open to the growing youth programs in the community, along with school programs, there needs to be more space available at reasonable times.

Q. What does the athletic proposal include?

A. This adds a three-station auxiliary gym to accommodate the growing number of school and community events, dedicated space for wrestling and gymnastics programs, a weight room and training room for all athletes, locker rooms and coaches' offices.

Q. Why is a new performing arts center needed?

A. The current auditorium was designed as large group instruction and has limitations when accommodating performance-based programs. There is no space for designing scenery and storage. Many performances sell out or are standing room only. The District could expand its partnerships with community groups and host a greater variety of events.

Q. What does the performing arts center include?

A. It includes an expanded stage, orchestra pit, and 750-seat theater. It provides the backstage spaces that are not currently available such as room for set design, dressing rooms, and storage. It includes guest amenities such as concessions, ticket office, and toilet rooms.

Question 1 – \$68,300,000 for the construction and equipping of a new middle school on the Karcher Middle School site; and district-wide building and infrastructure improvements

Question 2 - \$11,700,000 for the construction and equipping of an additional gymnasium and athletic space at the High School

Question 3 - \$14,400,000 for construction and equipping of a new performing arts center

Questions about the referendum? Use the *“Facilities Referendum Question or Comment”* link on the District's referendum webpage - www.basd.k12.wi.us/referendum2017.cfm.

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Q. What are the other benefits?

A. A quality school district strengthens the community. For one, better serving the needs of students better prepares them for their future. Further, the entire community benefits from use of District buildings.

Q. Why is now the time for investment?

A. With the completion of the last 20-year facilities plan, now is the time to look toward the future. Students and schools are performing well, but the buildings need investment. The two-year facility planning process identified what is included in these referendum questions as long-term solutions for students and taxpayers.

Q. What is the tax impact?

A. According to the District's financial advisor, R.W. Baird, approving Question 1 would add \$1.23 per \$1000 of home value, Question 2 would add .39 per \$1000 of home value, and Question 3 would add .47 per \$1000 home value. Approving all three would add \$2.09 per \$1000 home value. Tax impacts represent an increase over what taxpayers are paying now for District debt payments. **Use Tax calculator on website to calculate the impact on your home.**

Q. What if this referendum fails?

A. We don't have the option of doing nothing. If this referendum doesn't pass, the school board will need to identify different solutions to address facility needs. Waiting to address the facility needs may cost the District more in the long run due to the potential for interest rate increases and inflation on building costs.