

BULLDOG BARK



January 2021

Board Approves Two Referendum Questions

As you may know, our middle/high school facility is in urgent need of repair and renovation. The facility issues at the middle/high school date back to 2003, and several unsuccessful attempts were made to build a new building. As each year passes, staff and students are faced with heating, cooling, space, and electrical issues, just to name a few, at the existing building. It has become imperative that we find a solution.

On January 18, the Board of Education adopted two resolutions which now start the ball rolling toward **two capital referendum questions** on the April 6, 2021 ballot. (As a reminder, capital referendums ask voters to vote yes or no, and voting yes means the district may borrow the money and complete the projects as described by the referendum question.)

The referendum questions on the April 6 ballot request:

Question 1: \$33.2 million to expand and fully renovate the existing Peshtigo Middle/High School to support the school district's educational program needs for students in grades 6 through 12, and address the aging and failing infrastructure, systems, materials, and finishes.

Question 2: \$1.825 million to develop the property located west of the Peshtigo Elementary School to support district physical education, athletics and extra-curricular needs as well as provide green space for community use.

The Board of Education, working with architects and staff of Performance Services Inc (PSI), a design-build firm; Chad Sodini, Peshtigo Middle/ High School Principal; Patrick Rau, District Administrator; and a Facilities Advisory Committee made up of 29 people have spent hundreds of hours collecting feedback, considering six possible building scenarios, and analyzing this renovation/addition plan in depth.

The Board of Education decision was based upon three critical factors:

- Educational opportunities for students;
- Fiscal responsibility for the District and the taxpayers;
- Accommodating necessary day-to-day operations of the school

If you would like to learn more about the plan, please visit our website at www.peshtigo.k12.us. In the next several days and weeks, we will continue to update our site, mail information to all community members and host informational sessions. Please become and stay fully informed about this important issue facing the Peshtigo School District!



Peshtigo's CONNECT/ RECONNECT:

We were proud to be invited to participate in the CONNECT events of last fall and the RECONNECT opportunity this fall.

We learn so much when we hear from you! We are inspired by the passion and commitment to youth and our region.

Our Connections to Each Other:

The Marinette Area Higher Education Coalition is a collaborative effort between the Marinette Campuses of NWTC and UW-Green Bay. Combining our resources means that individuals in our area can earn a certificate, technical diploma, associate degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree locally. Together we offer an engaging and rewarding college experience.

- Diverse, accredited programs taught by highly qualified faculty with real-world experience
- Small class sizes, a dynamic learning environment, research opportunities, and flexible scheduling
- Seamless transfer of credits
- Individualized attention on application, financial aid, advising, and student support
- Student life opportunities across both campuses
- Education that prepares students for careers of the future

NWTC & UW-Green Bay Connections to Peshtigo School District:

Both campuses have worked with Peshtigo School District students for years. We provide college credit opportunities to students who are still in high school. In addition, many students have started and finished their higher education journey with one of our local campuses. We are proud of all the alumni now working in the Peshtigo region. Welding, business, nursing, engineering, writing—whatever your educational dreams are, reach out to us. High-quality, affordable higher education options are right here in Marinette. Come check us out!

nwtc.edu/coalition & uwgb.edu/coalition

How to Help Your Child Cope With COVID-19

It is very important to remember that teenagers look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. The following tips can help.

Stay Calm, Listen, and Offer Reassurance

- Be a role model
- Be aware of how you talk about COVID
- Explain social distancing
- Demonstrate deep breathing
- Focus on the positive things
- Establish and maintain a daily routine
- Identify projects that might help others
- Offer lots of love and affection

Monitor television view and social media: Engage in other, meaningful activities

Take time to talk: Let your child's questions guide you. Answer their questions truthfully without offering unnecessary details or facts

Stay connected with school: Monitor school work online. Identify additional resources. Stay in touch. Connect with school staff

Be Aware of your Teen's Mental Health

Parents and caregivers should contact a professional if kids exhibit significant changes in behavior or any of the following symptoms for more than two weeks.

Middle school—irritability, aggressiveness, clinginess, nightmares, school avoidance, poor concentration, and withdrawal from activities and friends.

Adolescents—sleeping and eating disturbances, agitation, increase in conflicts, physical complaints, delinquent behavior, and poor concentration

Please contact a school guidance counselor with any questions or concerns.
PMHS: newberrym@peshtigo.k12.wi.us
matykowski@peshtigo.k12.wi.us
PELC: seidlerk@peshtigo.k12.wi.us
Psychologist: cooka@peshtigo.k12.wi.us

Peshtigo School Board Member Spotlight: Finance, Personnel, and Negotiations Committee

Rebecca DeMarce



Rebecca DeMarce has served on the Peshtigo School Board for three years. She ran to serve the community. Rebecca describes her first term as having some challenges and many blessings! Returning to school this year was tough but she's really glad we're still in session. Blessings of her role include attending senior breakfasts and presenting her son with his diploma! Rebecca loved participating in CONNECT and having the whole community create wishes and goals for our school district. Transparency is very important to her! Finding a decision that most community members support is a top priority for Mrs. DeMarce. "Seeing happy staff, students, and parents makes all of the work of the School Board worth it!"

Mariel Carter



Mariel Carter is in her second year on the Peshtigo School Board and the first year as President. "When our children succeed in school, our entire community benefits!"

She adds that the teachers and staff care for her children in elementary school on a daily basis and she wanted to join the educational community and help shape the goals and direction of our district. Everyone plays a role and all of the roles we play lead to success. Mariel says that she loves to see everyone make education a priority. She is pleased that all of our board members listen to the thoughts and perspectives of each other to make tough decisions. "We can disagree but still work together for the greater good!"

Gary Larsen



This is Gary's sixteenth year of serving on the Peshtigo School Board! He joined when his sons were in elementary school and he saw "some classes were being taught in closets!" He was urged to join a referendum and facility needs committee and he has found serving rewarding ever since. One of his most rewarding experiences has been passing out diplomas and senior awards to students he has seen go all the way from kindergarten to graduation, including both of his sons! Giving the commencement speech was also very memorable. His goal is always to do what's best for all our students, which includes addressing the facilities they are being instructed in. Gary would like to thank everyone for being allowed to serve and for their support!