



For Immediate Release

Peshtigo Board of Education Approves November 2022 Referendum Resolution

August 26, 2022

The Peshtigo School District Board of Education will ask voters to approve a \$39.95 million facility referendum proposal to remodel the Peshtigo High School/Peshtigo Middle School building at the November 8 general election. The Board unanimously approved the proposal at its August 17 meeting.

"This plan would allow the district to address long-standing facility needs at the middle/high school building that have been identified by the community as a top priority," said Superintendent Patrick Rau, adding that the Board considered feedback from the community before approving the proposal.

Specifically, results from a spring 2022 community-wide survey identified that 93% of respondents would support a referendum.

"The survey was intended to learn what, if anything, the community would support when we placed a building referendum on the ballot," said Rau. "It was great to see that the respondents supported a referendum and to learn exactly what aspects of the plan received the most support. We worked collaboratively with PSI's team to present a plan that best represents the feedback we gathered. That is a very important part of this work."

In Wisconsin, the only way a school district can proceed with a major capital project is to seek voter approval to borrow the money to do so. This is called a capital referendum.

The District has been studying ways to address the facility needs at the high school/middle school building for some time. Previous referendum proposals to remodel the facility or construct a new building have not been successful.

Rau noted that construction of a new facility would cost \$11 million more than the District is legally allowed to borrow. The District used responses to the survey to understand community priorities for the facility and incorporated them into the current referendum plan.

If approved, the proposal is expected to have an annual tax impact of \$65 per \$100,000 of property value, less than the maximum tax impact (\$85 per \$100,000 of property value) supported by the majority of survey respondents.

The District has been working with the firm PSI (Performance Services, Inc) to analyze the building's needs.

"The Board did its due diligence when it selected PSI as its design/build firm. We used a competitive bid process, and the proposals of qualified firms were reviewed in open Board of Education meetings. We interviewed six qualified firms before selecting PSI," said Rau.

A 2020 facilities study was conducted by PSI's team of architects and engineers to determine the facility's needs. The study included an extensive review of the building infrastructure and systems. Working with Rau and Chad Sodini, Peshtigo Middle/High School principal, PSI also conducted an in-depth evaluation of the educational programming needs of the students.

"We have studied the various aspects of this project to ensure we can deliver what the community wants and the students need," said Rau. "PSI has been very thorough in all its processes. All the plans that the architects have proposed address both the infrastructure, as well as the educational spaces' need for school programs as identified by the Board of Education, administration, and the facilities study."

If approved, the referendum plan calls for repairs and renovations throughout the entire high school/middle school building. Highlights include:

- Repairing/replacing major building mechanical systems such as heating and cooling, plumbing, lighting, doors and windows;
- Construction of a new four-classroom addition to provide for enrollment;
- Safety and security improvements;
- Updating spaces for career and college preparation such as technical education, life skills, art, and music;
- Addition of a gymnasium;
- Providing a modernized facility with updated finishes in all classrooms including new flooring, lighting, cabinetry, etc.;
- Repairing and expanding areas such as labs and locker rooms, adding natural light where possible.

The District will be holding information sessions about the referendum proposal in coming weeks. For more information, visit the [District website](#).