



FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

N4021 County Road E • Freedom WI 54130-7593
Phone: 920-788-7944 • Fax: 920-788-7949 • www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us
Dr. Jill Mussett - District Administrator Mrs. Maggie Gagnon - Director of Business Services
Mrs. Sara Hechel - Director of Special Education

Freedom Area School District to Place Referendum Question on April Ballot

FREEDOM, WI – On January 15, 2024, the Freedom Area School District's Board of Education approved a referendum resolution, which is the official action taken to place a capital referendum question on the April 2, 2024, ballot.

The question will ask voters to invest up to \$62,500,000 for facility improvements at the middle-high school, which if approved, will result in an estimated annual tax impact of \$177 per \$100,000 of fair market property value.

The proposed solution will address the district's most pressing needs at the middle-high school (noted below) and create space at the elementary:

- **Tech Ed, Music Ed & Cafeteria Addition**
- **Classroom & Lab Updates**
- **Building Systems & Infrastructure**
- **Move Fifth Grade to Middle School**

In 2022, the district re-engaged in a facilities master planning process, hiring new design and construction partners, C.D. Smith and Bray Architects. In 2023, the district began re-exploring potential options and solutions, engaging staff and the community throughout planning. Engagement included an all-staff survey, staff listening sessions, multiple community engagement meetings, and a community-wide survey that was conducted in October/November.

Fifty-seven percent of community survey respondents replied that they would support a \$62.5 million referendum. This referendum total is the sum of the surveyed base plan (\$49.8 million) and the cafeteria/kitchen and fitness project (\$12.7 million), which was the highest ranked priority by respondents.

The Board of Education's decision was guided by the feedback received throughout this master planning and community engagement process, with the question appearing on the April 2 ballot reflecting a solution that the board believes aligns with not only the educational and facility needs of the district, but also the priorities of the community.

"Excellence Is Not Only Our Goal, It Is Our Tradition"

Freedom Elementary School
Principal: Mrs. Tammy Lipsey
Assoc. Principal: Mrs. Dana Osowski

Freedom Middle School
Principal: Dr. Gereon Methner
Assoc. Principal 6-12: Mrs. Alesha Dobbe

Freedom High School
Principal: Mr. Kurt Erickson
K-12 Ath/Act Dir.: Mr. Jay Finster



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Superintendent Dr. Jill Mussett said, "In the upcoming months, the District will focus on providing a comprehensive informational campaign to offer every voter the opportunity to have the information they need prior to the vote on April 2nd. In February and March, there will be community information sessions, coupled with tours of our current facilities, offered to help voters understand the positive impact that the referendum project would have on our students, teachers, and community."

An informational flyer outlining the question and proposed solution will be mailed to all district residents in February. In addition, three informational meetings will be held for interested parents and community members on February 28, March 5, and March 21.

More information will be available on the district's website at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/referendum. Questions can be emailed to referendum@freedomschools.k12.wi.us or directed to the District Office at 920-788-7944.

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