



Updated as of 3/9/21

School District of Bonduel

Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the District going to referendum at this time?

In the summer of 2020, the District hired Blue Design Group Architects and Miron Construction to assess the District's buildings and grounds. Blue Design evaluated the condition of building systems, exteriors, classroom adequacy, athletic facilities, ADA accessibility, and capacity. Based on this work, projects at the Elementary, Junior High and High School were identified.

The School Board wanted to develop a plan with three main goals:

- the plan aligns with the District's strategic vision of high quality and safe educational facilities for all student
- the plan is fiscally responsibility to our tax payers
- the plan proactively addresses current and future facilities needs.

Results from the community online survey showed that 75% of respondents would support the referendum plan. Finally, with the previous debt being retired by the 2024-25 school year, the district has a window of opportunity to add secure entrances, improve air quality/HVAC, update original 1950's classrooms, improve efficiencies, and add parking with a minimal tax increase of up to \$0.16. Historically low interest rates also provide a unique opportunity to invest in our schools.

2. Why do we need more gym space?

The referendum plan includes a two-station gym addition. The gym will have seating for up to 1,000 fans, locker rooms on the main floor for volleyball and basketball teams, new restrooms and an official's room. The existing Junior High Gym does not have enough seating capacity for gym events such as wrestling, girls/boys basketball, and volleyball.

Additional gym space allows more flexibility for junior high and high school class schedules and can benefit all students. A larger gym will be safer: in the existing gym, the side baskets are too close to the walls for safe stopping from the side hoops.

The new gym addition space will be used for many purposes, including:

- Physical education classes
- Academic programming, such as standardized testing, career days, assemblies or all-school events
- Cheer, dance and Junior High wrestling
- Youth volleyball and basketball league practices
- Larger events - musicals, graduation, Veterans Day ceremony, elementary musicals, concerts, and plays.
- Bonduel sports team and youth practices.
- Wrestling Regional and Sectional competitions – instead of renting the Shawano High School Gym
- Elementary music performances all in one facility
- Community Fitness Center programs that require gym usage on the main floor
- Multiple events on one night such as MS, JV1, JV2, and Varsity competitions.
- State-of-the-art sound and video equipment for live streaming sports and school events.
- Open gyms for off-season sports - baseball, softball, basketball, track and field, volleyball, golf, and hockey.

The additional space will help to reduce scheduling conflicts that can result in practices being scheduled very early in the morning or late at night. Having earlier start times for practices means students can get home earlier. Athletes will benefit from having the locker rooms on the main level, so they don't have to go back and forth between the lower and main levels to get to the gym. These are just some of the ways the gym addition will positively impact Bonduel students and the community.

3. How will the parking work with the layout of the gym addition?

The site layout of our campus does present some challenges. The proposed plan adds parking spaces and orients the gym close to the cafeteria and Sousa Hall so that those two spaces and the cafeteria can work together for large events. That leaves either the far north or south ends of the site as areas suitable for adding more parking. Adding parking on the south side of the building would force the relocation of existing practice fields and playground which would come at an even greater expense. Therefore, constructing the new parking on the north side of the building is the most cost effective and works best with existing on-site circulation.

4. What is the timeline for construction if the referendum passes?

If the community approves the \$12.5 million referendum on April 6, design planning would begin immediately and continue through the Fall of 2021. Bidding is targeted for October 2021.

Construction would take place in three general phases:

- Phase 1—Addition—Nov. 2021-Aug. 2022
- Phase 2—Renovation—June 2022-Aug. 2022
- Phase 3—Renovation—June 2023-Aug. 2023

Development of design documents for the purpose of soliciting actual construction bids will not begin until after a successful referendum. If the referendum is approved by the community, all work be competitively bid out in Fall 2021.

5. What work is being done in the original 1952 and 1956 high school classrooms?

Over the years, very few improvements have been made to the classrooms within the 1952 and 1956 portions of the building. Within the interior of those classrooms, are now roughly 65 years or older, we plan to replace floor tile, ceiling tile, paint walls, replace cabinetry, add more power receptacles, improve lighting, replace mechanical units and add air conditioning, and replace doors, frames, and hardware.

Exterior improvements to those portions of the building include replacement of window units, replacement of doors and frames at entry points, and replacement of fascia and soffits. All exterior work will be done with the goal of creating the appearance of one unified building with one unified design theme throughout.

6. Will the new gym addition be the “main” gym?

Yes. The existing gymnasium will be remodeled and converted for use by middle school students. The current junior high gym will then be used as an auxiliary gym or large group meeting space. The existing high school gym will become the junior high gym, and the existing junior high gym will become the auxiliary gym. Improvements are planned for the existing gym, including refinishing the hardwood floor, painting all walls, and replacing scoreboards, basketball goals, and ceiling fans.

7. What is the tax impact, planning interest rate, and duration of the financing?

Our financial advisor, R.W. Baird, is using a conservative estimated interest rate of 3.50%. The loan would be amortized over 21 years. The estimated school property tax increase is \$16.00 on a home valued at \$100,000.

Referendum Amount: \$12.5 million Estimated School Property Tax Increase		
Fair Market Property Value	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase
\$100,000	\$16.00	\$1.33
\$150,000	\$24.00	\$2.00
\$200,000	\$32.00	\$2.66

Mill rate for the debt portion of school levy is based on 2020 Equalized Valuation with 0% annual growth. Note: Planning estimates only, provided by RW Baird. Significant changes in market conditions will require adjustments to current financing plan.