



January 29, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, please contact:  
Dr. Mark Elworthy, Superintendent, St. Francis School District

**St. Francis, WI** - The St. Francis School District School Board has unanimously approved resolutions for two referendums: An operational referendum for four (4) years and a capital referendum for school facility improvements at each District school. The operational referendum is for four (4) years at \$800,000 a year to address operational deficits. The capital referendum is a \$30.6 million referendum focusing on:

- Renovations and additions at Willow Glen Primary and Deer Creek Intermediate School campuses
- District-wide capital maintenance and building improvements
- Safety, security and accessibility updates District-wide
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) area additions and renovations at all schools
- Upgrades to the Recreation Building
- High School theater upgrades
- High School athletic facility upgrades and improvements

This referendum is the result of a facility planning process that included listening and gathering feedback throughout the past year. A District-wide assessment was conducted to evaluate the condition of each school; needs were identified, categorized and prioritized; multiple community input sessions were held; multiple surveys and polls of all stakeholders were conducted.

Together, with our architectural and construction partners, over 40 options were considered, studied, vetted and ultimately culled based on associated tax-impact and feasibility.

Chris Finch, St. Francis School Board President, stated, "I've been impressed by the transparency and thorough nature of the facilities planning process, and feel that all potential options were considered in order to resolve the District's short and long-term needs."

To ensure all referendum information is communicated in a timely fashion, the District and Board have outlined a communications plan to engage and inform all community members. Included in the plan are videos, community presentations and engagement sessions, social media and website updates, and direct-mail pieces. The first in a series of flyers was mailed to residents the week of January 18.

“We are committed to providing the community with all of the information needed and opportunities to ask questions, in order to make an informed decision on April 6th. Working through all potential options and coming to the approved resolution has been not taken lightly; we look forward to continued community conversations throughout the upcoming months as we approach voting day,” stated Superintendent, Dr. Mark Elworthy.

The District has scheduled Community Engagement Sessions, District Showcase Meetings, and presentations with local organizations and groups. Details and Zoom links to these virtual meetings are provided on the District’s website: <https://bit.ly/SFSDcomms>.

For more information, please see the District website:

[www.stfrancisschools.org/district/referendum2021.cfm](http://www.stfrancisschools.org/district/referendum2021.cfm), or please contact Dr. Mark Elworthy directly at [melwort@sfsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:melwort@sfsd.k12.wi.us) or (414) 747-3910.

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