



PAID FOR BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTHWESTERN.

## Why now?

- Interest rates are very favorable and are projected to increase in future years.
- Based on projected construction inflation, in 3 years the cost of these projects could increase by approximately \$1,500,000.
- District needs outweigh what the budget will allow for upgrades.
- With the Act 32 upgrades that will take place in the summer of 2017, a referendum now eliminates the need for future changes and overlapping projects.
- One location for middle school and high school will allow more efficient utilization of staff, increasing course options.

Proposed architectural drawing of the high school.



## ACT 32

Wisconsin school districts have had an increasingly difficult task in maintaining their school buildings and facilities since the inception of revenue limits in 1993. Over the years, a variety of exemptions have been enacted in order to address inequities and/or significant and pressing problems. Act 32 is a state program that allows districts to increase their mill rate for energy savings and limited safety upgrades. Southwestern School Board approved a \$5,500,000 loan for necessary upgrades.

### Energy efficiency upgrades to be completed under ACT 32

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- adding secure vestibules at doorways
- new fire alarm systems
- roofing upgrades/repairs
- drop ceiling and LED lighting in classrooms
- insulation, boilers, water heaters, and air handlers

- new unit ventilators/air conditioning in classrooms

#### HIGH SCHOOL

- adding vestibules at doorways
- new fire alarm systems
- roofing upgrades/repairs
- structure damage repairs including foundation

- air conditioning in classrooms

- insulation, boilers, water heaters, and air handlers

#### PHASE 3

- upgrade heating units and air handlers/air conditioning in classrooms
- new roof

## What happens if the referendum does not pass?

The safety and educational needs of our students does not change. The district would need to find ways within the budget and current facilities to meet these needs or look at going for another referendum in the future. The district would need to look at the current programs and grade configurations in order to meet the safety and educational goals. The last thing we want to do is to make cuts or reduce expenses resulting in a negative impact on the education of our students. Questions and tours are encouraged.

CONTACT SWSD SUPERINTENDENT, JOHN COSTELLO, AT 608.854.2261 X310 OR COSTELLOJ@SWSD.K12.WI.US

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT SWSD.K12.WI.US

## SOUTHWESTERN

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS



## SCHOOL DISTRICT

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

## How we got here...

Over a year ago, the administration and the school board began the process of evaluating district facilities in order to prepare long-term solutions to address issues the district is facing. Through this process, Act 32 was utilized to address energy projects for guaranteed energy savings on utility bills. Then in October of 2016, after securing funds for Act 32 projects, the district formed a community engagement committee to look at long-term solutions that Act 32 would not address. This committee consisted of 36 diverse district residents who worked collaboratively to make suggestions of improvements the community would want for the school district. The committee pledged to work closely with the school board to do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of our students is the first priority. They also stressed the importance of meeting the diverse needs of our students and that all aspects of the education we are providing is competitive in our area and the entire state.



Committee members met several times over a 2-month period, totaling over 500 hours of collaboration.



Committee presented a list of 10 priorities to the school board (listed below).



With the community recommendation, the school board voted 7-0 to go for a referendum.

### Community Priorities

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • <b>Secure Entries, Increase Curb Appeal</b>  | • Community Space                    |
| • <b>New Science Labs</b>                      | • Rearrange Athletic Fields/Track    |
| • <b>Auditorium/ Gymnasium</b>                 | • Distinct Campus Entry with Signage |
| • <b>Improvements to Band/Choir Facilities</b> | • More Parking                       |
| • <b>Attach Phase 3 Building</b>               | • Extra Commons Space                |

## PLEASE JOIN US!

FEBRUARY 22 6:30PM Informational Meeting at Jamestown Fire Dept.  
 MARCH 1 6:30PM Informational Meeting/Open House/Tours at Southwestern High School  
 MARCH 22 6:30PM Informational Meeting/Open House/Tours at Southwestern High School

# REFERENDUM | *Invest today, impact tomorrow.*

For over 15 years, the Southwestern School District has maintained a very low mill rate. When compared to neighboring districts and across the state it has always been one of the lowest. This is something to be proud of; however, there comes a time when the district needs to address these issues and provide long-term solutions. As a member of the community, you have benefited from many years of a very low school district mill rate, therefore paying fewer taxes. Each year the school district budget is constructed with many minor maintenance projects that need to be fixed. These projects are becoming more and more costly and we are really not able to address long-term solutions. In order to address these projects with a long-term solution in mind, something has to give. We listened to our community and they want permanent solutions to the issues the district is facing, which is why we are in the situation of going to a referendum.

We are now at a point where our facilities need serious attention and we are asking for community support in doing so. Students today learn differently and their brains are wired differently as we are in the digital age of teaching our students. Our facilities don't reflect this environment and need to be upgraded to the 21st-century so that we can maximize the learning opportunities for our students.

## Our Concerns

- The Industrial Arts department is teaching with equipment that is original to the 1976 building.
- The Science department is outdated and does not represent what is needed for a 21st-century learning environment.
- The curb appeal and appearance of our buildings (inside and out) needs to change. We compete for students each year and by creating a more appealing appearance, we will promote pride.
- Our elementary building is overcrowded—students are learning in rooms that were originally built as closets or offices.
- Safety is a huge concern as we do not have secure entrances into our buildings.
- The band, choir and theater department does not have adequate facilities to perform and/or practice.

## Our Solutions

### Educational Upgrades

- Upgrade high school and middle school science labs to meet student needs and allow changes that have evolved in science curriculum
- A new middle school band room (6th-8th grades) that can accommodate the size and storage needed
- New commons, restrooms, and classroom space for 6th-8th grade
- Additional classroom space in current middle school for special education classes, elementary classes, and Title 1 reading/math programs
- New performance and activity center for band, choir, theater, and other events to have stage and seating area to perform
- Purchase technology education equipment and other resources for classrooms to create a 21st-century learning environment
- Allow funds in current budget to be used for educational purchases and not building upgrades
- Add gym space for physical education classes and athletics
- New fitness center that will be available to students and community members

### Safety Upgrades

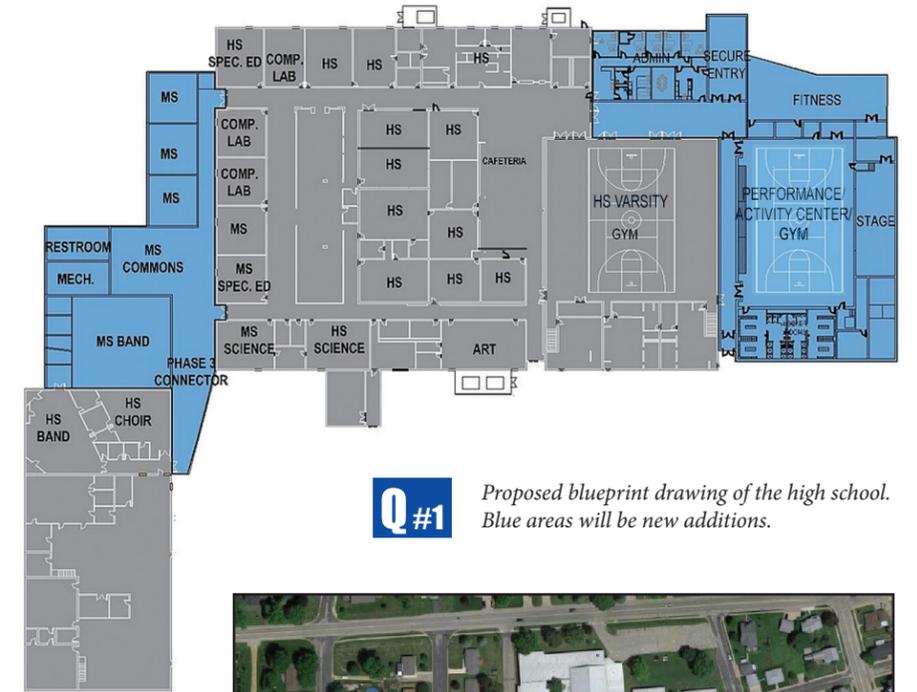
- Secure entrance at high school building allowing visitors to enter through the school office
- Repair parking lot behind elementary building, Wildcat lane, and high school parking lot, while adding additional parking
- Eliminate outside travel between middle school, high school and Phase III (music, choir, and technology education classes)
- Additional security cameras inside and outside of both buildings

### Athletic Upgrades

- Provide a sports complex that will promote a positive image for our athletes and spectators
- Provide a track for our athletes to practice/compete and hold home track meets; this will allow community use and promote fitness and healthy lifestyles
- Add a softball field to allow varsity softball to compete on campus
- Modern restroom facilities with concession stand
- Provide a quality complex which would increase the opportunities to host revenue producing playoff football games and sectional tournament games
- Redesign baseball and softball fields to improve the safety concerns of foul balls

## BALLOT Q #1

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Southwestern Wisconsin Community School District, Grant and Lafayette counties, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statute, General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed **\$10,000,000** for the purpose of paying the costs of **building improvements, renovations, additions and site improvements at the high school and middle/elementary school buildings in connection with relocating the middle school to the existing high school building; and equipment acquisition related to said projects.**



**Q #1** Proposed blueprint drawing of the high school. Blue areas will be new additions.

## BALLOT Q #2

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Southwestern Wisconsin Community School District, Grant and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statutes, General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed **\$2,500,000** for the purpose of paying the costs of **upgrades and improvements to the District's athletic fields.**



**Q #2** Proposed layout of the school campus showing placement of athletic fields.

## Cost impact?

The mill rate is currently at \$10.32 to address Act 32/Energy Exemption projects. The chart on the right shows the impact for each referendum ballot question. Impact will be spread out for 20 years at interest rates that are favorable.



SCENARIO	Q1	Q2	Q1 + Q2
BORROWING AMT.	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$12,500,000
<b>TAXPAYER IMPACT PER \$1000 Property Value</b>			
Highest mill rate impact (over 2017 level for debt service)	\$0.69	(-\$0.70)	\$1.21
<b>Example of Property Tax Impact</b>			
<i>\$100,000 Home (based on highest mill rate)</i>			
Annual	\$69.00	(-\$70.00)	\$121.00
Monthly	\$5.75	(-\$5.83)	\$10.08
<i>\$150,000 Home (based on highest mill rate)</i>			
Annual	\$103.50	(-\$105.00)	\$181.50
Monthly	\$8.63	(-\$8.75)	\$15.13
<i>\$200,000 Home (based on highest mill rate)</i>			
Annual	\$138	(-\$140.00)	\$242.00
Monthly	\$11.50	(-\$11.67)	\$20.16