

**SOUTHWESTERN**

INVESTING IN OUR **STUDENTS**



REFERENDUM

**Vote!**

APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

INVESTING IN OUR **COMMUNITIES**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

INVESTING IN OUR **FUTURE**

## REFERENDUM FACT SHEET #5: Questions & Answers

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>!**

**Q?** *Why are we concerned with the middle school walking back and forth to the High School?*

**A?** The students in past years have traveled multiple times throughout the day to the high school for Spanish, Art, Tech Ed, physical education, 9th grade Math, and 9th grade Science classes. The travel time has delayed educational time and start time in the classroom for students. Currently, there are limited amounts of cameras to monitor traffic control, children's travel, and supervision of these students. Inclement weather is also a concern of cold temperatures and rainy days. The current school year the administration was able to assist in better scheduling opportunities for the students to limit travel time and staff has been monitoring the students, but not all concerns of their safety are able to be addressed.

**Q?** *Why does the school district need to invest in secure entrances and cameras?*

**A?** The National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, a program sponsored by the United States Department of Education, recommends that entry points be limited, controlled, and prevent unauthorized access. A secure entrance will require visitors that are allowed into the building to stop in the office and will only allow access to the rest of the building by a school official after checking in.

\*There have been 142 school shootings in the US since the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, a near average of one a week, according to data compiled by Mass Shooting Tracker.

Nearly 53% of the identified shootings took place at K-12 schools, and 47% took place on college or university campuses. In 95 incidents — over half — the perpetrator(s) intentionally injured or killed at least one other person with a gun.

Analysis of School Shootings - [EverytownResearch.org](http://EverytownResearch.org)

[everytownresearch.org/reports/analysis-of-school-shootings](http://everytownresearch.org/reports/analysis-of-school-shootings)

**Q?** *Why a sports complex?*

**A?** Changing the direction of the football field is the only way Southwestern could add a track to the existing complex. Currently we have just under 50 students from 6th to 12 grade on our track or cross country teams. By changing the direction of the football field to north and south, this also provides our district the opportunity to hold conference and sectional football games. Modern bathroom facilities and concession area would invite others in the community to our complex. The baseball teams would not have to share fields with the current football field and softball teams could hold on-campus games.

*“I’m pretty lucky. I work in the arts as an administrator, educator and a studio artist. I don’t make millions but my family is comfortable. The work I do has a positive impact on economic vitality and the quality of life in the region where I live. Best of all, my career is fulfilling, challenging and extremely rewarding.*

*Much of the credit for having gone down the path that led me here goes to a public school teacher at Southwestern Schools. Susan Hart was my art teacher in grade school and three years of high school. She believed I could achieve big things and did everything she could to support my interests, foster opportunities, and encourage me to envision a career in the arts.*

*Near the end of my junior year, Ms. Hart entered one of my pencil drawings in the annual Congressional Art Competition. I can still remember where I was and what I was wearing when I got the phone call informing me that my drawing had received first place in my district.*

*The prize? My artwork would be going to Washington DC to hang for a year in the hallway that connected the Canon Building and the Capitol. The Wisconsin Arts Board would be helping my parents and I to travel to DC for the recognition ceremony. I would get to meet Congressional leaders, take a trip via plane for the first time and visit Smithsonian museums including the National Art Gallery. I would come home confident in my decision to enter a college art program.*

*At graduation time, a package arrived at my parents’ home. Inside were a congratulatory note and a tackle box from Ms. Hart. The tackle box was meant to be my first ‘art box’. It was also one more bit of encouragement to keep going in the direction I was going.*

*The box accompanied me to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and then to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I received a full scholarship and a teaching assistantship to acquire my Masters degree. The art box now lives in my art studio filled to the brim with creative supplies.*

*As a farmer’s daughter and graduate of a rural public school, this is perhaps the last path I was expected to take in life. But here I am and it’s exactly where I am supposed to be.”*

—Jenni Petersen-Brant, Class of ‘97

MARKETING CONSULTANT, CHATFIELD CENTER FOR THE ARTS

STUDIO ARTIST, BURRO BRANCH STUDIO

FORMER CO-DIRECTOR, ARTHAUS

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KIMMEL HARDING NELSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FORMER EDUCATION DIRECTOR, LUX CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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For more information, please visit our website at [swsd.k12.wi.us/referendum](http://swsd.k12.wi.us/referendum) or contact

SWSD Superintendent, John Costello, at 608.854.2261 x310

or by email at [costelloj@swsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:costelloj@swsd.k12.wi.us).