

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

Sauk Centre Public School District, ISD #0743-01, is proposing a two-question referendum on November 2, 2021. The first ballot question would authorize a capital projects levy of \$259,805, beginning with the Payable 2022 levy. The annual levy amount in the nine subsequent years would be computed by multiplying 2.281% times the preceding year's Net Tax Capacity (NTC) and would be authorized for annual certification by the school board. The second ballot question would authorize \$26,450,000 in bonding authority to finance facility improvements to the elementary school and middle/high school.

In conjunction with the proposed referendum, the district has also issued \$18.9 million in long term facilities maintenance (LTFM) bonds to fund districtwide HVAC upgrades. Proposed would be scheduled for completion in the 2022-2024 calendar years. Cost estimates by location and project type for the projects subject to voter approval are as follows:

Middle / High School	
Commons & Cafeteria Additions	\$5,500,000
Restroom Renovations	\$307,250
General Renovations	\$5,354,500
FF&E	\$667,750
	\$11,829,500
Elementary School	
Renovations	\$4,988,000
Outdoor Project Components	\$236,750
Early Childhood Addition	\$4,270,000
FF&E	\$757,500
	\$10,252,250
Districtwide	
Building System Upgrades	\$1,923,000
Roof Replacement	\$2,022,000
Bond Issuance	\$399,301
	\$4,344,301
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$26,426,051

The district has supplied cost estimates to operate and staff the additional building space and it appears existing revenues will be sufficient to fund any associated operational cost increases. The projects subject to voter approval appear to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

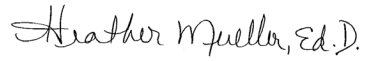
If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.



Heather Mueller, Ed.D.
Commissioner

October 1, 2021