

PARENT CARDINAL UPDATE – 01/12/24

Reminders - Friday, January 19 - No School - Teacher Workday
Friday, February 2 - Early Release for Teacher Professional Learning
(ES @ 12:55 p.m. & MS/HS @ 1:00 p.m.)
Monday, April 1 - Possible Snow Day make-up, if necessary

Brodhead Parents:

The Brodhead School District Board of Education has partnered with a company called Nexus Solutions to complete a long-term facility plan, which has provided us with a concrete [10-YEAR FACILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT](#) regarding all deferred maintenance and educational inadequacy needs of our District. We felt we needed to go through this process to better understand the state of our facilities and the needs of our District going forward.

Along with a facility plan comes a financing plan to fund it. With a Middle School built in 1960, an Elementary School built in 1965, and a High School built in 1996, it is understandable that there are significant needs that we must attend to. Things like windows and electrical systems are inefficient, many rooms are outdated, entryways are not safe and secure, and certain programs have outgrown their spaces. Looking at our needs over the next 10 years, the costs for these updates amount to well over 30 million dollars. Our School Board is tasked with coming up with a financing plan, which for Wisconsin school districts is a facility referendum. Most schools in our area have run a facility referendum within the last 10 years, but Brodhead has not conducted a major referendum since the High School was built in 1996, which is why this amount has grown to the current level of need and cost.

Our School Board made the decision to form a Facility Planning Committee. This Committee consisted of 25 members, having representation from the school, parents, and community members. This group met eight (8) times between February and September with the task of bringing a financing recommendation to the Board at the October 11 Regular School Board Meeting. The Committee's recommendation was to run a referendum on April 2, 2024 for approximately 17.5 million dollars. The major items this referendum consist of:

1. Creating secure entries at all District schools.
2. Updating all windows in the Elementary School and Middle School.
3. Updating bathrooms at the Elementary School and Middle School.
4. Additional classrooms to support all-day every-day 4 year-old kindergarten.
5. Upgrade 5K classrooms to include individual toilets and small group work areas.
6. Additional rooms to support a 5th grade move to the Middle School to make school populations equitable across all District schools.
7. Remodel Middle School cafeteria, band room, and other Middle School areas to create more usable space for the additional grade level.

Our School Board recently ran a randomized [COMMUNITY SURVEY](#) of 400 Brodhead School District residents based on the scope and cost of the Committee's recommendation. Input from that survey supported running a referendum in April. The survey suggested that:

- 63% of our Brodhead School District residents felt these improvement ideas were a good idea.
- 57% felt that 17.5 million dollars was a fair price for projects being considered.
- 56% support or strongly support a 17.5 million dollar bond referendum.

The information our community shared through this survey will help us going forward as we continue making the Brodhead School District a wonderful place to learn and grow. We want to do everything we can to help and support our students so they can reach their fullest potential.

Based on the Facility Planning Committee's recommendation, the Brodhead Board of Education formally passed a resolution at the January 10 School Board meeting to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$17,485,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of upgrading school facilities. This will be taken to our community for a referendum vote during the April 2 election.

There will be much more information shared about this referendum in the next days, weeks, and months leading up to the election date. Updates will come on a regular basis, along with additional time for our community to attend listening sessions, tour our facilities, and ask questions. We are excited about the opportunity this referendum would bring to improve our schools and provide quality education for our students for years to come.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 897-2141 or by email at dnovy@brodhead.k12.wi.us. As always, thank you for all you do to support the Brodhead School District.

GO CARDS!

Respectfully,

David Novy, District Administrator