

## PARENT CARDINAL UPDATE – 01/31/25

### Operational Referendum Update:

Our new 2025 Operational Referendum Website is now up and running! As I communicated out earlier, our School Board has decided to run an Operational Referendum on April 1, 2025. Brodhead has been in a pattern of running Referendums every three years since 2013, so it was simply a question of how much money beyond the revenue limit the School Board wishes to request from our taxpayers.

With the large increases in property taxes across the State of Wisconsin, and similar increases for our Brodhead School District taxpayers, it was important to our School Board to make this Referendum a tax neutral decision. What that means is that our new Referendum request for April 1 will simply replace our previous non-recurring Referendum for the same amount (\$1,750,000 per year) and for the same duration (3-year non-recurring). Over the course of the next three years, District residents will not see any tax rate increase. **A successful Referendum will not raise the tax rate.**

We have a very comprehensive website with all of the information any resident would need to make an educated vote. The address of the 2025 Operational Referendum Site is <https://brodhead.referendumfacts.org/>. This site contains a great [\[Q&A SECTION\]](#) that answers a lot of questions regarding why Referendums have become so common in Wisconsin, what the funds from the Referendum would be used for, and how this Operational Referendum differs from our recently passed Bond (building) Referendum. I will be sharing much more information in the coming months about future listening session dates for those who wish to learn more or ask specific questions.

Please note the attached [\[REFERENDUM FLYER\]](#), which gives some great information to help everyone understand more about this Referendum. The recent community surveys done prior to our last Bond Referendum show that much of the information Brodhead residents get about our school system is through word of mouth. As the District Administrator, I can not necessarily ask voters for yes votes. My job is to educate residents about the Referendum and provide the information necessary to help everyone understand the impact of this Referendum and be an informed voter.

### Bond Referendum Update:

We are excited to continue providing updates regarding all of our new building projects going on with our schools. There have been a lot of planning sessions and many opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the development of these projects. The countdown has definitely begun as we look forward to the day when our actual construction process starts on March 24. We shared maps of some of our new areas in one of my previous Updates. We want to highlight a couple more for everyone.

It seems so far down the road, but we have already begun planning for our very first all-day 4K classes starting with the 2026-27 school year. We have worked with our 4K staff and administration to develop the layouts of these classrooms and feel the new space will be a wonderful addition to our Elementary School. Here is a document showing a close view of these new classrooms, which includes another staff bathroom, in-room student bathrooms and cubbies in the classrooms instead of lockers in the hallway. We are adding on four new rooms off the East side of our Elementary School. [\[4K/5K Map\]](#)

Another part of this Referendum is the expansion of our 5K classrooms. Because of the age of our Elementary School (built in 1963), it was built and designed for a half-day 5K program. With the addition of all-day 5K in 2003 and half-day 4K in 2006, our classrooms are definitely due for an upgrade. Here is a map of our new 5K classrooms [[4K/5K Map](#)], which expand in size considerably and take over not only their current space, but the space of what is now the current 4K classrooms. This expansion allows us to have student bathrooms within each classroom, cubbies in classrooms rather than lockers in the hallway, new small group instruction (SGI) rooms, and much needed storage shared between classrooms. The design process involved a lot of meetings and discussions. The time spent has created wonderful new learning environments for our students.

Past Links:

[\[FRONT OFFICE LINK\]](#)

[\[5TH GRADE ADDITION\]](#)

All school renovations are scheduled to be completed by the 2025-26 school year except for our 4K addition, which is set to be completed by the end of December 2025. Our plan is to offer all-day 4K in Brodhead starting in 2026-27!

I am excited to continue updating all of you on our construction process and share more classroom maps, exterior renderings of the new additions, and changes to our parking areas during construction. The construction will definitely cause some adjustments all of us need to adhere to, and we will be sure to keep everyone updated well in advance.

Thank you for your patience.

David Novy, District Administrator  
Brodhead School District