

Parent Cardinal Update 2/8/24

Brodhead Parents,

We started a weekly blog last week regarding our upcoming facility (bond) referendum on April 2. To keep all parents informed, we will also share those blogs through our instant messaging system. The weekly blog is also linked on our District Facebook site. We would appreciate everyone sharing that link in an effort to communicate the message to as many residents as possible. For everyone's reference, here is a [LINK TO THE BLOG SITE](#), containing this message and all past messages.

Brodhead Referendum – Post #2 – Safe and Secure Entries

Safety is Our #1 Priority - When reviewing our facility study and needs, one of the first priority items the Board of Education decided to include as a major part of our referendum was safe and secure entries for each of our District schools. With our Middle School built in 1958, the Elementary School built in 1963, and the High School built in 1996, our main entrances do not meet modern safety recommendations.

71% Community Approval For Safer Entries - Through the work of the Brodhead Board of Education, our Facility Planning Committee, and results from our community survey conducted last December, safe and secure entries have always risen to the top as the number one item to address through a referendum. Survey results conducted last December showed 71% approval for creating safer entries in our schools.

The Current Entrance Concerns - All schools currently have a “buzz in” system and exterior camera, allowing each office staff to talk to and view visitors who wish to enter the building. Once a visitor is inside, each school has its own separate issue in which safety is a concern. Both Albrecht Elementary and Brodhead Middle School have a wall between the front entry and the main office. Any visitor who enters either of these schools could make a quick turn and have access to the school. Our High School has a large distance between the entry doors and the main office. As with the other schools, a quick turn down the hallway would allow easy access to the rest of the school.

The Solution Would Provide Controlled Access - The total estimated cost for renovating all three of our District school entryways is \$3,156,000. I have outlined below the breakdown of how the needs would be addressed if the referendum passes and the associated costs of each school:

- **The Brodhead High School** renovation would be in the form of an addition, moving the High School office to the front of the school and renovating the former High School office into needed space for the school psychologist, school counselor, additional public restrooms and a location designated for outside counseling services. The new entry into the High School would require visitors to buzz in and enter directly through the High School office prior to being allowed into the rest of the school. (Total Budgeted Cost for this project = \$1,889,000).
- **The Middle School** project would reconfigure the main office, moving the principal's office to create a reception area for visitors. Upon buzzing into the school, visitors would go directly through the office to register before being allowed access into the school. (Total Budgeted Cost for this project = \$214,000).
- **Albrecht Elementary School** currently has two front entryways with one designated as the main entry. The Elementary renovation would expand the office past the current main entry, creating a new main entrance directly into the office. Additional space would be added to the office including space for the school nurse, school counselor, an additional conference room, and space for outside counseling agencies. (Total Budgeted Cost for this project = \$1,053,000).

What about After School Events? - Current front entry vestibules will still be in place and would allow access into each of our schools for all after school events without going through office areas, but would be locked in such a way to require going through the main office during the school day.

Did you know?

- The last time the District asked the community for funding support via a facility (bond) referendum was close to 20 years ago.
- The District has reduced tax rates by over 24% over the last (10) ten years. The referendum being presented will allow the District to address key facility priorities in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Brodhead will receive the benefit of significant State aid on any new debt. This equates to the State funding approximately 27.5% of the cost of the proposed referendum.

Join Us for Referendum Information Night!

We will be sharing informational articles with the Brodhead community in the weeks leading up to the April 2 referendum vote. We have also planned three information nights for residents to learn more about our needs and tour our schools. The nights and locations are:

- **February 21 at 6:00 p.m.** – Albrecht Elementary Multi-Purpose Room
- **March 6 at 6:00 p.m.** – Middle School Cafeteria
- **March 19 at 6:00 p.m.** – High School Auditoria

Other Ways to Stay Informed:

- **Website** - Visit our informational Referendum Website at: <https://brodhead.referendumfacts.org/>
- **Facts Sheet** - Read the BRODHEAD FACILITY REFERENDUM FACTS SHEET, which provides information regarding tax impact, historical tax rates, State funding impacts, and the referendum question as it will appear on the ballot.
- **Renderings** - Review the SCOPE OF WORK rendering, which shows a map of each school with designated areas where changes would be made.

You may also contact me directly with your questions at dnovy@brodhead.k12.wi.us or (608) 897-2141.

Sincerely,

David Novy, District Administrator
Brodhead School District