

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Clinton Community School District Board of Education Approves Going to Referendum in April 2019 *\$41.9M Facilities Project Would Address Urgent District-Wide Needs*

Clinton, WI – After two years of extensive planning and input from the community and staff, the Clinton Community School District Board of Education unanimously approved placing a \$41.9 million facilities referendum question on the regularly-scheduled Spring Election ballot on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. The facilities referendum addresses the district’s aging and deteriorating elementary and middle school infrastructure by constructing a new 4K-6 building on the high school campus, enhancing safety and security measurements, addressing high-priority maintenance needs at the high school, and expanding the agricultural and technical education areas.

“We are at a critical juncture with our schools,” said School Board President Ken Luety. “The projects proposed as part of this referendum will restructure the Clinton Community School District and set us on a clear path to be a destination district for years to come.”

There are a number of significant projects included as part of the total \$41.9M referendum. The first will be to build a new 4K-6 school which will accommodate 600 students for \$32.8M. \$2.1M is allocated to dispose of the existing elementary and middle school. \$3.6M has been budgeted to complete prioritized maintenance projects at the high school including a new roof, gym floor, and asphalt repairs. \$1.9M is allocated towards safety and security enhancements and interior renovations to accommodate the 7th and 8th-grade students moving to the high school. The Technical Education and Agriculture instructional areas will be renovated and expanded for a cost of \$1.5M to enhance programming offered to Clinton Community School District students.

The current elementary school was built in 1954 and middle school in 1957. Both buildings have substantial mechanical and functional deficiencies according to an independent facilities study completed in 2017. For the past two years, the Board of Education explored a multitude of potential solutions to the aging facilities, including renovating the existing middle school. Renovating the existing middle school, which originally served as the high school, would cost \$8.25M more than building a brand new school. “Consolidating from three school buildings to two was a priority heard throughout the two-year process as it creates both operational efficiencies and long term economic savings”, said District Administrator Jim Brewer.

Results of a community-wide survey conducted last spring found that the majority of all respondents reported that they would support the District exploring a referendum to update District facilities. The District held numerous school tours, community workshops, focus study groups, and committee and board meeting discussions since starting this process in January of 2017. “The Clinton Community

Board of Education would like to thank the hundreds of parents, staff and community members that have offered feedback and input throughout this two-year process,” said Luety.

If approved by voters, the \$41.9M referendum will represent a tax increase of \$269 annually (\$22.42 monthly) for each \$100,000 of property value over the current level.

Additional information, about the campus-wide facilities planning work to date is available at www.clinton.k12.wi.us. If you would like to schedule a building tour or have additional questions, please contact the District Office at 608.676.5482.

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