



REFERENDUM 2015
NEWSLETTER

**VOTE
APRIL
7th**

DeForest Area School District

Building Our Future Together

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?

\$41M Referendum

Results of the Facility Study, Community/Staff Listening Sessions, Community-Wide Survey, and recommendations from the CAC identified the following needs:

Dear Community Members,

Over the past two years, the School Board has engaged community members and our staff by studying current and future needs, holding a number of listening sessions, forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), providing tours of our buildings, and conducting a community-wide survey. Our goal has been to address our student and facility needs. Hundreds of community and staff members have provided input and helped shape the solution that you will see as a question on the April 7th ballot.

This referendum question seeks to address the growing elementary student population, aging buildings, safety and security concerns, and educational needs by:

- Rebuilding Eagle Point Elementary School at its current location
- Renovating and building a substantial addition to Windsor Elementary School
- Renovating and updating a portion of Yahara Elementary School to improve safety and security
- Adding space for technology education/ agri-science programs at the high school
- Renovating space for technology education programs at the middle school

Thank you for taking the time to review this newsletter dedicated to the referendum. We welcome your comments and questions and hope to see you at one of our community open house events in March.

Dr. Susan Borden, District Administrator

Jan Berg, School Board President



Increase Capacity

- Three of the District's four elementary schools are at, or over, capacity
- 2,000 new housing units in the District are approved for development
- Enrollment is growing
- Cafeterias, gymnasiums, libraries, and bathrooms are too small for current enrollment



Improve Safety & Security

- Yahara and Eagle Point do not meet today's safety standards for main offices to properly view and control front entrances
- Yahara, Windsor and Eagle Point lack safe separation of bus and parent traffic
- Elementary schools need upgraded camera systems, emergency exit lighting, and emergency generators



Address Aging Buildings & Infrastructure

- Some existing structures and infrastructure are over 60 years old
- Plumbing, heating, electrical, roofs, and other key building systems have reached or are reaching the end of their useful lives
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance standards are not currently met



Improve Learning Spaces

- Flexible, collaborative learning spaces are needed for current curricula
- Appropriate space is essential for required services (reading and math interventions, physical therapy, nursing, etc.) that did not exist when the elementary schools were built
- Updated space is needed for current Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), Technical Education, and Agri-Science programs

www.DASDreferendum.org

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The DeForest Area School District (DASD) has been preparing for this referendum for years. Intense planning began in September 2013 when the School Board studied reports about school needs. The following process unfolded:

September 2013-January 2014

The District conducted a **Study** to examine population and enrollment trends, facility needs, instructional needs, and potential financial impacts.

July-August 2014

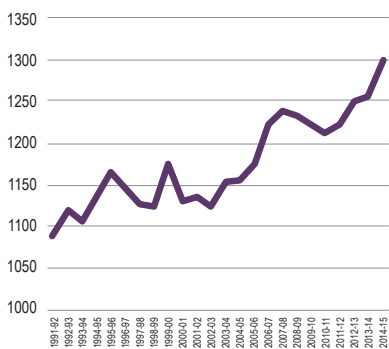
A series of **Listening Sessions** was held seeking input from community and staff.

August 2014

The School Board formed a 45-member **Community Advisory Committee** composed of a variety of stakeholders in response to a District-wide request for volunteers. The CAC, with community and staff input, studied in detail:

- Current enrollment and future population projections
- Results from the Facilities Study
- Modern teaching and learning spaces
- Financial status of the District

K-4 Enrollment



*This and other reports can be found at www.DASDreferendum.org

December 2014

The District received a high response rate to a **Community-Wide Survey** wherein 74% of respondents supported elementary upgrades and 63% supported Middle School and High School upgrades.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Eagle Point Elementary School

- Build new school on existing site
- Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
- Demolish existing school after completion of new

\$18.6 M

Windsor Elementary School

- Build major additions and remodel portions of school
- Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic
- Demolish oldest section after completion of additions

\$17.2 M

Yahara Elementary School

- Move office to better support a secured entrance
- Create safer separation of bus and parent traffic

\$250 K

DeForest Area Middle School

- Remodel space for STEM and Technical Education

\$750 K

DeForest Area High School

- Build addition and remodel space for STEM, Technical Education and Agri-Science

\$4.2 M

\$41 M



Eagle Point Elementary School



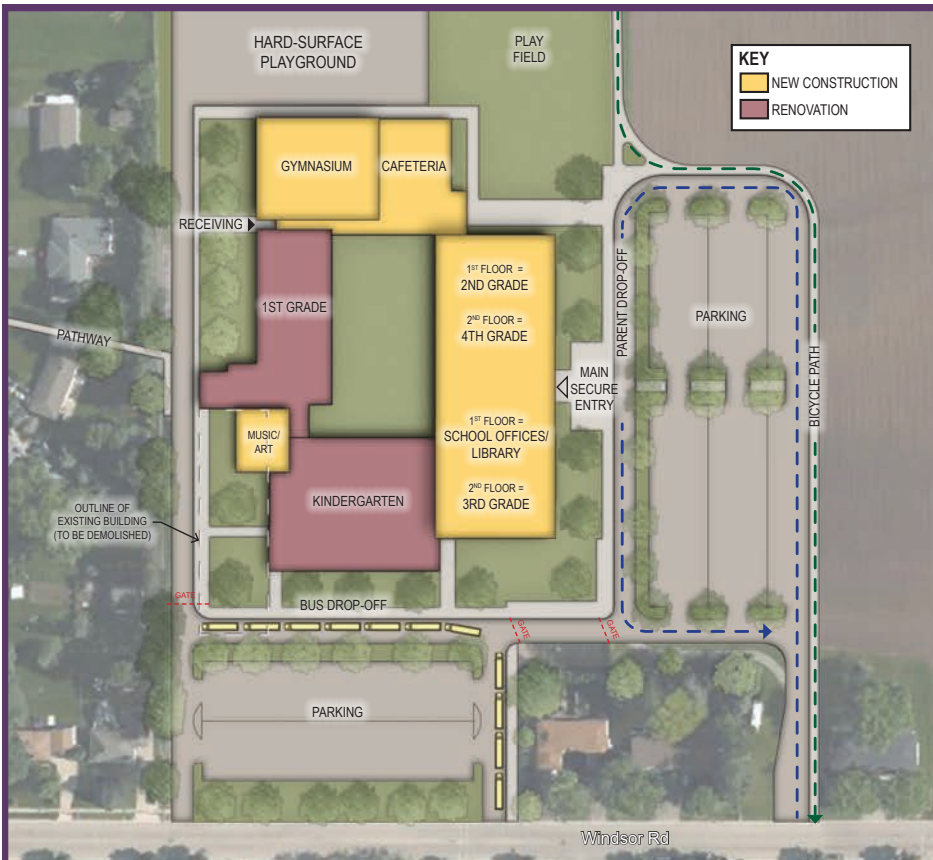
WHAT IS THE TAX IMPACT?

Past and current School Board members and District leaders have been planning the District's finances for a number of years with the knowledge that a facilities referendum may be needed. The goal was to meet most of the District's facility needs and prepare to assume increased operating costs for this referendum.

Estimated Property Tax Increase **\$41,000,000**
 (\$0.16 per \$1,000 of Property Value)

Over the 2014/2015 rate	Per Year	Per Month
\$100,000 of property value	\$16	\$1.33
\$200,000 of property value	\$32	\$2.67
\$300,000 of property value	\$48	\$4.00

Tax estimates prepared by Robert W. Baird assuming: 20 year borrowing. Tertiary aid impact of 3.82%. 3-phased borrowing. Interest rates of 3.75%-4.5%. 0% property value growth. Tax rate based on Equalized Property Value



Windsor Elementary School



Yahara Elementary School

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Through the planning and communication process, the District has received various questions including the following:

- How much has enrollment increased?
- What were the results of the community-wide survey?
- When will the proposed projects be completed?
- How will operating expenses be handled?
- How much space will the new/expanded schools add?
- What will the new/expanded schools include?
- What exactly is STEM?

Answers to these and other FAQs are available at

www.DASDreferendum.org

DeForest

Area School District

520 East Holum Street, DeForest, WI 53532
www.DASDreferendum.org



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Building Our Future Together

The DeForest Area School District's April 7, 2015 referendum will address the following needs:



**Increase
Capacity**



**Improve
Safety & Security**



**Address
Aging Buildings
& Infrastructure**



**Improve
Learning Spaces**

WHY NOW?

- Elementary **school enrollment** continues to grow and additional space is needed now
- **Construction costs** continue to rise
- **Interest rates** remain at historically low levels
- The District has been **preparing for many years** to help keep the tax impact low and to prepare for additional operating costs
- Past referendum debt will be paid off soon, which will **minimize the tax impact** of new debt

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the DeForest Area School District, Dane and Columbia Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$41,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and improvement program consisting of reconstruction of Eagle Point Elementary School, construction of an addition to and renovation of Windsor Elementary School, renovation and improvement of Yahara Elementary School and renovation of space for and expansion of the District's technical education program?

YES

NO

VOTING INFORMATION

Visit www.DASDreferendum.org (and click on voter information) for polling locations, voter registration, absentee voting, and other important voter information.

Learn More

referendum@deforestschoools.org
608-842-6582



Attend an Open House

Tuesday, March 10 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Eagle Point Elementary
Monday, March 16 / 5:30-7:00 PM / DeForest Area High School
Thursday, March 26 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Windsor Elementary
Tuesday, March 31 / 10:45 AM-12:15 PM / Community & Senior Center
Tuesday, March 31 / 5:30-7:00 PM / Community & Senior Center

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