



July 7, 2025

Daniel Carpenter, Superintendent
Badger Public School District, ISD #0676-01
110 Carpenter Avenue
Badger, MN 56714-4148

Dear Superintendent Carpenter:

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires a review and comment statement on the educational and economic advisability of your proposed school construction project. Information supplied by your school district and from Minnesota Department of Education sources is the basis of this review and comment. With this positive review and comment, voter and school board approval are required for Badger Public School District, Independent School District #0676-01, to proceed with the proposed projects.

The district shall publish a summary of the review and comment statement (the final two pages) in the legal newspaper of the district at least 48 days, but not more than 70 days, prior to holding a referendum for bonds or soliciting any bids for the construction, expansion, or remodeling of an educational facility. The department may request a statement certifying the publication, and require the submission, review, and approval of preliminary and final construction plans.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires the commissioner to include comments from residents of the school district in the review and comment. As of the date of this letter, no public comments have been received. In addition, Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires the school board hold a public meeting to discuss the review and comment prior to the date of the bond referendum election.***

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires that a school district, prior to occupying a new or renovated facility after July 1, 2002, must submit a certification prepared by a system inspector to the commissioner and the building code official that will provide an occupancy permit.*** The certification must verify that the facility's installed or modified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operates according to design specifications and code, a system for monitoring outdoor airflow and total airflow of ventilation systems has been installed, and any installed or modified heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system provides an indoor air quality filtration system that meets ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Standard 52.1.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kubesh, Education Finance specialist, at 651-582-8319 or chris.kubesh@state.mn.us. Thank you for working with us to improve school facilities for Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie L. Jett II'.

Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

cc: Jamie Isane, School Board Chair

Enclosure

**The Commissioner of the Department of Education
Review and Comment on the School Construction
Proposal of Badger Public School District, ISD #0676-01**

A review and comment must be provided on a school district construction project proposal before the district conducts a referendum, solicits bids, or issues bonds for the project. A project proposal has been submitted for review and comment according to requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, subdivisions 9 and 10, and Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72. The district provides the following information:

1. The geographic area and population to be served:
 - a. preschool through grade 12 student enrollment for the past five years, and
 - b. student enrollment projections for the next five years.
2. A list of existing school facilities:
 - a. by year constructed,
 - b. their uses, and
 - c. an assessment of the extent to which alternate facilities are available within school district boundaries and in adjacent school districts.
3. A list of specific deficiencies of the facility:
 - a. demonstrating the need for a new or renovated facility to be provided,
 - b. the process used to determine the deficiencies,
 - c. a list of those deficiencies that will and will not be addressed by the proposed projects,
 - d. a list of specific benefits that the new or renovated facility will provide to students, teachers, and community users served by the facility.
4. A description of the project, including:
 - a. specifications of site and outdoor space acreage,
 - b. square footage allocations for classrooms, laboratories and support spaces,
 - c. estimated expenditures for major portions of the project,
 - d. estimated changes in facility operating costs, and
 - e. dates the project will begin and be completed.
5. A specification of the source of project financing, including:
 - a. applicable statutory citations,
 - b. the scheduled date for a bond issue or school board action,
 - c. a schedule of payments, including debt service equalization aid, and
 - d. the effect of a bond issue on local property taxes by property class and valuation.
6. Documentation obligating the school district and contractors to comply with the following items:
 - a. Minnesota Statutes, section 471.345 governing municipal contracts,
 - b. sustainable design,
 - c. school facility commissioning under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72, certifying the plans and designs for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air filtration for an extensively renovated or new facility meet or exceed current code standards, including ASHRAE air filtration Standard 52.1,
 - d. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acoustical performance criteria, design requirements and guidelines for schools on maximum background noise levels and reverberation times,
 - e. state fire code,
 - f. chapter 326B governing building codes, and
 - g. consultation with affected government units about the impact of the project on utilities, roads, sewers, sidewalks, retention ponds, school bus and automobile traffic, access to mass transit and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

Badger Public School District, ISD #0676-01 is proposing a three-question referendum on November 4, 2025. The first ballot would authorize \$5.34 million in bonding authority to finance HVAC improvements, window/door replacements and interior renovations to their existing PK-12 facility. The second ballot question would authorize an increase in the district's annual, per-pupil, operating referendum by an amount yet to be determined by the school board. The third ballot question would authorize \$11.24 million in bonding authority to finance building additions, additional interior renovations and parking lot upgrades. Improvements to their existing PK-12 facility. The proposed building addition would house the following spaces: a gymnasium, commons area, restrooms, locker rooms, storage, Career Technical Education (CTE) space and a flex classroom. Passage of the third ballot question is contingent upon passage of the first two ballot questions.

The projects proposed in ballot questions #1 and #3 would be scheduled for completion in calendar years 2027 and 2028. Cost estimates by ballot question/project component are as follows:

Ballot Question #1		Ballot Question #3	
HVAC Upgrades	\$2,384,500	<u>Building Additions:</u>	
Window & Door Replacement	\$271,020	Gymnasium	\$3,500,000
Interior Renovations	\$1,339,500	Commons / Restrooms	\$1,585,500
Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$1,098,631	Weight Room	\$602,000
Contingencies	\$246,691	Locker Rooms	\$1,050,000
Bond Issuance	\$119,415	Storage Area	\$350,000
	\$5,459,757	CTE / Shop Expansion	\$612,500
		Flex Classroom	\$350,000
			\$8,050,000
		<u>Other Project Costs:</u>	
		Interior Renovations (non LTFM)	\$77,480
		Parking Lots	\$327,848
		Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$2,282,640
		Contingencies	\$502,032
		Bond Issuance	\$152,271
		Capitalized Interest	\$100,375
			\$3,442,646
		Total - Question #3	\$11,492,646

The district last went to the voters in November 2024 with a three-question referendum. The first two questions of that referendum each would have increased their operating referendum by \$967.93 per pupil. However, only one question passed. The third question also failed to pass. It contained bonding authorization for projects similar to those proposed with ballot questions #1 and #3 in the current referendum.

The district currently has around 220 students enrolled in PK-12 programming and is projecting stable enrollment over the next several years. The district's unassigned, general fund balance has declined from around \$1.5 million at the end of FY 2021 to around \$490,000 at the end of FY 2024.

Though the operational cost increases associated with the additional building space may put additional financial pressure on the district's general fund, the district believes that the increase in operational costs from the proposed building addition will be mostly offset with the proposed HVAC upgrades. The proposed projects appear to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.



Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

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