



DATE: May 26, 2026

TITLE: Facilities Discussion

TYPE: Action

PRESENTERS: Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent
Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance and Operations

BACKGROUND:

Austin Public Schools has been reviewing their facilities needs since the building referendum failed in November 2025. Partnering with ISG and PTMA, we have reviewed all priorities 1 and 2 of the facilities study.

RATIONALE:

Since November, Austin Public Schools has reviewed all Priority 1 and Priority 2 items identified in the previous facilities study and explored a variety of funding mechanisms to address these needs.

The APS Board has committed \$3 million from the district’s unassigned fund balance to improve restroom facilities at the elementary schools.

In addition, the APS Board has approved the use of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) and Indoor Air Quality bonds to complete additional facility improvements across the district, with the majority of this work scheduled during the summers of 2027 and 2028.

Even with these investments, approximately \$20–30 million in facility improvements remain without an identified funding source. As a result, the APS Board may need to consider a referendum in November 2026 to address these remaining needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion and second to recommend submitting a Review and Comment document to Minnesota Department of Education.