

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

Lakeview Schools, ISD #2167-01, is proposing a two-question referendum on February 9, 2021. The first ballot question would authorize \$7.865 million in bonding authority to finance facility improvements at the existing school. The second ballot question would authorize \$2.95 million in bonding authority to finance athletic facility improvements.

The proposed projects would be scheduled for completion in the 2021 calendar year. Estimated project costs by ballot question/project component are as follows:

Ballot Question #1		Ballot Question #2	
HVAC / Plumbing Upgrades	\$2,044,200	Artificial Turf Field	\$1,100,000
Security / Communications	\$294,000	Field Lighting	\$515,000
Roof Replacement	\$1,661,634	Resurface Track	\$335,000
Building Envelope	\$297,900	Press Box / Concession Expansion	\$134,500
Deferred Maintenance	\$970,380	Convert Softball to Baseball Field	\$85,000
Site Improvements	\$646,939	Scoreboard Replacement	\$57,000
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$877,868	Deferred Maintenance	\$3,000
Contingencies	\$768,957	Fees, Permits & Testing	\$330,886
Capitalized Interest	\$162,216	Contingencies	\$289,835
Bond Issuance	\$140,906	Capitalized Interest	\$60,483
	\$7,865,000	Bond Issuance	\$39,296
			\$2,950,000

The projects proposed in the first ballot question are predominately related to building maintenance and upgrades. Though the Lakeview facility is less than 20 years old, the proposed projects are in line with maintaining the existing structure for both current and future usage. The second ballot question focuses on athletic facility upgrades. Some of the upgrades proposed in the second ballot question, such as: track resurfacing, scoreboard replacement, lighting upgrades and field conversions, are relatively lower cost, maintenance-type upgrades that would expand the potential usage of the existing athletic facilities. While the overall project falls within our criteria for a favorable ranking, we feel compelled to state that, the additional costs associated with the installation of the artificial turf and the long term increased costs, that fall to the school's budget, for operating and maintaining the artificial turf make it difficult to consider this type of improvement economically advisable to the school district. The school district should strongly reconsider the installation of artificial turf.

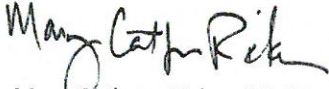
The school district is projecting a slight increase in enrollment over the next few years; bolstered by a large 2020-2021 first grade class of 58 students. In subsequent years, grade counts are expected to be in the mid-40s per grade range. Most of the open enrollment is coming into the school district. In the 2019-2020 school year, 233 students open enrolled into the school district and 37 students open enrolled out of the district; a net gain of 196 students.

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.



Mary Cathryn Ricker, NBCT
Commissioner

December 29, 2020