

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dan Tjernagel, District Administrator

920.746.2801

**School District of Sturgeon Bay Board of Education
Approves \$16.84M Facilities Referendum for the April 2020 Ballot**

Sturgeon Bay, WI -- After extensive planning and community input the School District of Sturgeon Bay Board of Education voted unanimously to place a referendum question on the April 7, 2020, ballot. The proposed \$16.84 million project will address safety and security, high priority capital maintenance across the district, as well as update career & technical education classrooms and labs to expand high-quality programs and hands-on learning opportunities.

The proposed project also includes closing Sunset Elementary School, which currently serves children in 4K and Kindergarten. If approved by voters, a four-classroom addition would be constructed at Sawyer Elementary school so the district's newest building could accommodate children in 4K – Second grade. "Reconfiguring our elementary schools will allow us to retire one of our oldest buildings and maximize the use of our newest building" said District Administrator Dan Tjernagel. A community survey last fall showed that 75% of all respondents support the District move forward with a plan that included closing Sunset School.

Other projects to be completed under the plan include creating a secure entrance at the high school to control visitor access by relocating the main office, district-wide ADA improvements, and changes to traffic patterns at the high school and middle school to increase safety.

The estimated tax impact for this plan over the current levy is \$1.47/\$1,000 of home value. This means that property tax on a home assessed at \$100,000, for example, would increase by \$147 per year if the referendum is approved by voters.

"Our community is proud of and supportive of our schools, our teachers and staff, and of course our students," said School Board President Teri Hooker. "A combination of factors, including a solid economy and low interest rates, make this a responsible time to take this project to our residents."

Much more information about the facility referendum will be available in the coming weeks, including learning opportunities with community organizations, mailers, and a special referendum information session planned for the evening of March 4. For more information, visit the facility referendum page under the District menu option on the school district website.

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