



AGENDA ITEM # 5.1

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Rich Spiczka, City Administrator

Date: October 2, 2023

Subject: School Referendum Presentation

Report: Superintendent Kurt Stumpf will be in attendance to present about the referendum and answer any questions council may have. The presentation is attached.

Council Action Requested: No action requested.

Reimagining the Future of Pequot Lakes Public Schools

Capital Projects Levy and
Bond Referendum — November 7, 2023

Kurt Stumpf, Superintendent
October 2, 2023



Patriot-Vision.org

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND OUR COMMUNITY



Mission Statement: Inspire a passion for learning to ensure success for every student.

More than **1,800 students** and about **240 faculty and staff**.

Enrollment is growing, with **10% growth over the last 10 years**.



Thank you for supporting our Patriots!



OUR FACILITY CHALLENGES



We have worked hard to maintain our school facilities, but after 20 years, our buildings require updates. Our needs include:

- Safety and security concerns, including building access and parking/traffic flow.
- Aging infrastructure, including mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems.
- Inadequate classroom space and common space for programming and activities.
- Lack of space to meet growing demand for early childhood programs.
- Inadequate and outdated auditorium.
- Aging playgrounds and upgrades to outdoor spaces, including track and field spaces, and baseball and softball fields.

THE PROCESS TO REIMAGINE OUR SCHOOLS

- District leaders, staff, students, parents and residents worked together to plan for the future of our school facilities.
- A community-based Facility Planning Team of 60 people engaged in a comprehensive process to analyze facility assessments, evaluate feedback and make an informed recommendation to the Pequot Lakes School Board.
- Guided by that input, the school board put forward a plan to meet our district's facility needs.
- The plan received a positive review and comment from the Minnesota Department of Education.



THE PLAN

Ensure a safe, healthy, modern learning environment

On Tuesday, November 7, Pequot Lakes Public Schools is asking district voters to consider two ballot questions:

Question One

Proposes a **10-year, \$500,000 annual capital projects levy** for investments in technology, buses, and other district vehicles.

Question Two

Proposes a **\$76.5 million bond referendum** to improve school buildings and facilities.

Question Two can only pass if Question One also passes

QUESTION ONE

\$500,000 Capital Projects Levy

- A **capital projects levy** is a local property tax approved by voters for specific infrastructure, technology and transportation projects.
- Funding these improvements through a capital projects levy would free up general funds to support student learning experiences and school operations.
- The proposed capital projects levy would be in place for a 10-year period.



QUESTION TWO



\$76.5 Million Bond Referendum

- A **bond referendum** is a local property tax approved by voters to fund new construction, renovation and additions to existing school buildings and purchases of new equipment.
- The proposed bond referendum (Question Two) is contingent on the capital projects levy (Question One), meaning it can only pass if the capital projects levy also passes.

THE IMPACT OF THE PLAN

If both questions are approved by voters, the funding would be used to:

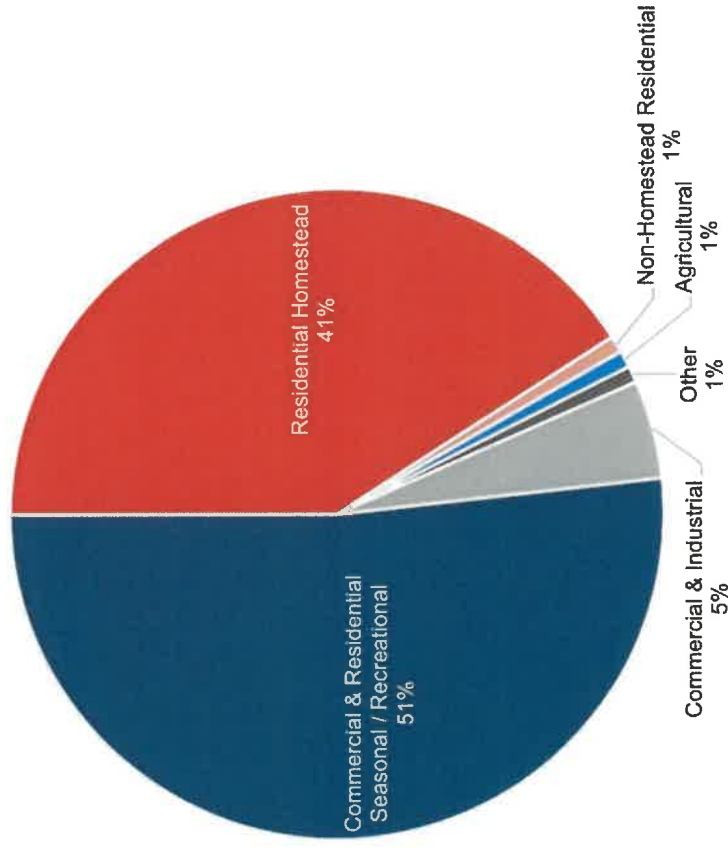
- ✓ **Invest in safety and security**, including secured entrances, expanded parking lots and improved traffic flow.
- ✓ **Fix aging infrastructure**, including updating mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems, and repairing roofing and sidewalks.
- ✓ **Enhance career and technical education**, including new space for robotics, technology, woods/metal, culinary arts, and family and consumer science.
- ✓ **Renovate school buildings**, including updating and new classrooms, a new science room, a new, larger auditorium, and an addition at the elementary school for early childhood programs.
- ✓ **Create more common spaces**, including collaborative learning spaces, expanded kitchen space, and remodeled locker rooms.
- ✓ **Transform space for athletics and outdoor activities**, including a new baseball and softball complex, a new tennis court and track and field improvements.

THE COST BREAKDOWN

Commercial and seasonal recreational property owners would pay for approximately **51%** of the referendum.

Residential homeowners would pay for approximately **41%** of the referendum.

**ISD 186 BREAKDOWN OF VALUATIONS
(NET TAX CAPACITY)**



THE TAX IMPACT

The district has worked to provide high value for this taxpayer investment.

If voters approve both ballot questions:



A home valued at **\$250,000** would see a property tax increase of **\$15 per month***



A home valued at **\$400,000** would see an estimated property tax increase of **\$25 per month***



A home valued at **\$800,000** would see an estimated property tax increase of **\$55 per month***

Use the tax calculator on Patriot-Vision.org to calculate the estimated impact of the referendum on your specific property.

* starting in 2024

THE CHOICE ON NOVEMBER 7

If voters approve the proposed plan

Our district will be able to improve safety and security, upgrade facility infrastructure, expand career and technical education, add and update classroom and common spaces and outdoor activity areas, and invest in technology and transportation,

If voters reject the proposed plan

The district will not be able to move forward with these improvements. The school board would re-engage the community to identify how our district can address our growing needs with limited financial resources.

Ultimately, Pequot Lakes area voters will decide whether to make this investment in our schools.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD—VOTE!



Early Voting: Sept. 22 – Nov. 6

- Mail your absentee ballot
- Vote early at the Crow Wing County Elections Office

Election Day: Nov. 7

Vote in person on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at your polling place

LEARN MORE

**This is an important community decision about the future of our schools.
We encourage everyone to learn more about the plan:**


Visit our dedicated website:
Patriot-Vision.org

District website:
www.isd186.org

Contact Superintendent Kurt Stumpf
Email: kstumpf@isd186.org
Phone: 218-568-9205

Follow us on Facebook:

Pequot Lakes High School

 [@PequotLakesHighSchool](https://www.facebook.com/PequotLakesHighSchool)

Pequot Lakes Middle School

 [@bit.ly/3P3ycdT](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/3P3ycdT)

Eagle View Elementary School

 [@EagleViewElem](https://www.facebook.com/EagleViewElem)