

Press Release

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Arrowhead School Board Unanimously Voted to Present a Reduced Facilities Referendum to the Community for April 1st Ballot

Revised solution consolidates to one building by expanding and renovating North Campus for improved safety, enhanced instructional spaces, and greater efficiency.

Hartland, WI. January 16, 2025 – On Wednesday evening, January 15th, the Arrowhead Union High School (AHS) School Board unanimously voted to present school district voters with a significantly revised facilities referendum on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

In response to voter feedback, the School Board's revised referendum plan consolidates operations and serves all students under one roof by renovating and expanding the North Campus building. The plan significantly reduces both the cost and tax impact of the previously proposed November 2024 referendum to construct a new high school.

The total not-to-exceed cost of the revised referendum plan is \$136.2 million, with an estimated tax impact of \$1.02 per \$1,000 of property value.

"Our Board listened to our community," said School Board President Kim Schubert. "We are offering a renovation and expansion plan that will still allow us to achieve many goals. On April 1, citizens will be asked to consider a significantly scaled down solution: \$136.2 million to renovate and add on to North campus. This is substantially less than the previously proposed \$261.2 million for an entirely new high school. This referendum is about 'Your Voice, Your Vote.' We look forward to the community's response."

The revised plan meets Arrowhead's most critical facility needs without bearing the cost of a new facility. Renovating and expanding the North Campus building will:

- **Enhance safety & security** - consolidating into a single building will eliminate the need for students to travel between buildings during the school day. With consolidation comes safer traffic flow, improved communication and responsiveness, as well as the construction of two secure and controlled main student entrances. Fire suppression sprinklers will be installed throughout the building.
- **Upgrade instructional spaces** - the expanded and renovated North Campus will facilitate more engaging and innovative teaching and learning. The renovation and addition includes small and large group instruction spaces, innovative laboratories, and flexible science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) classrooms. The swimming pool will be renovated to include 8-lanes with a deep end suitable for diving competition.
- **Improve operational efficiency** - the renovation and expansion of the North Campus building eliminates duplicate square footage. The proposed single building will be more

efficient to operate and maintain. Plus, this plan repairs or replaces aging building systems, further improving the efficiency of mechanical systems that heat, light, and operate our school.

If the revised plan is approved by voters in April, the South Campus building will be removed after the expansion and renovation of the North Campus building. Once completed, the project maintains a sufficient number of outdoor competition and practice fields. It is expected that the total number of parking stalls will increase to better accommodate events.

“We are excited about this lower-cost plan to bring the campus under one roof, as evidenced by the Board members’ unanimous vote. We have done our best to develop a plan that meets the needs of our students and is responsive to taxpayers,” said School Board Treasurer Brandon Miller.

AHS will continue to provide more information about the lower-cost solution in the coming weeks prior to the April 1, 2025, Spring General Election. For more information, please contact Superintendent Conrad Farner at farner@arrowheadschoools.org or visit the AHS website at <https://www.arrowheadschoools.org/referendum/>