

INSIDE YOUR SCHOOLS

A newsletter for our District Residents.



FALL 2017

Proud Past; Bright Future-Referendum 2017

Why is Winona Area Public Schools (WAPS) asking for a bond referendum?

WAPS, like many districts, has seen a drop in enrollment over the past 20 years. In the 1996-1997 school year, 4,760 students were enrolled in K-12. In 2016-2017 there were 3,010 students enrolled in K-12. This decline, along with aging facilities, has had a significant negative financial impact for the district. The current financial state of the district is not sustainable and because of this, WAPS is not able to provide many of the services required to meet the needs of the 21st Century child. In order to provide an equitable education for all students, there must be a new prioritization of spending. WAPS needs to improve the efficiency of the educational program delivery, reduce operational costs, improve instructional space and complete much needed deferred maintenance throughout the district.

What does the November 7, 2017 bond referendum include?

The estimated cost for the bond referendum is \$82,375,000. The bond will permit the district to do the following:

- Consolidate PreK through grade 4 capacity in two elementary schools, Washington Kosciusko (WK) and Goodview elementary schools.
- Retain Rollingstone elementary as a small school option and replace the roof.
- Create flexible learning environments that support personalized and blended learning.

- Create secure vestibules at all schools along with updating security systems including security camera coverage.
- Address all urgent deferred maintenance needs, which includes HVAC, life safety and accessibility issues.
- Create equal locker space at the high school along with an auxiliary gym.
- Repair the tennis courts at the high school.
- Provide a gym at the Area Learning Center. Currently students are bused off site for physical education classes.

The consolidation of elementary schools will create more equitable class sizes across the schools, increase access to student support services and allow for increased staff collaboration and co-teaching opportunities.

What are the savings if this consolidation happens?

The estimated operational cost savings each year will be \$1,140,000. The costs savings is derived from the reduction of buildings, which will reduce utilities and cleaning costs, (estimated \$210,000), and staff including administration, teachers and support staff (estimated savings \$930,000).

Where can I find information about tax impact?

You can visit:

www.ehlers-inc.com/custom/taxinformation/Winona to find more information about tax impact and to use the tax impact calculator. Enter your address or property ID number to find precise information about your property.

**WINONA AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Proud Past, Bright Future

VOTE | November 7, 2017

 FOLLOW US @WAPS861

NEXT STEP IF REFERENDUM PASSES OR FAILS

What happens if the referendum passes?

If the referendum is successful, the District would immediately begin the design for the projects, including engaging with all relevant stakeholders and community partners. The projects are slated to be phased over approximately three years to minimize impacts to students for transitions and accommodate educational programming. For the Elementary transition, the Goodview addition and renovation would likely begin construction in Fall 2018 with occupancy of the renovated facility in Fall 2019. At that point, construction on Washington-Kosciusko Elementary would begin, with occupancy in Fall 2020. The District would have a transition plan for students throughout the projects that values getting students into their new home schools as soon as possible and reducing impact/moves to programs.

What will happen if the referendum fails?

If the referendum would fail, the District will need to implement an immediate course of action to remain within its financial constraints by:

- Addressing the operational costs associated with inequitable class sizes and delivery of services.
- Addressing the ongoing costs of buildings that continue to age over time.



TAX IMPACT & VOTING

How does the recently passed Ag Land Tax Credit affect the tax impact from this referendum?

This year, the legislature passed the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit bill to provide a 40% reduction in tax impact for school building bonds for agricultural land.

Homestead examples exclude the house, garage and one acre, which has the same tax impact as a residential homestead. More information about tax impact can be found on the District's referendum website, including a tax impact calculator where you can find the exact impact by searching for your property.

VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH

Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on November 7, 2017. Combined polling places have been established at:

- Winona Senior High School - 901 Gilmore Ave
- Winona Middle School - 1570 Homer Road
- Central School Building - 317 Market Street
- Goodview Elementary School - 5100 9th Street
- Rollingstone Community School - 61 Main Street in Rollingstone

ABSENTEE VOTING

You can also vote via an absentee ballot. Absentee voting begins September 22, 2017 and ends November 6, 2017. This can be done in person at the District Office (located at 903 Gilmore Avenue, Winona) between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday until Friday, November 3rd. Absentee voting can also happen on Monday, November 6th from 7:30 am until 5:00 pm.

Absentee voting can also be done via mail at no cost to the voter by making a request by phone at 507-494-0861.

Where can I find more information?

Go to the referendum page at:
winonaschools.org/referendum 2017

or contact:

Rich Dahman

WAPS Superintendent - 507-494-0861
referendum2017@winonaschools.org

WSHS LAUNCHES VIDEO PRODUCTION

Winona Senior High school has launched a new class called "Video Production". This class will allow students to learn how to utilize storyboards, perfect lighting and how to be creative with text and images to produce a video from start to finish. These skills will be developed through learning the production process from pre-production to production and post-production. The student projects will be centered around the student's choice, but also on issues, topics and subjects that surround Winona Area Public School District.

In their course work they will produce (1) public service announcement, (1) expoza and (1) sales commercial. Each month they will also be highlighting what happened in the district through the eyes of the students. With broadcasting careers booming, this allows our students the head start with hands on production. Fifteen students are taking full advantage of Winona Senior High School's Video Production class this school year. We look forward to seeing their work inside the school and in the Winona Community.



WAPS NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

[Enroll](#) [District](#) [Parents](#) [Staff](#)

This summer brought a big change for Winona Area Public Schools; we launched a new site! We had parents, staff and community members express their struggle with our website to us. We used this opportunity to take a step back and start from scratch.

Our first hurdle was developing the main navigation that will be easy for parents, staff and community members to follow. Along with the improved navigation we spent time researching the best user experience. Some new features include:

POP-UP ALERT

With this new function we are now able to alert users of school closing, early release and any other important alerts. You have the option to "X" out of message but it will show up again. If you do not want to see it again, simply click "Don't Show Again" on the bottom left corner.

[Don't Show Again](#)

PARENTS

Throughout the website on the upper right hand corner you will see a tab that says "Parents". If you hover you will see the most common links within the website. With just a simple click you are on your desired page.

ENROLL

In the upper right hand corner on every page you will see "Enroll". This page will direct you to enroll as a new family or update information as a current family.

CALENDAR

In the past we have had only our Big 9 conference calendar online and no district-wide calendar. The new site provides easy access to know what is happening in our schools. You have the option to sort and select the calendars you want to view. You can sync the calendar and also subscribe to any updates.

www.WinonaSchools.org



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CENSUS DATA

Winona Area Public Schools is required to collect census data for children 5 years of age and under (as of September 1, 2017). This information will allow the district to plan for incoming students and provide a demographic count for the district's Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Screening programs. Information collection also aids families in being sure they will be invited to Early Childhood Screening and Kindergarten Registration.

*****Please fill out even if your children will not be attending Winona Area Public Schools.***

Fill out School Census
www.winonaschools.org/census

WSHS HOMECOMING



Back/Boys: Jonah Boelter, Dakota Matthees, Josh Bade (King), Griffin Wolner
Front/Girls: Sarah Halverson, Dayne Schultz, Jenna Timm, Selena Lor (Queen)

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Research has shown that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have a lifelong impact for individuals. ACEs change brain development, impair cognitive and social emotional skills and puts individuals at higher risk for chronic disease, mental illness and substance abuse.

Many entities across the state are learning about the ACE Study and beginning to understand its implications for policy and practice. Drawing on lessons from the Washington Family Policy Council and the experience of Minnesota's first cohort of ACEs and Resilience Trainers, there has been a movement to develop a network of speakers, trainers, and coaches to build community capacity to address challenging social and health issues using trauma-informed approaches.

Six WAPS staff participated in a two-day training cohort on August 2-3 sponsored by ACE Interface, MN Communities Caring for Children (MCCC) a.k.a. Prevent Child Abuse MN (PCAMN) and the Winona County Family Services Collaborative. Staff participating included: school social workers; Angela McQuinn, Rose Carr and Lisa Gernand, WK Principal Dawn Lueck, School Counselor Samantha Wagner and Special Education teacher Lora Hill. As part of this program, participants gain an understanding of the key concepts of the ACEs and Resilience curriculum and model community

change through deep dialogue with cohort and community members.

The specific commitments required for becoming an ACEs and Resilience Trainer include participation in all aspects of the ACEs and Resilience Training Package. These components include:

- Completing a pre-training assessment and reading background materials provided
- Participating in three two-day training retreats with fellow cohort members
- Presenting ACEs and Resilience content on at least two occasions (and once with a co-presenter)
- Supporting quality assurance efforts by participating in program evaluation processes
- Committing to participation in a Community of Practice throughout the training process – taking time to explore curriculum, shared values, best practices, vision for the future of this work, etc.
- Applying individual learning by identifying a trauma-informed project to co-design with the community.

For more information on the ACEs training contact Dr. Ruth Charles at rcharles@winona.edu.

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