



WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

October 11, 2018



OCTOBER 2018 SPECIAL EDITION OF THE WOLF PACK EXPRESS

Veterans Day Event
PG. 2

Community Presentations
PG. 2

Proposed Floor Plans
PG. 4-5

Fiscal Responsibility
PG. 6

Homecoming 2018
PG. 8

INTRODUCTION

The School District of Manawa Board of Education approved a resolution at their August meeting to go to referendum on November 6, 2018. The Board of Education is committed to providing the educational opportunities that this community wants for all our students. The Board used the district-wide survey results to pare down the \$15 million base plan presented in the survey to a proposed \$12 million base plan. Survey results indicated that there is public interest in pursuing a project if there would be little or no tax impact. The proposed \$12 million base plan would maintain the \$9.14 mill rate for the district. The concepts are not finalized architectural design plans. They are simply ideas to help the community get a sense of what is being proposed.

Thriving schools keep a community vibrant not only as a primary employer but by attracting families to the area. Selling a home becomes increasingly difficult in an area without a school causing property values to drop. Schools are usually a gathering place in a community. Programs and services like the Fitness Center are places where citizens can use such a facility while also enjoying the fellowship of other citizens. The libraries, Board Room, gyms, and cafeterias are frequently used by citizens.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

What are the two referendum questions?

Referendum

QUESTION NUMBER I

Shall the School District of Manawa, Waupaca County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building improvement program consisting of: construction of additions at the Jr./Sr. High School; District-wide renovations, capital maintenance, building infrastructure, safety and site improvements; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

Referendum

QUESTION NUMBER II

Shall the School District of Manawa, Waupaca County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$365,000 for the [2019-2020] school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of demolishing the vacant former elementary school building and returning the site to green space?

How was it decided which projects to include in referendum question #1 for \$12 million?

A comprehensive facilities study was completed by Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc. and its team of consultants over the past year. The review identified a prioritized 20-year list of building infrastructure needs across the district. This information was combined with the results of the district-wide survey of residents. A group of Community Stakeholders met multiple times over the course of the 2017-18 school year to review all the Site Analysis & Feasibility Study documents and to discuss the priority needs of the district.

The priority areas to receive attention include:

- School Safety/Addressing ADA Accessibility
- HS Secure Front Entry with Handicap Accessibility
- Aging Building Systems/Technology Infrastructure
- Better Utilizing School Spaces
- Technology/Agriculture/Science/Engineering/Art
- Updating Learning Spaces to Prepare Students for the World of Work

Projects that received less taxpayer support were those related to athletic facilities and a maintenance garage.



continued on page 3

GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!





OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EVENTS:

- Oct. 15 – Regular BOE Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – MES Board Rm
- Oct. 17 – Child Development Day – MES – 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17 - Mindset Training – Student Athletes Welcome – 5:00 p.m. LWHS
- Oct. 22 – Annual School District Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – MES Board Room
- Oct. 24 - Mindset Training – Student Athletes Welcome – 5:00 p.m. LWHS
- Oct. 25 – Early Dismissal / Staff Development in the p.m.
- Oct. 26 – No School
- Nov. 7 - Mindset Training – Student Athletes Welcome – 5:00 p.m. LWHS
- Parent/Teacher Conferences – 4 to 8 p.m. – Both Schools
- Veteran’s Day Program – LWJr./Sr.HS Gymnasium – 2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14 - Mindset Training – Student Athletes Welcome – 5:00 p.m. LWHS
- Nov. 19 – Regular BOE Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – MES Board Rm

All Athletic Events are on the Calendar of Events page on the district website www.manawaschools.org

2018 REFERENDUM

VOTE NOVEMBER 6, 2018

SCHEDULED REFERENDUM COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS:

- THURSDAY, OCT. 11, 2018:** Town of Royalton - 7 p.m. • Town of Little Wolf - 7 p.m.
MONDAY, OCT. 15, 2018: Town of Lebanon - 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, OCT. 16, 2018: MES Board Room - 8 a.m.
TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 2018: LWJr./Sr.HS Commons - 6 p.m.

TAX VOCABULARY

What does the term taxing authority mean?

A local tax is a tax assessed and levied by a local authority such as a state, county or municipality. A local tax is usually collected in the form of property taxes and is used to fund a wide range of civic services from garbage collection to sewer maintenance. A taxing authority is any government entity that is authorized by law to assess, levy and collect taxes. The other taxing authorities for SDM residents include the School District of Manawa, Fox Valley Technical College, the State of Wisconsin, Waupaca County, and the municipality in which the person owns property.

What is a mill rate?

Mill rate is also known as the millage rate. One mill is equal to 1/1,000th of a currency unit. To calculate the property tax, the taxing authority multiplies the assessed value of the property by the mill rate and then divides by 1,000. For example, a property with an assessed value of \$50,000 located in a municipality with a mill rate of 10 mills (also shown as a dollar figure of \$10.00) would have a property tax bill of \$500 per year. The SDM mill rate has been set at \$9.14 per \$1,000 of property value since the 2016-17 school year.

What is a tax levy?

The school tax levy is the total amount of money to be raised through school property taxes. The school board sets the levy each year at the annual meeting in October. The school tax rate or mill rate is the dollar amount per \$1,000 of assessed property value that a property owner pays in taxes.

How do I read my tax bill?

There are five (5) taxing entities: the State of Wisconsin, Waupaca County, the resident city or township, Fox Valley Technical College, and the School District of Manawa. Each jurisdiction determines its tax rate independently of the others.

Assessed Value Land	Assessed Value Improvements	Total Assessed Value	Average Assessment Ratio	Net Number Tax Rate (2018) (2017) (2016) (2015) (2014)	
68,100	131,600	199,700	1.000266	19.649834	
Estimated Fair Market Land	Est. Fair Market Improvements	Estimated Fair Market	A star in this box means unpaid prior year taxes		
SEE REVERSE, USE VALUE ASSESSMENT				School taxes reduced by other city tax credits \$326.74	
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION					
TAXING JURISDICTION		2012	2013	2012	2013
		Est. State Aids	Est. State Aids	Net Tax	Net Tax
STATE OF WISCONSIN		33.31	33.98	1.7%	
WAUPACA COUNTY		49,160	50,708	1,264.46	1,334.12
TOWN OF ST. LAWREN		111,385	111,385	486.64	488.27
MANAWA SCHOOL DIST		526,343	498,992	1,635.97	1,673.80
FOX VALLEY VTAE		22,398	22,822	386.61	394.00
Property Address		Total	709,266	683,907	3,626.99
					3,924.07
					2.5%
					66.08
					64.10
					-3.0%
					92.11
					109.17
					18.5%
					3,668.80
					3,750.80
					2.2%



We're Proud to Support Our Manawa Wolves

Our Family

214 S. Bridge St.
Manawa, WI
920-596-3341
remingtonsqualityfoods.com

STEP VOLUNTEERS:

Senior citizens can save on their property taxes by volunteering in the schools through the Senior Tax Exchange Program. Contact Ruth Lord, Director at 920-596-5673 for more information.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP MANAWA SCHOOLS

Boxtops Needed – Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and Huggies.

Referendum, from page 1

What is being proposed for Manawa Elementary School?

Manawa Elementary School construction began in 1995 as a middle school serving students in grades 6-8. (See MES site plan pg. 4) The following reflects the projects to be completed at MES:

- Restore rated door function by reconnecting door closers and removing door stops.
- Install detectable warning for AED cabinet.
- Replace carpet not covered by remodeling.
- Repair damaged drywall.
- Install magnetic door holders for classroom wing doors to allow better access control.
- Replace deteriorated or missing sealant.
- Replace existing generator and relocate away from building switchboard.
- Segregate emergency and standby power.
- Add surge suppression to emergency system.
- Replace the fire alarm system entirely with a new system that is speaker based and provide full intelligibility.
- Replace air handling unit (AHU-7) indoor fan coil unit, DX condensing unit and associated duct electric coils.
- Replace the existing clock system with wireless GPS technology type system.
- Complete ADA compliance projects.

In addition, the front entryway and parking lot have long posed safety concerns with pedestrians, cars and buses all using the same congested space. (See MES site drawing on pg. 4) The new configuration will create a bus turnaround area in the back of MES. Bus students will enter and exit the building from the back door. The rear bus turnaround will also provide a place for hard surface place during the school day and event parking for evenings and weekends. The existing playground will be renovated, and the retention pond will be modified.

What is being proposed for the Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School?

(See HS floor plan on pg. 4-5)

The original construction of the secondary school was completed in 1969. (See HS floor plan.) There have been several additions or renovations to date. The front of the building will be adjusted to allow for the creation of a true middle school to serve students in grades six to eight. (See also special section on the importance of a middle school for student learning.) Below is a list of the projects to be completed at LWJSHS:

- Replace roofing surfaces.
- Restore rated door function by reconnecting door closers and removing door stops.
- Restore proper door and hardware removed from openings in technical education shops to address rating requirements.
- Install detectable warning for AED cabinet and drinking fountains.
- Fire alarm pull stations at 60" above finished floor.
- Replace two existing domestic gas-fired water heaters 670 MBH, storage tank, and recirculation pumps immediately upon available funding for equipment replacement.
- Install vertical expansion joints in all masonry veneer per industry standard recommendations for location, frequency and sealants to maintain integrity and weather tightness of exterior wall structure; when joints are installed on upper walls of commons, evaluate and repair bowing masonry wall as required.
- Replace carpet not covered in remodel.
- Abate and replace vinyl asbestos tile not included in remodeling.
- Replace acoustical ceiling tile not included in remodeling.
- Tuckpoint masonry.
- Replace deteriorated or missing sealant.
- Replace failing windows.
- Service entrance conductors.



- Segregate emergency and standby power.
- Add surge suppression to emergency system.
- Replace the fire alarm system entirely with a new system that is speaker based and provides full intelligibility.
- Fire alarm visual and audible coverages in areas not being remodeled.
- Upgrade building temperature controls to Direct Digital Control (DDC).
- Replace existing distribution transformers with new transformers meeting the DOE 2016 Federal mandate.
- Replace the existing clock system with wireless GPS technology type system.
- Update special education, science, and general education classrooms infrastructure, finishes, amenities, and science lab equipment.
- Update agriculture and technical education area infrastructure, finishes, and equipment to create collaborative space options for both "clean" projects and traditional shop welding and woodworking.
- Fill band room "pit" to make the room more versatile and ADA accessible.
- Replace stage lighting, sound, and the curtain; install a lift to provide handicap accessibility.
- Add a secure main entrance that is ADA accessible.
- Relocate administrative, health, and counseling offices to provide better control over visitor access and to make services more accessible to students.
- Update family and consumer education lab finishes, infrastructure, casework, and appliances; allows for popular student programs like the hospitality industry and childcare coursework to be reintroduced to the secondary curriculum in the future.

Physical education instruction across the country is changing to promote lifelong health. Students are offered choices between team-oriented activities and personalized fitness programs. A lower level fitness center and weight room would be created with walk-out ground level access from the west parking lot. Men's and women's changing rooms along with a training room will be accessible outside the locker rooms. This fitness center would be available for community use. An elevator would provide access from the ground-level fitness center to the gymnasium and classroom level of the building through a convenient event entrance.

Why are the proposed projects in referendum #1 needed?

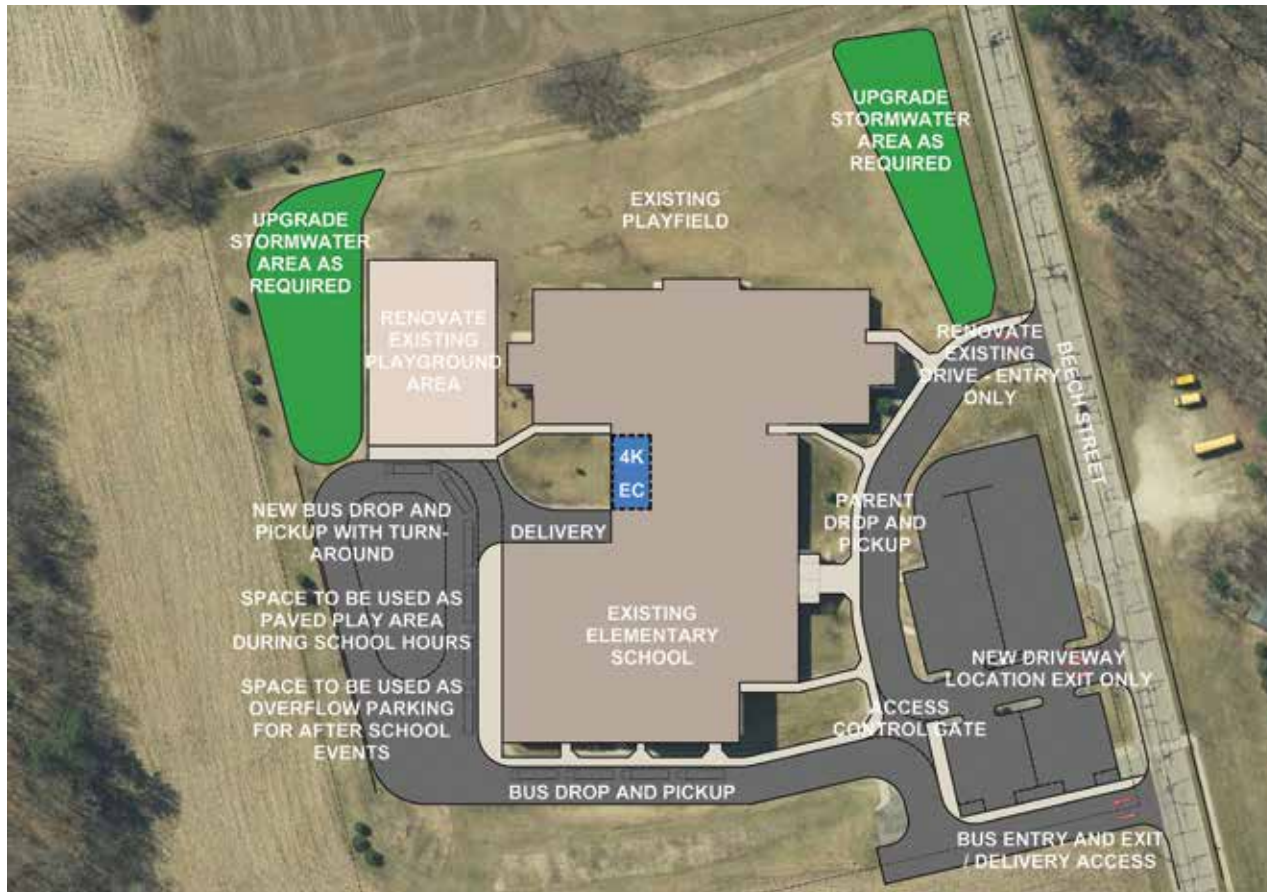
While the SDM schools have been well maintained, many of the schools' major systems have exceeded their useful life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly maintenance and repairs. Like your home, standard shingles last about 20-25 years so it is not unusual to need to closely monitor the home's roof and plan for a shingle replacement after about 20 years. Household furnaces and water heaters have a similar life span. Much like at home, the district monitors all systems and keeps a record of the replacement cycle for each. The district does routine annual maintenance and minor repairs but eventually the systems are more cost efficient to replace than to repair. Additionally, chillers, water heaters, and boilers are made today with energy efficiency in mind. Some of the newer equipment is more cost efficient to run. To read more please visit

continued on page 6

Middle School and High School first floor plan



Manawa Elementary School site





2018 REFERENDUM

VOTE NOVEMBER 6, 2018



Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School lower floor plan

Referendum, from page 3

the district's website under the "Our Community" tab > Site Analysis and Feasibility Study at: <https://www.manawaschools.org/community/safs.cfm>

How were the figures arrived at that are included in the \$12 million base plan?

Architects and engineers from Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc., and various other contractors have provided conservative estimates for all proposed projects. All projects or services will be put out for bid to get the best value for the dollar before specific vendors and contractors are secured.

Why does question #2 deal only with the former elementary building?

Taxpayer voices were heard in the survey. It has been suggested that the most economical solution at this time is to demolish the building and return the area to green space.

The Community Stakeholders group reviewed an array of options to include using the space to build a softball or baseball field, remodel a portion of the structure for a new fitness and community center, remodeling a portion of the structure to make a new maintenance and storage facility, remodeling a portion to create a new community and performing arts center. These projects ranged in cost from about 1.8 to 9.2 million dollars. For this reason, the Community Stakeholders felt the cost was too high for the benefits gained by students and the community.

Why are the remodeling costs so high for the vacant building?

A large section of the building is constructed from precast concrete, durable material built to last. However, the concrete "box" makes what can be done with the space very limited. Precast concrete is also expensive to demolish.

The greater challenge is that the building has been without utility services for more than five years. The roofs leak and mold is present. The building also was constructed during a time when asbestos was still commonly found in tiles, mastics, and insulation. Bringing the building back to useful life at this time involves replacing plumbing, heating/cooling, electrical and other infrastructure systems.



- Interest rates are low.
- The district is debt-free and Energy Efficiency projects are ending.
- Referendum debt payments replace the cost of the Energy Efficiency Levy amount, so mill rate does not increase.
- Current district mill rate is below state average.
- Future construction/demolition costs will continue to rise.

Why can't these projects be completed out of the regular operating budget?

Addressing the highest priority facility needs in a capital referendum allows the District to make needed repairs immediately while paying the cost of these long-term projects over 20 years. Although district buildings are well cared for, the annual maintenance budget has been reduced as a result of statewide budget cuts to less than \$140,000 per year (1.65 % of budget). This budget area includes snow removal, lawn care, vehicle repair/replacement, and other annually recurring expenses in addition to special projects. This drastically affects the district's ability to reinvest in school facilities as they continue to age.

LEARNING SPACES

What is a middle school and why is it important?

The middle school concept is not new. It was designed to place impressionable tweens together during grades six through eight to provide a transitional instructional program that had elements of both elementary and secondary education. Research has shown it to be a developmentally sound way to educate students in this age range. Students move around for some classes (as is common in most high schools) but have a core group of teachers with whom they interact on a daily basis (more like the close relationships built at

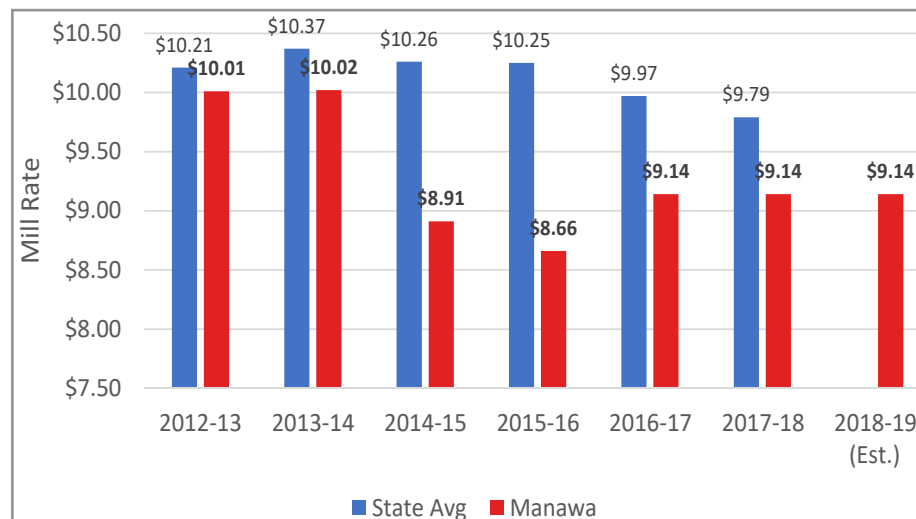
the elementary level). The state standards for math, English/language arts, science, and social studies were designed in grades six to eight clusters unlike the elementary grades that have specific standards for each grade level. This allows for a more flexible instructional program that works better for middle school students.

There are numerous examples of districts that house their middle school and high school in the same building. This allows for a wise use of staffing, resources, and space. Students in the middle school years are encouraged to explore opportunities and education pathways like technology education, agriculture, world languages, business, engineering, robotics, and more. Having access to high school staff with this expertise allows youth to gain exposure to these unique subjects and discover what interests them.

Students in the middle school years should have access to advanced course placement as part of gifted and talented programming. It is not uncommon for an advanced eighth grade science student to take freshman biology or for an advanced seventh grader in math to have access to algebra. Advanced course placement can lead to students taking post-secondary courses while still in high school. This can save parents college tuition fees and can support students in more easily finishing college within four years while being well prepared for the rigors of college courses.

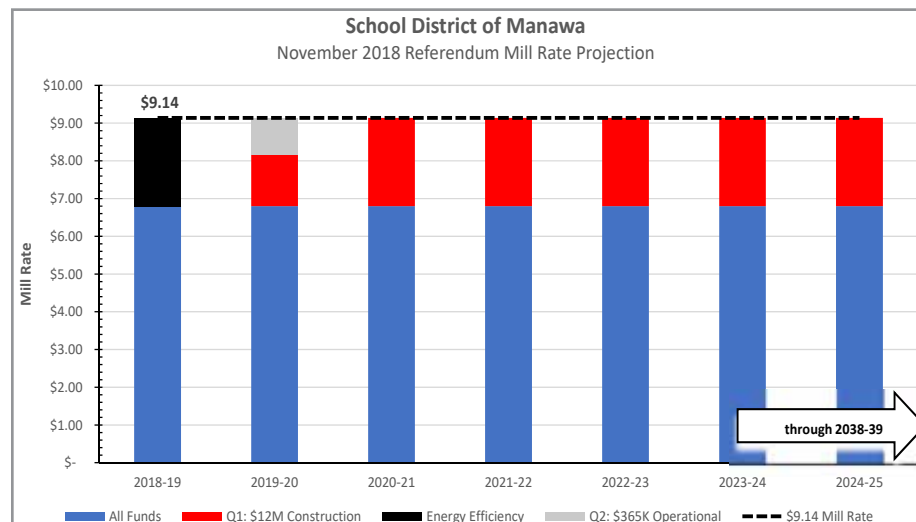
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

What are the historic mill rates of the district?



Manawa has historically been a conservative, low-spending district. In 2014, debt from the last approved referendum was paid-in-full and the District has remained debt-free since.

How will the \$12 million referendum debt replace the Energy Efficiency Levy?



Since 2014, the School District of Manawa has utilized the energy efficiency levy. This allowed the district to levy money for projects that would recoup costs in energy savings. In the 2017 state biennium budget, this energy efficiency provision was eliminated. This allows the District to repurpose the tax dollars that were being used to fund energy efficiency projects to fund this

referendum debt with no increase to the current mill rate of \$9.14 per \$1,000 of home value.

The referendum debt structure is such that a mill rate of \$9.14 per \$1,000 of home value will continue over twenty years. This scenario assumes that the interest rate will be fixed at 4-4.25% and property values will remain stable.

FUTURE OPTIONS

What is the future of the SDM?

Education has become a competitive market with near neighboring districts to recruit and retain staff and to attract students and their families.

The district has worked hard over the past four years to define the SDM niche.

Why choose the SDM?

The high school has surveyed students on career interests and staff have researched future trends of workforce development to determine programs and services the district should offer to keep the SDM competitive in the global marketplace. The district has added:

- An articulated welding program with Fox Valley Technical College.
- A PAES Lab in downtown Manawa that prepares youth with disabilities for meaningful work experiences after high school. (Paving the Way)
- A popular engineering/robotics program.

These staff and program changes were made strategically to position the district to meet the needs of students for their future.

Could the SDM add a project like a gym, pool, fine arts center, or other need to the proposed high school renovation project if referendum question #1 passes?

If the \$12 million referendum question #1 passes in November, the Board of Education could ask a new referendum question on the spring ballot to determine if taxpayers would consider raising taxes to do an add-on project(s). To this end, the Board of Education would conduct another formal district-wide survey to determine project(s) the citizens would like to pursue, and the tax tolerance citizens would consider reasonable.

Hoffman Construction consultants indicate that they can adjust the HS remodeling designs because it is part of the 3rd phase of the schedule. Ex.:To add either a partial gym (holds one full-sized basketball court or a full gym the cost would range from about \$2.8 million to \$4.5 million.

What happens if the referendum is not approved?

The District has a responsibility to provide safe, warm, dry and accessible schools to all students, staff and community members. Without EE funding, the school district will still need to address aging and outdated facilities, which will only become more expensive as construction costs naturally rise due

to inflation. The School Board would return to the community for additional feedback and begin planning to present a revised referendum question to voters in the future.

Beginning with the 2019-20 fiscal year, the SDM mill rate is forecasted to drop to about \$6.84. While a taxpayer may find this mill rate very appealing, this steep drop in available financial resources to the district would have a significant negative impact on the district’s budget. A steep drop in the mill rate would result in the Board of Education and community having to make difficult decisions to cut programs and staffing over time. Maintenance would continue to draw money away from academic opportunities.

This is a time of rebuilding for the School District of Manawa. The district has added a highly regarded technology/robotics program, a welding program that aligns to Fox Valley Technical College, and a new PAES Lab. In the near future, the district would like to bring back the Family and Consumer Education program to provide job opportunities for students wishing to pursue service industry and child care jobs. These academic programs along with extracurricular activities are what keep students and families interested in the SDM. Today, schools/districts compete for students as families have choices through the open enrollment and voucher programs. If the SDM began cutting programs and staffing, neighboring districts may begin to look more attractive to people who are able to transport their children to another district. All families want their children to receive a quality education that will prepare them for life after high school to include a job, military position, or post-secondary education. The School District of Manawa is well-positioned to be a destination district among Wisconsin’s leading small school districts. Thank you for your ongoing support of the School District of Manawa.



What will happen if the referendum is approved?

KICKOFF

November 2018 Design and vision verification

PACKAGE 1 – ELEMENTARY SITE

November 2018 – February 2019 Elementary Site Design
 March 2019 Elementary Site Bidding
 April 2019 – October 2019 Elementary Site Construction

PACKAGE 2 – EARLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

November 2018 – February 2019 Scope Document Production
 March 2019 Early Maintenance Bidding
 April 2019 – October 2019 Early Maintenance Construction

Elementary

- Replace EPDM membrane roof original to building.

Jr./Sr. High School

- Remove and replace wood shelving from kitchen with stainless steel options.
- Replace asphalt shingle roofs with new standing seam metal roofs.
- Attach roof ladder to wall at commons roof.
- Replace new locker rooms, art rooms and eastern classroom ballasted EPDM roof.
- Replace roof over office/classroom/kitchen areas.

PACKAGE 3 – ADDITIONS, REMODELING AND REMAINING MAINTENANCE ITEMS

December 2018 – June 2019 Design of Additions, Remodeling, and Remaining Maintenance Items
 July 2019 – August 2019 Bidding
 September 2019 – October 2020 Construction of Additions, Remodeling, and Remaining Maintenance Items

Homecoming 2018



School District of Manawa Information

District Office
 Phone: 920-596-2525
 800 Beech Street
 District Administrator: Dr. Melanie J. Oppor
 Business Manager: Carmen O'Brien
 Curriculum & Special Ed. Director:
 Danielle Brauer
 Technology Director: Bryant Cobarrubias

Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School
 Grades 7-12
 Phone: 920-596-2524
 515 E. 4th Street
 Principal: Daniel Wolfram

Manawa Elementary School
 Grades PK - 6
 Phone: 920-596-2238
 800 Beech Street
 Principal: Michelle Pukita



Paving the Way
 Phone: 920-596-2526
 407 S. Bridge St.
 Director: Danielle Brauer

Manawa Board of Education
 President:Joanne Johnson
 Vice PresidentRuss Johnson
 ClerkBobbi Jo Pethke
 Treasurer.....Hélène Pohl
 DirectorRussell Hollman
 DirectorStan Forbes
 DirectorBruce Scheller

Board Meetings:
 Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except April - 4th Monday) in the Board Room located at the Manawa Elementary School at 7:00 pm. Any additional meetings are duly posted on the district's website, in the City Hall and at Sturm Public Library. For additional information please contact the District Office at 920-596-2525.

The Board of Education and Administrative Team would like to thank all the individuals, groups, and businesses that so generously contribute to the District. Your gifts of money, time, materials, and talents support and enhance programs for all our students and staff!

The School District of Manawa does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

Mission Statement:
 The School District of Manawa is the place where students choose to excel academically and realize their strengths.

Vision Statement: The School District of Manawa engages students to reach their full potential in a changing global society through highly effective instruction and leadership.

The SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANAWA is the place where STUDENTS choose to EXCEL academically and realize their STRENGTHS.

GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!