



Talking Points – Bond Referendum

What are the driving needs?

1. Growth & Lack of Instructional Space
2. Aging Infrastructure
3. Lack of Gymnasium Space

Growth & Lack of Instructional Space (WPS current enrollment is 4,132 students)

- Both Kennedy Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary are over capacity with 900+ students. Both buildings are designed to hold 780 students.
- Kennedy and Roosevelt are not large enough to comfortably house staff and programs for the number of students attending.
- Buildings are crowded, and some instruction is happening in hallways and nooks because all other spaces are being used.

Aging Infrastructure (Middle School)

- The Middle School is holding science in rooms constructed in 1967.
- Constructing new science classrooms will enhance science instruction and allow better implementation of teaching practices focused on the Minnesota State Standards.
- The old science classrooms will be remodeled and will provide additional teaching space to accommodate additional students.
- In addition to science classrooms, plans to enclose a courtyard attached to the cafeteria will provide more seating and better flow of students during breakfast and lunch.

Aging Infrastructure (Deferred Maintenance)

- At WPS we believe in keeping facilities in good working order so that there is less need to go to taxpayers for new facilities.
- WPS receives approximately \$1.2 million of operating capital and deferred maintenance funding each year. The funding falls short of meeting the costs of maintaining the aging facilities.
- WPS has over \$9 million dollars of deferred maintenance needs to keep existing facilities safe and comfortable learning environments for students.

Lack of Gymnasium Space

- Many sports and activities at the Senior High are held in the hallways or at odd hours due to limited space. Teams running in the hallways create safety issues as well as increased wear and tear on the existing building because the hallways and carpeting were not designed for this type of activity.
- Currently, gymnastics is set up at Kennedy Elementary for half the year. This reduces the number of teaching spaces for elementary physical education.
- The addition of gymnasium and gymnastics space allows all Senior High athletics to move back to the Senior High campus and keeps students off the road and not driving to different locations in the community for daily practices.

What is the District's proposed response to these issues?

Question 1: WPS is asking for \$52,345,000 in school building bonds to:

- Construct a new PreK-5 elementary school.
- Remodel learning/instructional space at Kennedy, Roosevelt, Middle School, and High School.
- Build new science classrooms at the Middle School.
- Build two additional gymnasiums and add a gymnastics addition to the Senior High.
- Complete deferred maintenance projects at all buildings owned by WPS (Kennedy, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Middle School, Senior High, and ALC).

Question 2: WPS is asking for \$7,750,000 in school building bonds to:

- Construct a 51,000 sq. ft. field house at the Senior High.

Tax Impact

- If the 2015 bond referendum passes (Question 1 & 2), the annual tax impact on a \$100,000 residential home would be \$132 per year or \$11 per month.
- For complete tax information and the tax calculator visit the WPS website at www.willmar.k12.mn.us.

When and Where to Vote

- Tuesday, May 19th
- Polls Open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- WEAC/Rehearsal Hall

To Schedule a Bond Presentation: Call Mandi Schmidt at 320-231-8551 or visit the WPS website at www.willmar.k12.mn.us