

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Lac Qui Parle Valley Public School District, ISD #2853-01, is proposing a single ballot question bond referendum on November 7, 2023 that would authorize \$6.575 million in bonding authority to finance district-wide facility improvements. The proposed projects focus on upgrades to the existing auditorium and outdoor athletic amenities. Proposed projects for the auditorium would upgrade sound/video, curtains/rigging and seat replacement. Outdoor athletic upgrades include: track and ball-field upgrades, new tennis courts, sidewalk replacement, softball complex upgrades and concession area improvements.

The projects proposed would be scheduled for completion in calendar year 2025. Cost estimates by location and project type are as follows:

Auditorium Upgrades		Outdoor Athletic Upgrades	
Sound/Video/ Electrical	\$500,000	Track Replacement	\$468,750
Curtains/ Rigging/Lights	\$987,500	Ballfield Upgrades	\$1,087,500
Seat Replacement	\$426,688	New Tennis Courts (7)	\$1,375,000
Ticket Booth	\$20,475	Softball Complex Upgrades	\$801,587
FF&E/Signage	\$117,187	Concessions/ Storage	\$37,125
	\$2,051,850	Convert Fields to Ag Land	\$62,500
		Sidewalk Replacement	\$531,250
Other Project Costs:			\$4,363,712
Greenhouse Upgrades	\$79,438		
Bond Issuance	\$80,000		
	\$159,438	Total Project Cost Estimate	\$6,575,000

The district is projecting stable enrollment over the next several years. During the 2022-23 school year, 214 resident students open enrolled out of the district and 47 students open enrolled into the district. Most of the open enrollees out of the district enrolled into the Dawson-Boyd School District (86) or Montevideo School District (64 students).

The district has supplied cost estimates to operate and staff the additional building space and it appears existing revenues will be sufficient to fund any operational cost increases. The proposed project appears to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information Is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.

/s/ Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner
September 7, 2023
(9-13-1c)