

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

G.F.W. School District, ISD #2365-01, is proposing a single-question bond referendum on November 5, 2019, that would authorize \$49,490,000 in bonding authority to finance a new prekindergarten through grade 12 school in Gibbon and the demolition of the existing attendance centers in Winthrop and Fairfax.

Proposed projects would be scheduled for completion in the 2020-22 calendar years. Cost estimates by project component are as follows:

New PK-12 School	
Construction	\$33,832,500
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$5,973,466
Contingencies	\$2,042,654
Building Demolitions	\$1,358,537
Site Improvements	\$3,084,982
Land Purchase	\$538,029
FF&E / Technology	\$2,152,117
Bond Issuance	\$507,715
	\$49,490,000

The district has supplied cost estimates to operate and staff a new building and projects a significant reduction in operating costs compared to the cost of operating three attendance centers. In addition, both the school board and MDE believe a single site solution is in the best long-term interest of the 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.



Mary Kathryn Ricker, NBCT
Commissioner

September 19, 2019