

# Little Chute schools task force recommends referendum

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For the Times-Villager

At a special Little Chute School Board meeting Monday, the Facilities Task Force recommended a \$17,770,000 bond referendum to cover the cost of new construction and remodeling of the high school, middle school and staff offices to accommodate the Flex Academy and classroom and collaborative areas needed for student learning.

They recommended a single referendum to be placed on the April 4 general election ballot along with a recurring \$250,000 referendum on continued technology support. The latter was initially approved five years ago.

Responding to an original estimate of more than \$20 million and then at \$19.4 million and to the results of a community survey

conducted last year, the task force set a goal of less than \$18 million as they assessed the existing facility, site conditions, learning centers, educational needs and enrollment projections and explored options and costs for additions and remodeling.

They also considered how modern learning spaces can enhance teaching and learning and evaluated the tax impact of various scenarios.

"We focused on verifying needs and exploring solutions that will be most advantageous to learning and be cost effective to the taxpayer," said Ken Schiller, one of the members of the task force.

The task force's proposal includes a 24,000 square foot, two story, new construction on the north side of the high school that would move the entrance from the present location

to the corner of the building by the entrance to the fieldhouse and commons. Not only will the addition add room on the first floor for high school and middle school offices and a combined high school/middle school library on the second floor, it will enable the correction of a drainage problem along the outside wall that has plagued the district since the last remodeling.

The corridor leading from the entrance past the offices and back wall of the current building will be lighted through a two story skylight.

The current middle/intermediate school offices and library and the district offices will be renovated to accommodate the Flex Academy and the middle school. The present east entrance to the district office and middle school will be used only

by the Flex Academy. District offices will move to the space currently housing the high school offices.

The current high school library will be renovated into four classrooms and a large group instruction area.

The upper level weight room will be renovated to enlarge the space and provide a permanent area for the dance team. A resource room for seventh grade and another for eighth grade and a conference room will be added to the southeast wing of the upper level.

Also on the lower level of the building, the kitchen, cafeteria commons area will be renovated to improve the kitchen facility and provide a cafe type seating area for the cafeteria that will be open to the commons. The cafe seating will provide a resting area for patrons

before and during intermissions at school events.

Pupil services will be located adjacent to the cafe and easily accessible to all students from the commons area. The current pupil services area will be remodeled as a multi-purpose room and will also be used for wrestling.

Based upon a 20-year debt repayment at an estimated interest rate of 4 percent, a tertiary aid impact of 37.58 percent and a mill rate based on the 2016 equalized valuation, the task force estimated an additional \$1.31 per \$1,000 mill rate for 2017-18 and 2018-19 and a mill rate of 95 cents per \$1,000 from 2019 and thereafter.

The Little Chute School Board votes on the recommendation Monday.