

# Little Chute school referendums on election ballot next week

By Judy Dixon Hebbe  
For the Times-Villager

"We're reorganizing our facility to ensure we can meet the needs of our students in the future," Superintendent David Botz said when describing the \$17.7 million remodeling and construction project involving the high/middle/intermediate school facility.

"Building and remodeling in 1966 and 1997 were designed for the time. This project is a design for the future with the emphasis on flexibility," he said.

The proposed changes, outlined in the referendum that will be presented to Little Chute voters on April 4, will create for the district the flexibility to do things as the emphasis and focus in learning models change.

"We will not max out this facility in 20 years. The footprint will not change," Botz said. "We will have the flexibility to do things at that time that will not require construction."

Offices will be consolidated in the new construction planned for the north side of the building, enabling efficiencies in the delivery of services and in staffing. Student services for all levels will be in one area, rather than scattered throughout the facility as now. Staff will be better utilized, rather than performing duplicate tasks in different areas of the building. The district offices will be moved to the present site of the high school administrative offices, opening the present space for the Flex Academy.

By combining the two libraries in the upper floor of the new construction, services and staff will focus on the needs of all students. Resources will not have to be duplicated. The

verted to classrooms and collaborative learning areas.

Classroom spaces being remodeled for the Flex Academy and the Career Pathways Academy will allow for proposed expansion of the programs, carrying them into the future.

The new entrance, on the north side of the building opposite the parking lot, will become the primary entrance to the school. Although all doors will be open before 8 a.m., once students are in the building all doors will lock, except the north entrance adjacent to the administrative offices, guaranteeing the safety of the students.

"This plan is not enrollment driven," Botz said. "Right now the district is at a 10-year high after peaking at approximately 1,700 students in 2001."

While student enrollment is cyclical, rising and lowering with the movement of families, open enrollment has allowed the district to maintain the numbers of students at approximately 1,500. An additional 200 students enrolled in the district would not have an impact on the proposed facility.

Currently, the majority of the open enrolled students come from the Kaukauna school district area north of Highway 41. Most of them have never been enrolled in the Kaukauna district, having entered the Little Chute School District as members of a pre-kindergarten class. If, in the future, residents of the area successfully petition the Department of Public Instruction to become part of the Little Chute School District, it would have no impact on the facilities because those students are already a part of the system.

ards of the money we receive," Botz noted, which was why, 10 years ago, the decision was made to have a recurring referendum on technology needs, rather than a referendum calling for an annual tax ad infinitum. "We want to be accountable to

the taxpayers and allow them to review and vote on our continuing technology goals."

The April 4 referendum authorizing the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$275,000 for another five years will focus on providing

one-on-one computer coverage for all students in fifth through 12th grade.

Little Chute Area School District may be small, but through its vision and stewardship, it does big things for students and other residents.