In 2014, voters approved Phase 1 of a long-range plan to improve our school buildings. That investment funded Red Creek Elementary School and facilities improvements at Black River Falls High School. These projects have positively impacted our students and community. However, there is more work to be done to address additional building infrastructure and educational needs across the District.

In light of the current situation, we explored whether it is the right time to ask our community for this investment. Through a community-wide survey in June, 63% of respondents indicated that now is a good time to continue onto Phase 2 of our long-range plan to address:

**THE QUESTION**

Below is the actual language as it will appear on the November 3 ballot.

Shall the School District of Black River Falls, Jackson, Clark and Monroe Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $23,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and improvement project consisting of: updates to major building systems and building improvements at Forrest Street Elementary School, Black River Falls Middle School and Black River Falls High School; construction of an addition to and renovations at Forrest Street Early Learning Center; construction of an addition, renovations and site improvements at Black River Falls High School; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

Yes ☐ No ☐

**VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

**FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING TIMELINE**

Below is a recap of our facilities master planning efforts leading up to the 2020 referendum.

- Facilities Study identified needs
- Community Task Force recommended plan for November 2014 referendum
- Successful referendum

**2014**

- Phase 1 High School additions and renovations completed
- Red Creek Elementary School opened

**2015**

- Phase 2 Facilities Study affirms needs
- Facility Information Meetings for community feedback
- Community Survey
- Board of Education authorizes referendum
Phase 2 of the District’s long-range plan addresses the following needs:

**District-wide Infrastructure Updates**
While our schools are well maintained, there are a number of significant building infrastructure projects (e.g., plumbing, HVAC, and electrical) that need to addressed.

**Forrest Street Elementary School**
Forrest Street was originally built as an open-concept school that lacks dedicated spaces for small-group instruction and Special Education. Due to space shortages, classroom instruction is occurring in hallways, storage rooms, and former locker rooms. As a short-term solution to address some of the capacity issues, the District has rented off-site space for four-year-old kindergarten (4K).

Improvements are needed to:
- Bring space for 4K students back to the school
- Provide adequate space for Kindergarten—1st Grades
- Create separate cafeteria and gym spaces
- Enhance entrance security
- Create dedicated Special Education spaces
- Improve building flow and site circulation

**Black River Falls High School**
While the new Lunda Field House is a beautiful venue for sporting events, physical education classes are still taught at the High School that does not have functional locker rooms. Currently, the locker rooms are in the basement and are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. In addition, water infiltration issues in the basement cause air quality and mold concerns.

Current High School band and choir rooms are too small and poorly designed for rehearsals and small group ensembles, as well as lack proper acoustics and adequate storage space. Other specialized programs, such as Family & Consumer Science, need additional space to accommodate interest and enrollment in programs.

Improvements are needed to:
- Solve water/moisture issues in the basement
- Provide functional, ADA-compliant locker rooms
- Add adequate space for band and choir
- Expand area for Family & Consumer Science programs
- Expand parking lot

**THE NEEDS**

**LEARN MORE**
- CALL 715.284.4357
- EMAIL shelly.severson@brf.org
- VISIT www.brf.org
- FOLLOW @SDofBRF

#tiGRRpride

**VOTE NOVEMBER 3!**
The proposed referendum solution focuses on improvements in three key areas:

**DISTRICT-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE**
Address aging and deficient major building systems (plumbing, electrical, HVAC) to protect our existing investments | $8.3 million

- **Forrest Street Elementary School**
  - Replace portions of the roof
  - Replace windows
  - Upgrade heating, ventilation, plumbing, and electrical systems
  - Upgrade fire alarm and public address systems

- **Black River Falls High School**
  - Replace the nearly 60-year-old boiler
  - Upgrade heating and ventilation system to tie the entire building together with one energy-efficient digital control system
  - Re-pipe building to replace individual classroom ventilation units

- **Black River Falls Middle School**
  - Upgrade heating and ventilation system

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**FORREST STREET ELEMENTARY**
Expand and renovate the school to create dedicated spaces to meet the demands of today’s educational needs | $7.3 million

1. Build a two-story addition to include:
   1a. Updated entrance sequence to better control visitor access
   1b. Dedicated cafeteria and expanded kitchen
   1c. Additional classroom spaces to maintain class sizes and accommodate 4K

2. Solve ADA compliance issues
3. Improve Special Education spaces

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**BLACK RIVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**
Create and renovate space to accommodate expanded programming and address water infiltration issues in the basement | $7.4 million

1. Build addition to relocate band, choir, and art rooms
2. Move the locker rooms to the first floor into the current music area
3. Renovate and update the Family & Consumer Science area
4. Repair existing parking lot and add parking spaces
The Investment

If approved, the $23 million referendum would NOT increase the tax mill rate for debt payment over the current level.

Zero increase

If approved, a $23 million referendum would NOT increase the tax mill rate for debt payment over the current level.

District Mill Rate History

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Need More Information?

Attend a virtual Referendum Information Meeting! For the safety of our students, staff, and community, we will be holding our Referendum Information Meetings virtually. Please join us for an interactive meeting to hear about the proposed referendum plan and to get your questions answered.

Virtual Referendum Information Meetings

Wednesday, September 30
6:00 PM

&

Tuesday, October 20
6:00 PM

Links to the virtual Referendum Information Meetings will be posted on the District website: www.brf.org.

Or use your phone to scan this code to join the virtual meetings.

Learn More

Call 715.284.4357

Email shelly.severson@brf.org

Visit www.brf.org

Follow @SDofBRF

Vote November 3!