

Goodridge Forward website revamped

In recent communications with community members, district residents learned that the Goodridge School Board is proposing a \$21.35 million bond referendum to voters Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The district values transparent communications with the community and gathering feedback along the way. To further that goal, the district's dedicated referendum website, GoodridgeForward.org, has been recently updated to include details about the proposed plan, information about the investment, voting information, and more. Goodridge Public School strongly encourages residents to visit the website, engage with the content, and be informed before casting their vote.

The single-question bond referendum addresses two primary needs — critical facility updates that extend beyond the district's annual maintenance budget and improved educational space to best support students both now and into the future. Although the district has done a great job keeping the school maintained, key facility needs cannot be addressed with allocated dollars from the state. The school's building systems are inadequate, outdated, or beyond their useful life. The district lacks enough restrooms, making it difficult for student use during pass times. In addition, the facility lacks a dedicated, secure entrance, and the district office needs to be relocated for adequate supervision.

When it comes to improved educational spaces, the district is currently using areas not originally intended as learning spaces, particularly for Special Education. Seven classrooms are undersized and do not meet the Minnesota Department of Education's recommended guidelines for learning spaces. In addition, both the existing shop area and gymnasiums are also undersized.

If approved, the district would invest \$21.35 million into addressing these critical needs. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on or before Tuesday, Nov. 7. Early voting, either at home or in person, begins Friday, Sept. 22. Those with questions or suggestions should contact Tomas Loberg at tomas.loberg@goodridgeisd561.org or 218-378-4134.