



CAVALIER SCHOOL REFERENDUM
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

www.cavalierschool.org

What Is Proposed?

After the 2011 referendum failed, the community advisory building committee took the citizens' input (surveys and meetings) and once again reviewed numerous options trying to find the most cost-effective solution to address the concerns that an aging building has. The new 2019 plan failed in the June referendum vote, but the community advisory building committee recommended that more educational efforts be made about the new plan that meets many of our priorities at a much lower cost and the school board agreed.

The Cavalier School Board unanimously approved a building bond referendum for a September 30th ballot for \$10.9 million based on a recommendation from the community advisory building committee. The funds will *renovate* and *rebuild* the school's building and *revitalize* our school by making improvements to the learning environment.

Why Now?

THE NEEDS ARE REAL AND ARE NOT GOING AWAY.

- Cavalier School student enrollment is strong, and the school district does not currently have any long-range plans of consolidating with other schools. Student enrollment has increased nearly 11% over the last 10 years mainly due to new families moving to the community. During the 2009/2010 school year we had 429 students enrolled. The current project is right sized for our trending enrollment growth pattern. The design is planned to easily allow future expansion, if required.
- Our oldest section of our school is over 80 years old and would cost \$7 to \$8 million to fully renovate. It has far exceeded its lifespan, and just to repair and maintain the building will cost our community over \$3 million. A new high school wing will cost us just over \$4.3 million.
- Grants and federal funding are not available to address building issues, but we can take advantage of a 2% state loan which equals \$1.8 million in savings. There is no guarantee that this option will be available next year!
- Investing today will deliver future operational savings.

What is the Plan?

Our plan to improve our facilities will address three key points if the referendum is approved:

Renovate Cost: \$3,376,701 – Ensure safety, security, and accessibility for students and staff.

- All students will have a school that is handicap accessible and protected by the proper fire suppression and sprinkler systems.
- Room renovations for the fine arts, custodial supplies, physical activities, and locker room spaces that provide modern privacy needs for all students.

Rebuild Cost: Total \$7,523,299 (New High School Wing: \$4,339,174 & Other additions: \$3,184,126) - Provide new building additions and demolish sections of the school that are beyond repair.

- A new wing will be added on for the high school students.

- All students will have a modern library.
- Elementary students that need assistance with educational needs will have new rooms that are social and emotional friendly.
- All students will have access to a commons' gathering space. Community use of space is available during non-school hours and special events.

*See attached pictures of the new additions that would be made.

Revitalize Cost: Priceless – Accommodating evolving educational and community needs.

- The bond encompasses building additions and renovations designed to update classroom facilities that will safely and effectively meet the 21st century learning needs of our community's students. An environment of inspiration is important for the school's staff and students to be their best.

How Will this Plan Impact Operating Costs?

This plan will keep our total square footage about the same, so energy, maintenance, and custodial costs won't change. New construction is more energy efficient and will save future dollars. The renovations along with the new additions will allow our staff to focus on preventative maintenance, rather than just keeping systems going.

How Does this Referendum Compare to the Previous Vote in 2011?

This lower cost plan responds to many of the same needs we had in 2011, plus an emphasis on safety and security. Significant differences include the following:

- In 2011, it was felt that a new gym was needed, but this plan proposes no additional gym space.
- The plan in 2011 proposed complete replacement of the 1937 two-story high school and 1981 Elementary buildings. The current plan proposes high priority, highly needed renovations to the 1981 Elementary and 1962 Middle School areas and rebuilding a new high school wing.
- Replacing that much of our facility in 2011 would have required the purchase of temporary classrooms, at a cost of over \$800,000. The current plan's construction will be phased to eliminate the need for temporary classrooms.

Perhaps most significantly, the tax impact for the current plan is 44.09 mills, over **45% less** than the 84 mills proposed in 2011.

Will the Project be Up for Public Bid?

Yes, the Construction Manager will be accountable for the construction and take the place of the traditional general contractor. The Construction Manager has been hired through a competitive bid process and all construction work will be legally advertised and competitively bid. The work will be packaged to enable local contractors to participate in the fullest extent possible.

After final design is approved and satisfactory bids have been received, the Construction Manager will provide a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the project. The school district will receive 100% of the savings under the Guaranteed Maximum Price agreement at the completion of the project.

What is the Timeline for the Proposed Project?

With Voter approval on September 30, 2019 the project will proceed as follows:

Design/Engineering:	Fall 2019/Winter 2020
Competitive Bidding:	Spring 2020
Construction:	Spring 2020 -Summer 2021

Construction will be phased to avoid needing temporary classrooms and will allow school to remain in session throughout this timeline.

What Will the Referendum Cost Me?

The impact of a \$100,000 home is less than \$17 a month (\$198 annually) or less than \$8.50 a month \$99 annually) on a \$50,000 home. Rates vary for residents, businesses, and agricultural property. See rate calculator at <http://www.cavalierschool.org/>.

Home Value	Annual	Monthly
\$50,000	\$99.20	\$8.27
\$100,000	\$198.41	\$16.53
\$150,000	\$297.61	\$24.80

Am I Eligible for Tax Relief?

Homestead Property Tax Credit

The homestead property tax credit is a North Dakota property tax credit that reduces the property taxes of eligible individuals. Eligibility requirements: Individuals who are 65 years of age or older, or individuals who are permanently and totally disabled and if your income is \$42,000 or less per year. For more information: <https://www.nd.gov/tax/user/individuals/exemptionsrefundscredits---individuals/homestead-tax-credit>

What Happens if the Bond is Not Approved?

- A Capital Maintenance (repairs and maintenance needed to keep the building up and running) Assessment recently completed states it will cost over \$6.5 Million to address building needs during the next ten years and this does not include modernizing the building.
- The school currently has \$143,000 in its existing building fund for repairs to address building concerns and can only afford to budget approximately \$50,000 each year.

When and Where Will Voting Take Place?

Voting will take place on September 30, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Cavalier School Building, 300 Main Street East, Cavalier, ND.

Will Early Voting and Absentee Ballots be Available?

Early voting/absentee ballots are currently available until September 29. These options are available at Cavalier School between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Individuals may also obtain the absentee ballot application online at <https://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn51468.pdf>. It must be mailed directly to the **Cavalier School, 300 Main Street East, Cavalier, ND 58220 Attn: Melissa Gauthier.**

Who is Eligible to Vote?

To vote in the election, you must be:

1. A U.S. citizen
2. At least 18 years old on Election Day
3. A legal resident of the Cavalier Public School District for at least 30 days prior to the election.

Valid identification will be required and could include a driver's license, non-driver's identification card, tribal government issued identification card, or student identification certificate.

How Can I Find Out More Information? How Can I Get Involved?

1.SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent: Jeff Manley, 701-230-3058, jeff.manley@cavalierk12.org

Elementary Principal: Matt Ford, 701-265-8417, matt.ford@cavalierk12.org

High School Principal: Sandy Laxdal, 701-265-8417, sandy.laxdal@cavalierk12.org

2.SCHOOL BOARD

Justin Krieg

Shawn Lindsay

Rachel Ramsay

Kelli Vivatson

Chris Burgess

3.THE CAVALIER PUBLIC SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.cavalierschool.org/>

4.CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE

Tom Beard, 701-520-2345

Bill Crosby, 701-520-4056

Sarah Gunderson, 701-265-8757

David Hartz, 701-520-0270

Robby Kemp, 701-521-0060

Craig Steiger, 701-265-2554

Shane Werner, 701-265-2672

JoDee Dungan, 701-265-4650

Brady Laxdal, 701-331-0862

Chris Burgess, 701-520-1318

Rick Letzring, 701-265-8913
Barb Ratchenski, 701-265-8928

Justin Krieg, 701-265-4050



Proposed New Main Entrance



Proposed New High School Wing



Proposed Locker Rooms



Proposed Commons Space



Proposed New Elementary Entrance