



**LAKE OF THE WOODS**

**Lake of the Woods School ISD #390**

**May 08, 2025 @ 5:30 PM**

**Board of Education Special Meeting - ITV Room**

**Board Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. New Business
  - a. Approval of 2025-2027 Superintendent Contract
5. Old Business
  - a. Discussion regarding scope of proposed Building Bonds and Capital Projects Levy
6. Adjourn

## SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

### ARTICLE I PURPOSE

This Contract is entered into between Independent School District No.390, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the School District, and Scott Fitzsimonds, hereinafter referred to as the Superintendent, a legally qualified and licensed superintendent who agrees to perform the duties of the Superintendent of the School District.

### ARTICLE II APPLICABLE STATUTE

This Contract is entered into between the School District and the Superintendent in conformance with M.S.123B.143.

### ARTICLE III LICENSE

The Superintendent shall furnish the School Board, throughout the life of this Contract, a valid and appropriate license to act as superintendent in the State of Minnesota as provided by applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

### ARTICLE IV DURATION, EXPIRATION, TERMINATION DURING THE TERM, MUTUAL CONSENT, AND CONTINGENCY

Section 1. Duration: This Contract is for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2027. It shall remain in full force and effect unless modified by mutual consent of the School Board and the Superintendent or unless terminated as provided in this Contract.

*NOTE 1: Pursuant to M.S. 123B.143, Subd. 1., a School Board may enter into a Contract with a Superintendent for a period of time no longer than three (3) years. The Contract must provide that the School Board, at its discretion, may or may not enter into a subsequent Contract. Such a Contract may not be extended during its term. However, during the last three hundred sixty-five (365) days of such a Contract, a School Board may negotiate and enter into a subsequent Contract to take effect upon the expiration of the existing Contract. Such subsequent Contract must be contingent upon the Superintendent completing the terms of the existing Contract.*

Section 2. Expiration: This Contract shall expire at the end of the term specified in Section 1. above. At the conclusion of its term, neither party shall have any further claim against the other, and the School District's employment of the Superintendent shall cease, unless a subsequent Contract is entered into in accordance with M.S. 123B.143, Subd. 1. Three (3) to six (6) months prior to the expiration of this Contract, at the Superintendent's written request, the School Board shall conduct a performance evaluation of the Superintendent pursuant to M.S. 13D.05, Subd. 3.

Section 3. Termination During the Term: The Superintendent's employment may be terminated during the term of this Contract only for cause as defined in M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 9. and Subd. 13., but, except for purposes of describing grounds for discharge, the provisions of M.S. 122A.40 shall not be applicable. If the School Board proposes to terminate the Superintendent during the term of this Contract for cause as described in M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 9. or Subd. 13., it shall notify the Superintendent in writing

of the proposed grounds for termination. The Superintendent shall be entitled to a hearing before an arbitrator provided the Superintendent makes such a request in writing to the School Board Chair within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the written notice of the proposed termination. In such event, the parties shall jointly petition the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) for a list of five (5) arbitrators. The arbitrator shall be selected by the parties through the striking process as provided by BMS rules. The arbitrator shall conduct a hearing under arbitration procedure rules and issue a written decision. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties, subject to judicial review of arbitration decisions as provided by law. The Superintendent may be suspended with pay pending final determination by the arbitrator. If the Superintendent fails to request a hearing as provided in this section within the fifteen (15)-day calendar period, he/she shall be deemed to have acquiesced to the School Board's proposed action, and the proposed action shall become final on such date as determined by the School Board, and the Superintendent shall have no further claim or recourse.

Section 4. Mutual Consent: This Contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the School Board and the Superintendent.

Section 5. Contingency: If this Contract is a subsequent Contract entered into prior to the completion of an existing Contract, this subsequent Contract is contingent upon the Superintendent completing the terms of the existing Contract.

## ARTICLE V DUTIES

The Superintendent shall have charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the School Board. The Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the School District; shall direct and assign teachers and other School District employees under the Superintendent's supervision; shall organize, re-organize, and arrange the administrative and supervisory staff, including instruction and business affairs, as best serves the School District subject to the approval of the School Board; shall select all personnel subject to the approval of the School Board; shall, from time to time, suggest policies, regulations, rules, and procedures deemed necessary for the School District; shall, in the absence of the Principal from the school, perform the duties of the principal and, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the Superintendent and such other duties as may be prescribed by the School Board from time to time. The Superintendent shall abide by the policies, regulations, rules, and procedures established by the School Board and the State of Minnesota. The Superintendent shall have the right to attend all School Board meetings and all School Board and citizen committee meetings, serve as an ex-officio member of the School Board and all School Board committees, and provide administrative recommendations on each item of business considered by each of these groups.

## ARTICLE VI DUTY YEAR AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Basic Work Year: The Superintendent's duty year shall be for the entire twelve (12)-month Contract year, and the Superintendent shall perform duties on those legal holidays on which the School Board is authorized to conduct school if the School Board so determines. The Superintendent shall be on duty during any emergency, natural or unnatural, unless otherwise excused in accordance with School Board administrative policy.

Section 2. Vacation: The Superintendent shall earn 16 working days of annual paid vacation each Contract year. Unused vacation must be taken within six (6) months after the end of the Contract year in which it is earned. Upon voluntary termination of employment, the Superintendent shall be entitled to payment for any unused vacation days earned and accrued pursuant to the provisions of this

section; however, if the Superintendent is involuntarily terminated, he/she shall not be entitled to unused earned and accrued vacation days.

**Section 3. Holidays:** The Superintendent shall be entitled to 12 paid holidays as designated by the School Board each Contract year.

New Year's Day	Memorial Day	Friday (after Thanksgiving)
Presidents Day	Independence Day	Christmas Eve
Good Friday	Labor Day	Christmas Day
Easter Monday	Thanksgiving Day	Juneteenth

**Section 4. Sick Leave:** The Superintendent shall earn paid sick leave at the rate of 1.33 day(s) each working month, and earned sick leave may accumulate to a maximum of 150 days. Upon voluntary termination of employment, the Superintendent shall be entitled to payment for any unused sick leave days earned and accrued pursuant to the provisions of this section; however, if the Superintendent is involuntarily terminated, he/she shall not be entitled to unused earned and accrued sick leave days.

**Section 5. Workers' Compensation:** Pursuant to M.S. Chapter 176, the Superintendent injured on the job in the service of the School District and collecting workers' compensation insurance may draw sick leave and receive full salary from the School District, the salary to be reduced by an amount equal to the insurance payments, and only that fraction of the days not covered by insurance will be deducted from accrued sick leave.

**Section 6. Bereavement Leave:** The Superintendent shall be granted bereavement leave for a death within the Superintendent's immediate family. The time utilized shall be in an amount to be determined after conferring with the School Board Chair. Days utilized will be deducted from the Superintendent's sick leave.

**Section 7. Emergency Leave:** The Superintendent may be granted paid emergency leave at the discretion of the School Board.

**Section 8. Jury Service:** The Superintendent who serves on jury duty shall be granted the day or days necessary as stipulated by the court to discharge this responsibility without any salary deduction or loss of basic leave allowance. The compensation received for jury duty service shall be remitted to the School District.

**Section 9. Personal Leave:** The Superintendent shall be eligible for three (3) personal leave days per year, non-accumulative from year-to-year. If the Superintendent does not use his personal leave days by June 30 of any year of this contract he will be paid out at 50% of a normal eight-hour day's salary for each unused day.

**Section 10. Disability:** If the Superintendent is unable to perform his/her regular duties because of personal illness or disability and has exhausted all accumulated sick leave, the School Board shall provide additional paid sick leave at a salary equal to sixty-six percent (66%) of the Superintendent's regular salary until the expiration of the waiting period for long-term disability insurance.

**Section 11. Medical Leave:** Pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 12., the Superintendent shall have a right to a leave of absence for health reasons.

Section 12. Insurance Application: A Superintendent on unpaid leave is eligible to continue to participate in group insurance programs if permitted under the insurance policy provisions. The Superintendent shall pay the entire premium for such insurance commencing with the beginning of the leave and shall pay to the School District the monthly premium in advance. In the event the Superintendent is on paid leave from the School District under Section 4. above or supplemented by sick leave pursuant to Section 5. above, the School District will continue insurance contributions as provided in this Contract until sick leave is exhausted. Thereafter, the Superintendent must pay the entire premium for any insurance retained.

## ARTICLE VII INSURANCE

Section 1. Health and Hospitalization and Dental Insurance: The School District shall provide the Superintendent and the Superintendent's dependents with health and hospitalization insurance coverage under the School District's group plan. School District contributions for a Superintendent selecting a single health insurance plan shall receive \$9,053 for 2025-2026. A Superintendent selecting a family insurance plan shall receive \$20,625 for 2025-2026. For subsequent years, the District will increase its contribution to match any premium increases up to a maximum of 5%. Employees are responsible for all premium increases above the 5% covered by the District.

If both spouses work in the Lake of the Woods School system, they may select either two single plans or one family plan.

The Superintendent may choose to forego 100% of insurance benefits for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Superintendent shall receive \$15,000 cash in lieu to replace the waived benefit of the insurance plan for 2025-2026 and \$15,450 for 2026-2027.

Section 2. Life Insurance: The School District shall provide, at its own expense, term life insurance for the Superintendent under the School District's group term life insurance plan in the amount of \$100,00.00, payable to the Superintendent's named beneficiary(ies).

Section 3. Long-Term Disability Insurance: The School District shall provide, at its own expense, long-term disability insurance for the Superintendent under the School District's group long-term disability insurance plan.

Section 4. Eligibility: The eligibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's dependent(s) and beneficiary(ies) for insurance benefits shall be governed by the terms of the insurance policies purchased by the School District pursuant to this article.

Section 5. Claims Against the School District: The School District's only obligation is to purchase the insurance policies described in this article, and no claim shall be made against the School District as a result of denial of insurance benefits by an insurer if the School District has purchased the policies and paid the premiums described in this article.

## ARTICLE VIII OTHER BENEFITS

Section 1. Tax-Sheltered Annuities: The Superintendent will be eligible to participate in a tax sheltered annuity plan through payroll deduction established pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.02, Subd. 15, and School District Policy. For each dollar contributed by the Superintendent via payroll deduction to a qualified 403(b) tax deferred annuity, the District shall contribute one dollar to the same annuity, up to a maximum School District contribution of \$3,500 per year.

Section 2. Conferences and Meetings: The School District shall pay all legally valid expenses and fees for the Superintendent's attendance at professional conferences and meetings with other educational agencies when such attendance is required, directed, or permitted by the School Board. The Superintendent shall periodically report to the School Board relative to all meetings and conferences attended. The Superintendent shall file itemized expense statements to be processed and approved as provided by School Board policy and law.

Section 3. Moving Stipend: The School District shall make a one-time payment of \$1000 to the Superintendent for moving costs.

## ARTICLE IX EVALUATION

The Superintendent and School District shall establish an evaluation process based on the Goals-Based Model developed by MSBA and MASA. The evaluation process will integrate the requirements for principal evaluations and will include the following seven principles:

1. Provide opportunities for personal and professional development.
2. Be intended to improve performance, not prove incompetence.
3. Provide legal, realistic, accurate, useful, and measurable criteria reflective of the competencies in Minnesota Rule 3512.0510.
4. Be ongoing and connected to school district/school goals.
5. Connect the school district's goals with its community's vision for its schools.
6. Link to academic, social, and emotional growth for all students in the school district
7. Recognize the importance of a superintendent's leadership work to facilitate a better quality of life for all groups, both inside the school community and in the community at large.

## ARTICLE X SALARY

The Superintendent shall be paid an annual salary of \$120,000 for the 2025-2026 Contract year, \$123,600 for the 2026-2027 Contract year. During the term of this Contract, the annual salary may be modified but shall not be reduced. The annual salary shall be paid in 24 equal installments during the Contract year.

## ARTICLE XI OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1. Outside Activities: While the Superintendent shall devote full time and due diligence to the affairs and the activities of the School District, he/she may also serve as a consultant to other school districts or educational agencies, lecture, engage in writing and speaking activities, and engage in other activities if, as solely determined by the School Board, such activities do not impede the Superintendent's ability to perform the duties of the superintendency. However, the Superintendent may not engage in other employment, consultant service, or other activity for which a salary, fee, or honorarium is paid without the prior approval of the School Board.

Section 2. Indemnification and Provision of Counsel: In the event that an action is brought or a claim is made against the Superintendent arising out of or in connection with his/her employment and the Superintendent is acting within the scope of employment or official duties, the School District shall defend and indemnify the Superintendent to the extent provided by law. Indemnification, as provided in this section, shall not apply in the case of malfeasance in office or willful or wanton neglect of duty, and the obligation of the School District in this regard shall be subject to the limitations as provided in M.S. Chapter 466.

Section 3. Dues: The Superintendent is encouraged to belong to and participate in appropriate professional, educational, economic development, community, and civic organizations when such membership will serve the best interests of the School District. Accordingly, the School District will pay the membership dues for such organizations as are required, directed, or permitted by the School Board. The Superintendent shall present appropriate statements for approval as provided by law.

Section 4. Medical Examination: The Superintendent shall have a comprehensive medical examination not less than once every 3 years. A summary document from the physician certifying the fitness of the Superintendent to perform the duties of the position shall be provided to the School Board Chair. The cost of said examination not covered by the School District's insurance program shall be paid by the School District.

## ARTICLE XI SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Contract shall be severable, and if any such provision or the application of any such provision under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provisions of this Contract or the application of any provision thereof.

## ARTICLE XII SEVERANCE PAY

In the event the Superintendent has at least 15 years of continuous service with the District, the Superintendent shall receive as severance pay an amount obtained by multiplying 50% of his number of unused sick leave days times his daily rate of pay at the time of resignation provided that he has fulfilled his contractual or work agreement for the school year. In the event that death precedes use of the severance clause, benefits will be paid to the principal's beneficiary or lacking same, to the deceased estate, in accordance with specified methods of payment as if the beneficiary were the Superintendent/Elementary Principal. Severance pay shall be paid in one lump sum to a qualified health savings plan by the School

District on June 30 of that school year or 30 days after notification of resignation, whichever is later. Severance pay for highly compensated employees is restricted to an amount equivalent to six (6) months of wages.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed  
my signature this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scott Fitzsimonds

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have subscribed  
our signatures this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Boyd Johnson, School Board Chair  
Lake of the Woods ISD 390

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Jerem Haack, School Board Clerk  
Lake of the Woods ISD 390





PO Box 310 • 236 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW • Baudette, MN 56623 • 218-634-2510 • Fax: 218-634-2750  
Jeff Nelson, Superintendent

# ***Superintendent's Recommendation to the School Board***

## ***Lake of the Woods School District***

### ***Recommendation Summary***

*Based on extensive community feedback, facility assessments, financial analysis, and the impact of inflation on state education funding, I recommend the School Board move forward with:*

- 1. A \$4 million Building Bond Referendum to address critical facility needs***
- 2. A \$400,000 Capital Projects Levy to support technology and transportation requirements***

### ***Critical Context: State Funding Shortfall***

*Before detailing the specific recommendations, it's essential to understand the financial context in which our district operates. Analysis of the General Education Formula Allowance from 2003-2025 reveals a significant funding gap:*

- Had the state formula kept pace with inflation since 2003, our per-pupil allowance would be \$8,637 for FY25***
- The actual FY25 formula allowance is only \$7,281 per pupil***
- This represents a funding gap of \$1,356 per student (18.6% below inflation-adjusted levels)***

*For our district's current enrollment of 421 students (231 in K-6 and 190 in 7-12), this translates to an annual revenue shortfall of approximately **\$570,876**. This significant funding gap has forced our district to:*

- 1. Deplete reserve funds***
- 2. Delay critical infrastructure maintenance***
- 3. Postpone vital technology and transportation investments***
- 4. Navigate difficult decisions regarding staffing and educational programming***

## ***Building Bond Scope Justification***

*The district has exercised fiscal responsibility by prioritizing the most urgent facility needs from the initial \$7.4 million assessment. The recommended \$4 million package addresses critical infrastructure that directly impacts:*

- **Safety:** Deteriorating walking surfaces, unsafe traffic flow
- **Building integrity:** Roof systems, exterior masonry, windows
- **Learning environment:** Flooring replacements

*As outlined in the attached "Lake of the Woods Scope" document, we've included inflation adjustments while maintaining flexibility in implementation. For example, sidewalk repairs could be done incrementally rather than complete replacements, allowing us to address all priority areas.*

## ***Capital Projects Levy Rationale***

*The \$400,000 annual levy would strategically:*

- Allocate approximately \$85,000-\$100,000 for essential bus replacements
- Direct remaining \$300,000+ toward comprehensive technology needs beyond just hardware
- Cover critical end-of-life systems including phone systems, security cameras, and notification systems

## ***Financial Benefits***

*This approach would:*

1. Address critical needs that cannot be met through our general fund due to the state funding shortfall
2. Free up general fund dollars to rebuild our reserves to the recommended 25% level
3. Address the negative fund balance in Community Education
4. Maintain smaller class sizes essential to our educational mission
5. Create sustainable, predictable funding for technology and transportation

## ***Community Support***

*The community survey shows strong support for addressing urgent facility and operational needs, with 54.7% of all respondents indicating they would support the combined funding approach. Many community members recognize that local funding has become increasingly necessary as state funding fails to keep pace with inflation.*

## ***Ballot Options***

*I present two options for the Board's consideration:*

1. **Two separate ballot questions** - One for the building bond and one for the capital projects levy

2. **Combined single question** - Merge both requests into one comprehensive ballot question

*The single question approach may be more understandable to community members and simplify the voting process. However, it does remove the flexibility for voters to support one funding mechanism but not the other.*

**Conclusion**

*This balanced funding strategy addresses our most critical needs while demonstrating careful stewardship of taxpayer resources. The \$570,876 annual shortfall in state funding has created significant financial pressure that makes these local funding measures necessary to maintain educational quality and infrastructure integrity.*

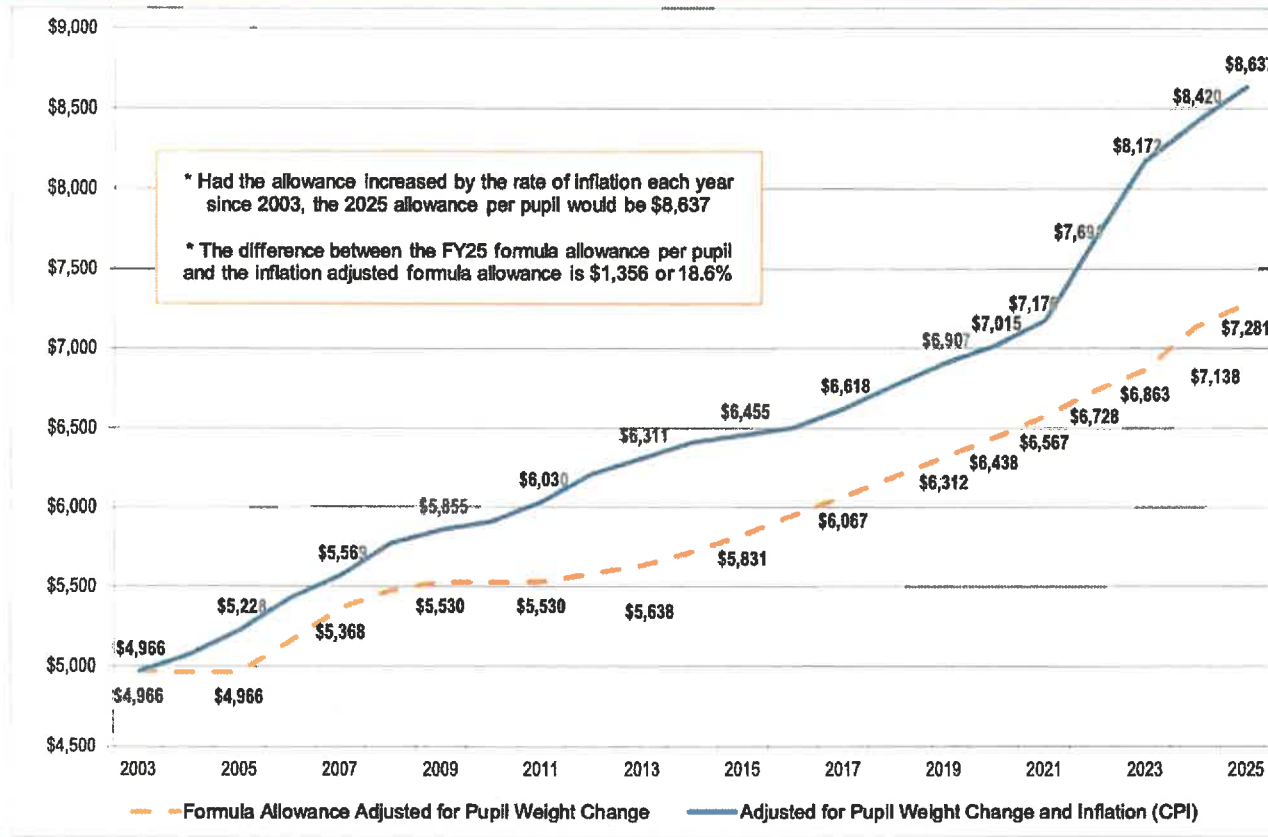
*The School Board's consideration of these recommendations represents an investment in our students' future and the long-term viability of our district, particularly in light of inadequate state funding levels.*

*I recommend placing these funding requests on the November 2025 ballot, with the Board determining whether to use a single or dual question approach.*

*Note: Complete details on scope, tax impact, and survey results are included in the board packet attachments. The General Education Formula Allowance chart (2003-2025) illustrating the state funding shortfall is also attached for reference.*

## General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE June 2023 Inflation Estimates and Minnesota Laws 2023

### Lake of the Woods Scope

Bond										
	Original Budget	Inflation - 10%	Revised Budget			Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Roof Replacement	\$758,000	\$75,800	\$833,800			\$833,800	\$833,800		\$833,800	\$833,800
Exterior Masonry	\$133,000	\$13,300	\$146,300			\$146,300	\$146,300		\$146,300	\$146,300
Window Replacement	\$908,000	\$90,800	\$998,800			\$998,800	\$998,800		\$998,800	\$998,800
Flooring Replacement	\$233,000	\$23,300	\$256,300			\$256,300	\$256,300		\$256,300	\$256,300
Walking Surface	\$625,000	\$62,500	\$687,500			\$687,500			\$687,500	
Traffic Flow	\$852,000	\$85,200	\$937,200			\$937,200			\$937,200	
Total Bond			\$3,859,900			\$3,859,900	\$2,235,200			
Leavy										
Technology	\$1,602,100	\$160,210	\$1,762,310					\$1,762,310	\$1,762,310	\$1,762,310
Transportation Fleet	\$750,000	\$75,000	\$825,000					\$825,000	\$825,000	\$825,000
Five Year Capital Projects	\$2,532,100	\$253,210	\$2,785,310					\$2,785,310	\$2,785,310	\$2,785,310
Total Leavy			\$5,372,620							
Total			9,232,520			\$3,859,900	\$2,235,200	\$2,785,310	\$9,232,520	\$7,607,820

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Building and Facilities Needs

### Lake of the Woods School District

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## INTRODUCTION

The Lake of the Woods School District has maintained its facilities well over the past 30+ years, but after three decades, the building now shows signs of wear requiring significant attention. Following the November 2023 facility assessment conducted by Widseth, several critical maintenance and improvement needs have been identified totaling approximately \$7.4 million. Working off this original assessment, I would like to propose the following for your consideration.

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## Priority Projects

Based on the facility assessment, discussions with consultants, and school board working sessions, the following projects have been identified as top priorities due to their impact on building integrity, safety, and accessibility:

### 1. Roof System Replacements – \$758,000

- Multiple areas showing blistering, cracking, and deterioration
- Sections E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M require attention
- Critical for building envelope integrity
- Some districts have lost insurance coverage due to poor roof conditions

### 2. Exterior Masonry Maintenance – \$133,000

- Deterioration of mortar joints in concrete block walls, window sills
- Tuckpointing needed to prevent moisture penetration
- Sealant joint renovation required to prevent freeze-thaw damage

### 3. Window Replacement – \$908,000

- Original metal-clad windows (31+ years old) show significant deterioration
- Issues include inoperative hardware, weathering damage, deformation
- Half of east-facing windows either stuck shut or unable to close properly

#### **4. Flooring Replacement – \$233,000**

- VCT flooring exceeding 30 years of service life
- Wear surface deterioration exposing adhesive patterns
- Cracking and widening joints due to building movement

#### **5. Walking Surface Improvements – \$625,000**

- Hazardous sidewalk deterioration with cracking and uneven panels
- Water collection areas creating ice hazards in winter
- Additional sidewalks needed for improved accessibility

#### **6. Traffic Flow & Safety Improvements – \$852,000**

- Unsafe parent drop-off/pick-up areas not originally designed for current use
- Need for separated traffic lanes and pedestrian walkways
- Crossing hazards between bus lane and parking areas

**Total Priority Projects: \$3,509,000**

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## **Recommendation**

To address these priority needs, the district should consider running a Building Bond Referendum to cover the estimated project costs of \$3,500,000 (additional consideration for inflation cost increases should be examined before making a final total cost estimate).

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**FACILITY ASSESSMENT  
LAKE OF THE WOODS SCHOOL  
BAUDETTE, MINNESOTA**



**NOVEMBER 2023**

**WIDSETH**





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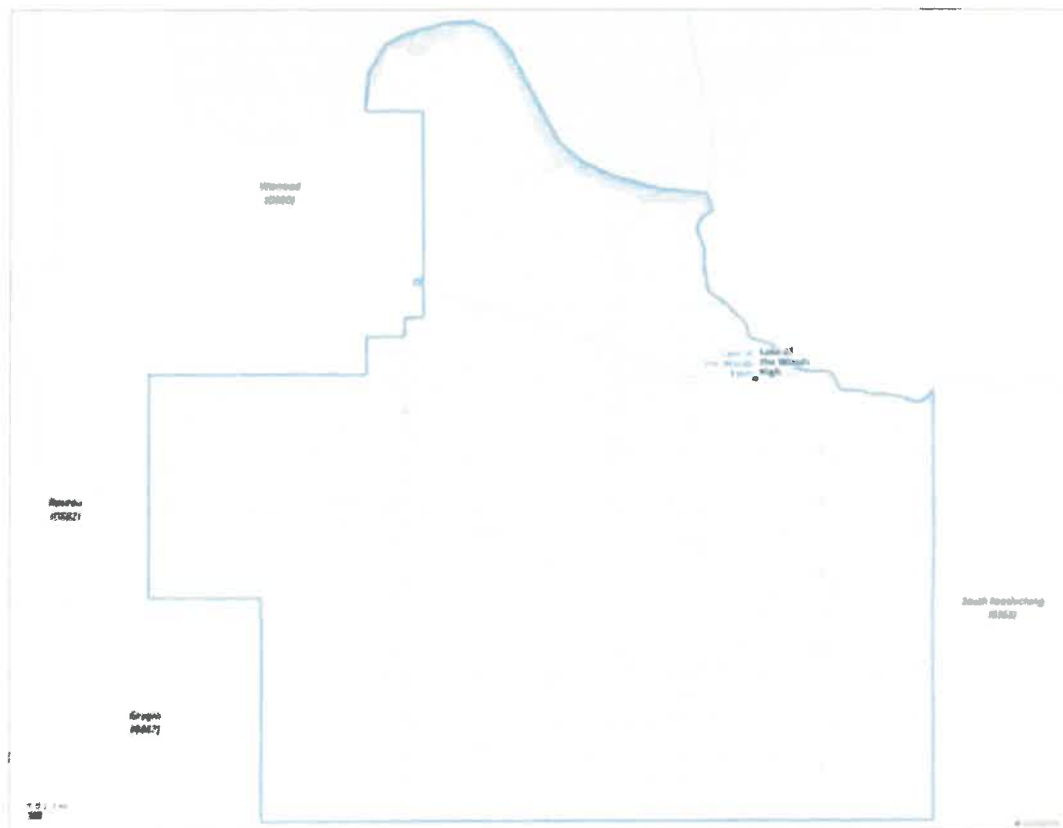
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### School Summary

- *Communities Served & Area Served*

The Lake of the Woods School serves approximately 473 students within an approximate 1,160 sq. mile geographical area. The school is located in Baudette, MN and serves multiple smaller communities within its boundaries.



Lake of the Woods School District ranks as Minnesota's 6th largest school district by area. The average size of all school districts within the State of Minnesota is 254.11 square miles. Lake of the Woods School well exceeds this average value.

- *Existing Facilities*

The current educational facilities consist of a single K-12 building located outside of the City of Baudette. The building was originally constructed in 1991. Subsequent additions were completed in 1997 to provide a multi-purpose room and community pool and in 2019 to add an ice arena to the complex. The facilities have been excellently maintained by the District's staff, however regular maintenance and repairs are necessary to maintain the same high standards.

### Scope of Evaluation

- **Purpose**

In August 2023, Lake of the Woods School District authorized Widseth to conduct a focused facility condition assessment of its building. The purpose of this assessment will assist the Board of Directors with:

- Planning for maintenance and improvements to school facilities
- Prioritizing long- and short-term projects
- Identifying opportunities to enhance learning environments.

The assessment focused on the following items:

- **Building Related**
  - Roof Conditions
  - Window Conditions
  - Exterior Masonry Conditions
  - Flooring Conditions
  - Restroom Facilities Evaluations
  - Gymnasium Bleacher Conditions
  - Boiler Conditions
  - Kitchen Freezer/Cooler Conditions
- **Site Related**
  - Vehicular Traffic Evaluation and Recommended Safety Improvements
  - Walking Surface Conditions
  - Site Amenity Conditions
  - Playground Improvements
  - Athletic Field Complex Conditions
  - Athletic Field Complex Support Spaces

- **Scope of Assessment**

Widseth and its consultants visited Lake of the Woods School on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to complete onsite evaluations. During the physical conditions assessment process, Lake of the Woods School staff provided access to all areas of the facility necessary.

### **Summary of Findings**

- **Financial Impact**

The assessment identified \$7,418,000 worth of needs for the Lake of the Woods School facility.

○ Walking Surface Conditions	\$625,000
○ Vehicular Traffic Evaluation and Recommended Safety Improvements	\$852,000
○ Site Equipment Conditions	\$31,000
○ Playground Improvements	\$150,000
○ Athletic Field Complex Conditions	\$1,268,000
○ Athletic Field Complex Support Spaces	\$653,000
○ Roof Conditions	\$758,000
○ Window Conditions	\$908,000
○ Existing Masonry Conditions	\$133,000
○ Flooring Conditions	\$233,000
○ Restroom Facilities Evaluations	\$145,000

○ Gymnasium Bleacher Conditions	\$163,000
○ Heating System	\$1,468,000
○ Pool Mechanical Room Main Circulation Pump	\$28,000
○ Temperature Controls	TBD based on when work occurs
○ Kitchen Freezer/Cooler Conditions	\$153,000

It should be noted that these estimates reflect 2023 pricing. Estimate pricing includes construction, design fees, permitting, and contingency.

- ***Distribution***

The distribution of the items identified in the cost breakdown can be broken down into the following categories:

○ Site Conditions:	\$3,429,000
○ Building Conditions:	\$3,989,000

- ***Conclusion***

The assessment was completed with the intent to provide the information and data necessary to allow the School Board and administration to make informed decisions on planning for the future of Lake of the Woods School. Widseth and its consultants have not expressed or implied any conclusions within this assessment.

## PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

### Site Conditions

- *Walking Surface Conditions*

The sidewalks constructed as part of the original construction and subsequent additions are showing significant deterioration due to their age. The primary issue consistent through most areas is cracking of the concrete along control joints leading to depressions which grow in size and depth due to annual freeze-thaw cycles. Such conditions can also be exacerbated by the use of salts during winter months. In addition, freeze-thaw cycles have created uneven panels which result in trip hazards. At the main entrance area there are low spots which collect water. When these areas freeze they do create a significant safety issue. Injuries have occurred as a result of this condition. The existing layouts are generally consistent with accessibility requirements and should be maintained and improved on with any future work.

The pick-up and drop-off areas on the north and east sides of the facility only include sidewalks leading directly from the entrances to the road. This can become very restrictive during winter months leading to students having to walk on the drive lane and creating a safety hazard, or vehicles backing up until they reach a sidewalk causing a congestion issue.

There are also opportunities to add additional sidewalks around the site to improve accessibility to all areas. Sidewalk access can be improved between the parking lot and the ice arena entrances. Currently, the shortest path would require an individual to cross turf. Sidewalks should also be provided between the parking lot and throughout the athletic complex for spectators.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that all sidewalks be replaced with new. In areas where the curb and gutter adjacent to the sidewalk has also deteriorated, that should be replaced as well. At the drop-off/pick-up lane on the north side of the building, a sidewalk should be added that runs parallel, alongside the drive lane. In addition, there are opportunities to add an additional sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the ice arena.

Cost: \$625,000



- ***Vehicular Traffic Evaluation and Recommended Safety Improvements***

The drive lane on the north side of the facility currently serves as the parent drop-off and pick-up areas for the building. This area was not initially designed for this type of use. Walkways lead directly from the building exits to the drive lane. There is no sidewalk running parallel to the drive lane. This creates challenges for directing pedestrians during winter months. As a result, there are significant safety issues created with students entering and exiting vehicles and potentially crossing drive lanes.

On the south side of the facility, there is an existing loop that runs in front of the building that serves as the bus lane. South of this lane is the primary parking lot for students, staff, and visitors. In addition, there is another small parking lot located to the southeast. The primary issue is the crossing of traffic between the three areas at the entrance to the bus lane. When leaving the small parking lot, you must cross the drive lane as buses enter the bus lane.

**Recommendations:** On the north side of the facility, it is recommended that the drive lane be split into two lanes, separated by a berm. The berm would create a natural barrier to discourage the opportunity for individuals to cross traffic. The south lane would include an area where vehicles could pull aside temporarily to drop off or pick up a student. At the east end of the drive lane, a cul-de-sac would be constructed to allow for vehicles to efficiently turn back and exit the pick-up/drop-off lane. The cul-de-sac would include a gated access to the existing fire lane that extends around the east side of the building. This lane is necessary to maintain to allow fire truck access to all portions of the facility. Finally, a sidewalk should be constructed along the pick-up/drop-off lane to provide safe areas for pedestrians to walk.

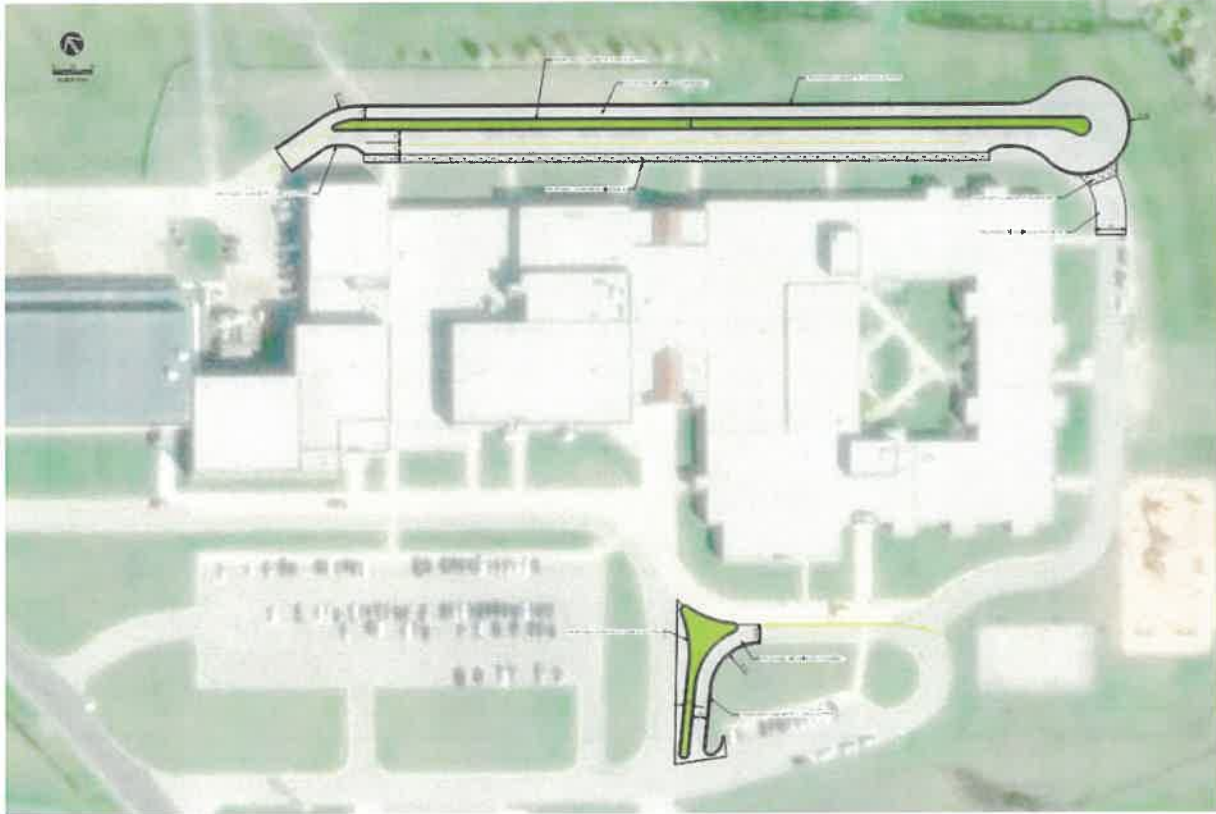
On the south side of the facility, it is recommended that the entrance to the bus lane be modified to allow for separate bus lane traffic and parking lot egress, separated by a landscaped or bermed median. Entrance to and from the small parking lot located to the southeast would be via one-way traffic. The stripping of the parking lot could be restriped for diagonal parking to further direct the flow of traffic.





The gate on the southeast side of the facility would remain to prevent vehicle access, but still allow fire truck access.

Cost: \$852,000



- **Site Equipment Conditions**

Lake of the Woods School has a combination of benches, picnic tables, bicycle racks, and waster receptacles. Currently, these are located at the main entrance area and within the courtyard area. All site equipment is in fair to poor condition. Most are showing their age with color fading, cracked paint, and rusting. Some benches are in worse condition due to vandalism and/or damage due to snow clearing. The primary challenge with most of the equipment is that they can not be removed.

**Recommendation:** Replace existing site equipment with new to include benches, picnic tables, bicycle racks and waste receptacles. It is also recommended that waste receptacles be provided at all entrances and areas where students and visitors are expected to gather or enter the building. Any new site equipment



provided should have the ability to be easily relocated to allow for easier snow clearing operations.

Cost: \$31,000

- ***Playground Improvements***

The existing playground is located on the east side of the building. The play surface consists of wood chips. There is a variety of different play apparatuses provided for varying age groups. Hard surface playground space is provided as part of the fire lane road that loops the building. The playground is accessible from the exit doors to the wood mulch play area. The equipment was installed as part of the original construction and is showing its age.

Accessibility within the wood mulch area is not easily provided. Although loose fill materials are acceptable, they do hinder access and make it more challenging. Flush transitions should be provided between hard surface areas and play areas. Equipment should be provided with transfer system to allow access to the equipment.

Recommendation: Replace and/or supplement existing outdated equipment with new accessible equipment that includes transfer elements. Provide an improved accessible path throughout playground to provide opportunities for all users. Although a resin system throughout is ideal, paths should be provided at a minimum.

Cost: \$150,000 (Additional \$100,000 for resin system throughout entire playground area)

- ***Athletic Field Complex Conditions***

The existing football field, running track, and support athletic spaces were constructed as part of the original building project. The football field currently lacks an irrigation system, thus requiring staff to use time to set up, move, and remove sprinklers. The football field turf area also requires regarding to provide level playing surface with positive drainage to the perimeter. The existing perimeter lighting consists of halogen fixtures.

The existing running track is showing significant signs of it's age. The current running surface and dips and low spots from settling, minor heaves, and cracking of the surface. The cracking allows moisture into the track system leading to further degradation. Finally, the uneven surface leads to potential challenges from holding track events.

Support athletic spaces to the running track include a pole vaulting area, long jump, shot put, and discus areas. All areas are in poor condition and should be refurbished.







Recommendation: Replace the existing running track with a new surface. Regrade the existing football field and install an irrigation system for greater control. Install new perimeter event lighting. Refurbish existing support athletic spaces.

Cost: \$1,268,000 (Additional \$687,000 for artificial turf)

- **Athletic Field Complex Support Spaces**

The support spaces for events occurring at the athletic complex are limited. They consist primarily of two storage buildings on the southeast side of the complex and a press box building on the northwest side. Accessibility is limited.

Recommendations: To improve the amenities available to spectators, it is recommended that a single building be constructed on the backside of the bleachers that would include concessions, accessible restrooms, and storage space for equipment. The upper level of the building could also include a press box. For estimating purposes, it is assumed the building would have a footprint of approximately 900 sq. ft. This allows for a minimum of 6 fixtures within each restroom, concession stand, and storage space. Sidewalks should be provided between the bleachers, support spaces, and parking lot.

Cost: \$665,000



### Building Conditions

- **Roof Conditions**

Per excerpt from report prepared by North Central Insulation Urethane Foam Contractors dated July 28, 2023:

*Section A: One blister and minor deviations. No concerns at this time*

*Section B: 2 blisters observed, No concerns at this time*

*Section C: No concerns at this time*

*Section D: No concerns at this time*

*Section E: 1 blister observed, Cracking in the cricket for the drain is getting worse.*

*Section F: No concerns observed at this time*

*Section G: No new cracking was found from last year's repairs. NCI recommends adding foam and silicone for added drainage in the future.*

*Section H: 2 blisters were observed, Wet foam was found on area H in this year's inspection. NCI recommends the repair of this asap. If left alone this will more than likely be a wintertime issue.*

*Section I: 1 Blister was observed. Nothing of concern at this time*

*Section J: More cracking along the south side of Gymnasium. J is beginning to show its age. Drainage should be added at the time of recoat.*

*Section K: No concerns at this time*

*Section L: No concerns at this time*

*Section M: The roof edge from area M-M2 has an area of deteriorated wood. This should be addressed in the near future.*

*Sections N, O, P, Q: No concerns at this time*

*Section R: No concerns at this time*

*Sections S, T, U: No concerns at this time*

*Sections V, W: No concerns at this time*

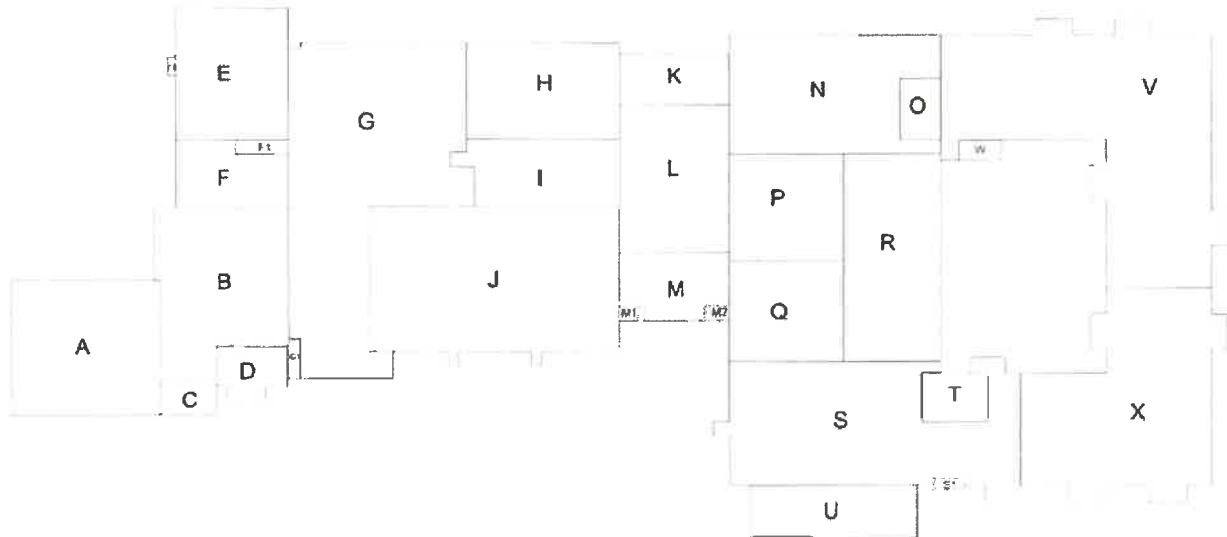
*Section X: No concerns at this time*

*Upon inspection the week of July 26th 2023 the roof system is in good shape. I suggest addressing the wet insulation on area H as soon as possible.*

*Future attention should be paid for Sections E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L and M. These areas are the ones with future issues beginning to develop.*

*Blisters are not covered by warranty, if they are not broken open, they cause no case for alarm.*

Cost: \$758,000



- **Window Conditions**

Per report provided to the District in July 2023:

*All the original metal-clad exterior windows in the school need replacement due to worn or inoperative hardware, sun weathering, deformation due to structural movement, or rotting from being repeatedly frozen while wet. The windows are Pella Clad Stationary and Awning assemblies of varying sizes and were installed in 1992 when the school was built. The awning windows, which open from the bottom outwards, are referred to as operating windows. Windows which do not open by design are referred to as stationary windows.*

*With a few exceptions which are newly replaced units, the stationary and operating windows are metal-exterior clad wood windows, made up in Removable Double Glazed configuration. All the original windows have lattice-type mini-blinds hung between the panes. The interior glass panes remove by pulling small hinged catches which engage slots in the stiles. The blinds operate by turning a small knob at the lower right corner of the interior screen which engages a small gear box to pull supporting strings up or down.*

*The operation windows along the east facing walls show the greatest degradation due to weathering and structural movement with about half either stuck shut or unable to be closed completely without outside applied pressure. The south window in Room F139 (Ms Krause) is stuck shut due to deformation of the outside wall which appears to have heaved up from frost and jammed the so; against the sash.*

*Windows along the south facing walls show increased degradation due to sunlight with plastic hardware parts having become brittle and broken. Windows along the north wall show increased degradation due to inclement weather and frost, with wood sash bottom rails rotting. The between panel blinds work in about half the units, and after 31 years, repairs parts are no longer available. Of the 131 operating windows inspected, 83 were deemed to operate satisfactorily.*

Recommendation: It is recommended that all aluminum clad wood windows be replaced with a similar style window system. Separate window blinds should be installed at openings to provide sun control, but also allow for future replacement if they break.

Cost: \$908,000





- ***Exterior Masonry Conditions***

In general, the condition of the existing masonry around the facility is in good shape. In limited areas around the facility there is evidence of deterioration of mortar joints and sealed joints. The deterioration of mortar joints was observed on the lower concrete block portions of the wall, window sills, and concrete cornice and decorative elements. This type of deterioration is common for masonry buildings as they age. Because of its age, there is maintenance necessary to keep it in its current condition. Failure to minimize moisture penetrations into these joints will lead to rapid deterioration due to freeze-thaw cycles and further degradation of the masonry wall.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the mortar joints at these identified areas be tuckpointed. It is also recommended that all joints in the masonry wall be re-caulked. This would include masonry control joints, sealed joints, perimeter of windows and doors, and other similar joints.

**Cost:** \$133,000



- ***Flooring Conditions***

Flooring throughout the corridors of the facility and select rooms consists of vinyl composite tile (VCT) and rubber wall base that was installed as part of the original construction. In addition, there is a portion of VCT installed within the cafeteria area as well. Maintenance staff have been very diligent in the regular maintenance and waxing of the flooring to extend its useful life. Some installation areas now exceed 30 years. However, the annual routine waxing process has slowly worn away the wear surface of the VCT to wear the adhesive patterns of the backing are visible. In addition, normal shrinkage and movement of the building has caused some joints to widen and some tiles to crack.

**Recommendation:** Replace all VCT and wall base with an epoxy resin flooring. An epoxy resin flooring will provide a surface that is uniform and without joints. In addition, waxing of the surface is not necessary as the floor surface can be cleaned with water.

**Cost:** \$233,000



- ***Restroom Facilities Evaluations***

The existing restrooms throughout the facility consist of the traditional style with separate facilities for each sex. The recent trend has been to provide gender neutral (or single-user) facilities. Most often this involves a bank of toilet rooms that can be used by a single individual. In front of these toilet rooms are shared lavatory stations. Such a layout reduces wait times, improves safety and monitoring, and plans for future changes in laws outlining facilities requirements.

Recommendation: The classroom area restrooms are all of similar size. The recommendation would be to convert one set of restrooms to individual watercloset rooms.

Cost: \$145,000 each set

- ***Gymnasium Bleacher Conditions***

The bleachers located in the gymnasium are original to the building. The bleachers are in fair condition. However, there are existing deficiencies. The existing motors in most banks need replacement. Staff informed us that one was recently replaced and locating a replacement motor was very difficult. Finding replacement parts in the future may become impossible. Also, the bleachers lack accessibility components such as handrails at aisles. This forces individuals to sit in the first row of seats or risk going to elevated rows without the use of handrails to support themselves. In addition, the bleachers lack wheelchair openings.

Recommendation: Replace existing bleachers with new, fully accessible units.

Cost: \$163,000

- ***Heating System***

Lake of the Woods School's main heating fuel source is natural gas. A fuel oil system has been provided for the boilers to serve as the dual fuel backup. Two boilers heat the entire facility and are located near the northwest end of the school in a central boiler room. The boilers and burners are original to the building.

The boiler room consists of two 6800 MBH natural gas hot water fire tube boilers, running at best 80% efficiency. Hot water is distributed from the boilers through variable speed driven base mounted hot water pumps serving the entire facility. Hot water is directed to the air handling unit coils, vav boxes, fin tube radiators and other miscellaneous heaters. Hot water is also delivered to an indirect hot water storage tank consisting of the tank, a shell and tube heat exchanger, circulation pump, and temperature control valves. This tank serves the entire facility. In the summer months two additional gas fired high efficiency hot water heaters run the school when it's at reduced load.



Recommendation: Replace the boilers with high efficiency, natural gas hot water boilers. Since the system was designed to run at 180°F hot water temperature we would recommend providing two near condensing boilers, and two high efficiency fully condensing boilers. During the peak winter months, the near condensing boilers would provide the heat running at the designed 180°F hot water temperature needed, and in the swing seasons the fully condensing high efficiency hot water boilers would provide the heat at a lower water temperature (140°F) to maximize the efficiency of the condensing boiler. If dual fuel is still desired the near condensing boilers would be provided with fuel oil since that system is already in place.

Close consideration could be given to explore the option of doing a hybrid gas/electric boiler plant if off-peak electricity is offered from the utility. This will further the redundancy on the system and give the owner the option of picking the heating fuel based upon the most economical option at the time.

The indirect domestic hot water storage tank should also be replaced with new gas fired high efficiency hot water heaters. This makes sense from an economic standpoint since the hot water heaters will be running in high efficiency mode year-round versus an indirect storage tank system which would only be able to run in condensing mode during the swing and summer months. If a backup system is needed to run on the fuel oil, then this will need to be reviewed whether we provide dedicated boiler for this system or go indirectly off the main boiler plant.

Cost: \$1,311,000

- *Pool Mechanical Room Main Circulation Pump*

Within the pool mechanical room are several pumps operating the pool. The main pool circulation pump sits within the room and is a base mounted unit. The pump runs at full speed constant volume all the time.

Recommendation: Provide the pump with a variable frequency drive so that the system can be better operated to match the load needed for the pool system. VFD should be interlocked with the DDC control system so the unit is able to be monitored from the front end at the operator workstation.

Cost: \$28,000

- *Temperature Controls*

Temperature controls in the facility have been upgraded to electronic DDC. Pneumatic transducers turn the electrical signal into a pressure that will then move the pneumatic actuators that control the unit. Overall, most of the controls in the building have been upgrade to new controllers, however the pneumatic valves still existing throughout most of the school.

Recommendation: As the equipment is upgraded, so should the pneumatic actuators. The end goal is to have a full electronic DDC system with operator interface on all equipment, and electric actuators so all systems can be monitored and controlled from a central point.

Cost: TBD based on when work occurs

- *Kitchen Freezer/Cooler and Ice Maker Conditions*

The existing cooler and freezers are original to the building. The level of maintenance necessary to keep them operational has been trending upwards. This creates the potential for a critical failure during operational periods where they may have to go down if replacement parts aren't readily available.

In addition, the existing ice maker is in need of replacement.

Recommendation: Replace both units with similar sized units. Provide new ice maker.

Cost: \$165,000



## Appendix 1 – Mechanical Equipment Summary

### BOILER-1

**LOCATION:** A127: BOILER ROOM

MANUFACTURER	BRYAN
MODEL #	RW850-W-FDGO
SERIAL #	71317
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Provide new near condensing and fully condensing boilers.





## BOILER-2

**LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM**

MANUFACTURER	BRYAN
MODEL #	RW850-W-FDGO
SERIAL #	71316
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Provide new near condensing and fully condensing boilers.



## WH-1 (Water Heater 1)

**LOCATION:** 200: MECHANICAL MEZZ. NORTH

MANUFACTURER	CYCLONE
MODEL #	BTH 250 966
SERIAL #	MC98-0726963-966
CONDITION	Poor
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Currently unit is not operating.



**WH-2 (Water Heater 2)**

**LOCATION: 200: MECHANICAL MEZZ. NORTH**

MANUFACTURER	A.O. SMITH
MODEL #	BTH-250 300
SERIAL #	2029120113217
CONDITION	Good
RECOMMENDATION	Leave as is
REMARKS	Implement this heater into the new domestic water system.



## STORAGE TANK CIRCULATION PUMP

**LOCATION:** A127: BOILER ROOM

MANUFACTURER	BELL & GOSSETT
MODEL #	2X7 5.875 BF
SERIAL #	1708873
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Replace with high efficiency water heaters.





**CP-1 & CP-2 (HOT WATER PUMPS)**

**LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM**

MANUFACTURER	BELL & GOSSETT
MODEL #	XL5G 12.875 BF
SERIAL #	1699881
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Provide new base mounted pumps to help match system load better.



## BOILER BURNERS

LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM

MANUFACTURER	GORDON-PIATT ENERGY GROUP
MODEL #	F14.9-GO-30
SERIAL #	UNKNOWN
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	



## AIR SEPARATOR

**LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM**

MANUFACTURER	UNKNOWN
MODEL #	UNKNOWN
SERIAL #	UNKNOWN
CONDITION	Fair
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	





## WATER HEATER CIRCULATION PUMP

LOCATION: 200: MECHANICAL MEZZ. NORTH

MANUFACTURER	GRUNDFOS
MODEL #	UNKNOWN
SERIAL #	UNKNOWN
CONDITION	Good
RECOMMENDATION	Replace
REMARKS	Need to review size and flow – unit appears to be smaller than required.



## POOL CIRCULATION PUMP

**LOCATION:** 102: POOL EQUIPMENT

MANUFACTURER	PENTAIR
MODEL #	EQKT1500
SERIAL #	UNKNOWN
CONDITION	Good
RECOMMENDATION	Leave as-is
REMARKS	Provide unit with VFD to match load required.



## HOT WATER FILTER

LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM

MANUFACTURER	UNKNOWN
MODEL #	UNKNOWN
SERIAL #	UNKNOWN
CONDITION	Good
RECOMMENDATION	Leave as is
REMARKS	



## EXPANSION TANK

**LOCATION: A127: BOILER ROOM**

MANUFACTURER	BELL & GOSSETT
MODEL #	UNKNOWN
SERIAL #	91-1941
CONDITION	Good
RECOMMENDATION	Leave as is
REMARKS	



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Technology and Transportation Needs (2025-2030)

### Lake of the Woods School District

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## INTRODUCTION

Lake of the Woods School District stands at a pivotal moment in evaluating its future technology and transportation needs—as well as the financial strategies necessary to meet them. As part of our broader capital planning, District leadership strongly recommends that the School Board consider implementing a capital projects levy that would:

- Address our short- and long-term technology requirements
- Fund a yearly bus replacement to maintain a safe, reliable fleet
- Free up general fund revenues for student-centered initiatives

## PROJECTED CAPITAL NEEDS

### 1. Technology Infrastructure: \$1,602,100

- **Hardware & Software:** \$1,372,500 over five years
- **End-of-Life Systems:** \$229,600 for critical replacements
  - Phone System
  - Mass-Notification Audio System
  - Security Camera System
  - Clock System
  - Master Bell System

#### Technology Cost Projections (2025-2030)

Fiscal Year	Hardware	Software/Services	Annual Total
2025–2026	\$139,800	\$114,700	\$254,500
2026–2027	\$149,800	\$112,700	\$262,500
2027–2028	\$142,800	\$112,700	\$255,500
2028–2029	\$182,800	\$110,700	\$293,500
2029–2030	\$195,800	\$110,700	\$306,500
<b>5-Year Total</b>	<b>\$811,000</b>	<b>\$561,500</b>	<b>\$1,372,500</b>

### 2. Transportation Fleet: \$750,000

- **Annual Bus Replacement:** \$150,000 per year
- Current fleet includes multiple buses exceeding 100,000 miles
- Several buses with over 175,000 miles require immediate attention

#### **Current Bus Fleet Status (as of February 2025)**

<b>Bus ID</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
1	84,850
2	113,076
3	118,780
4	114,935
5	108,871
6	118,257
7	38,275
8	20,662
9	51,559
10	27,800
23	112,957
25	105,837
29	177,320
32	185,884
33	179,115

### **3. Total Five-Year Capital Requirements: \$2,352,100**

<b>Five-Year Capital Needs Breakdown</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
	Hardware & Software	\$1,372,500	58.4%
	EOL System Replacements	\$229,600	9.7%
	Bus Replacements (5 buses)	\$750,000	31.9%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,352,100</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATION**

To effectively manage these expenditures, we recommend a capital projects levy generating approximately **\$470,000-\$475,000 annually**. This approach would:

- Provide stable, predictable funding for essential infrastructure

- Allow for strategic planning without emergency expenditures
- Preserve the general fund for educational priorities

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The projected figures do not include:

- IT staffing costs
- Electronic curriculum and subscription-based resources

These additional expenses will require further planning and may increase overall funding needs.

## BENEFITS TO OUR DISTRICT

Implementing this capital projects levy would enable Lake of the Woods School District to:

- **Modernize Infrastructure:** Maintain current technology and transportation systems
- **Enhance Safety:** Ensure reliable bus fleet across our large geographical area
- **Protect Educational Quality:** Maintain smaller class sizes and retain highly qualified educators
- **Support Student Success:** Direct more general fund resources toward instructional excellence

## CONCLUSION

By adopting this strategic approach to our capital needs, Lake of the Woods School District can continue providing a safe, modern, and high-quality learning environment that meets the evolving needs of our students, staff, and community.

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*Note: This executive summary reflects best-available estimates. Actual costs may vary based on vendor pricing, enrollment changes, or shifts in District priorities.*





Lake of the Woods, ISD 390

School Board Workshop

April 14, 2025

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## Property Tax Base & Levy

### Assessment Year 2023 (Taxes Payable 2024) Tax Base by Property Type

	Market Value	Percent of Total	Referendum Market Value*	Percent of Total	Net Tax Capacity**	Percent of Total
<b>Totals</b>	<b>785,911,296</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>382,921,203</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,945,371</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Residential Homestead	221,039,408	28.1%	215,683,344	56.3%	1,981,313	24.9%
Other Residential	45,202,725	5.8%	44,938,500	11.7%	481,232	6.1%
Commercial / Industrial	82,435,353	10.5%	82,435,353	21.5%	1,546,660	19.5%
Non Qualifying Agricultural	21,756,189	2.8%	21,111,656	5.5%	175,876	2.2%
Qualifying Agriculture	196,659,421	25.0%	-	0.0%	1,635,920	20.6%
Seasonal Recreational	218,818,200	27.8%	18,752,350	4.9%	2,169,623	27.3%
TIF & FD					-45,253	-0.6%

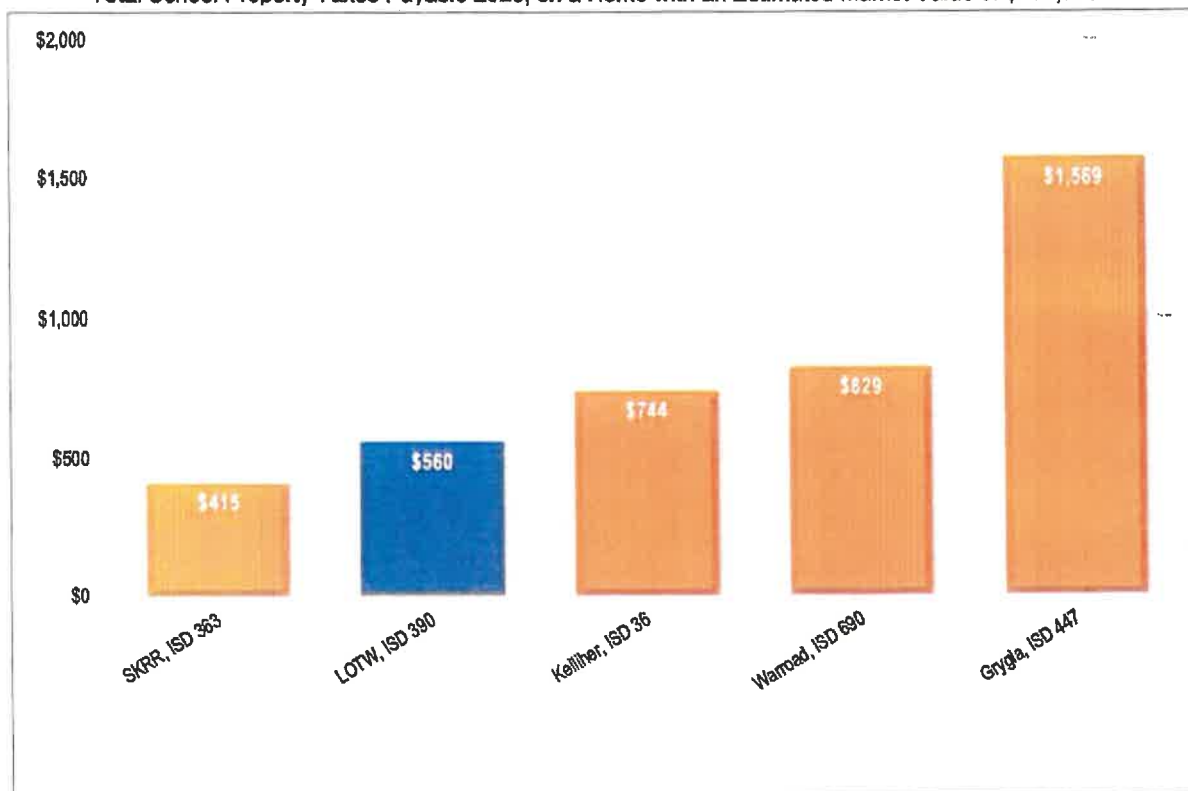
\*\*Totals include TIF and Fiscal Disparities adjustments

- Operating Referendum  
 - Local Optional Revenue  
 - Equity  
**19% of Total Levy**

All other school taxes  
 including building bonds  
**81% of Total Levy**

## Tax Comparisons

Total School Property Taxes Payable 2025, on a Home with an Estimated Market Value of \$200,000



## Operating Referendum Revenue Allowances

Election Year	Taxes Payable	Fiscal Year	Voter Approved		Board Renewal*	
			Operating Referendum	Renewal Years for Expiring Authorities	First Date	Deadline
2023	2024	2025	24.24			
2024	2025	2026	24.24			
2025	2026	2027	24.24			
2026	2027	2028	24.24	**	July 1, 2025	June 15, 2027
2027	2028	2029	0.00	***		
2028	2029	2030	0.00			
2029	2030	2031	0.00			
2030	2031	2032	0.00			
2031	2032	2033	0.00			
2032	2033	2034	0.00			
2033	2034	2035	0.00			
2034	2035	2036	0.00			

### Estimated Revenue for Fiscal Year 2026

Operating Referendum                      \$        10,312

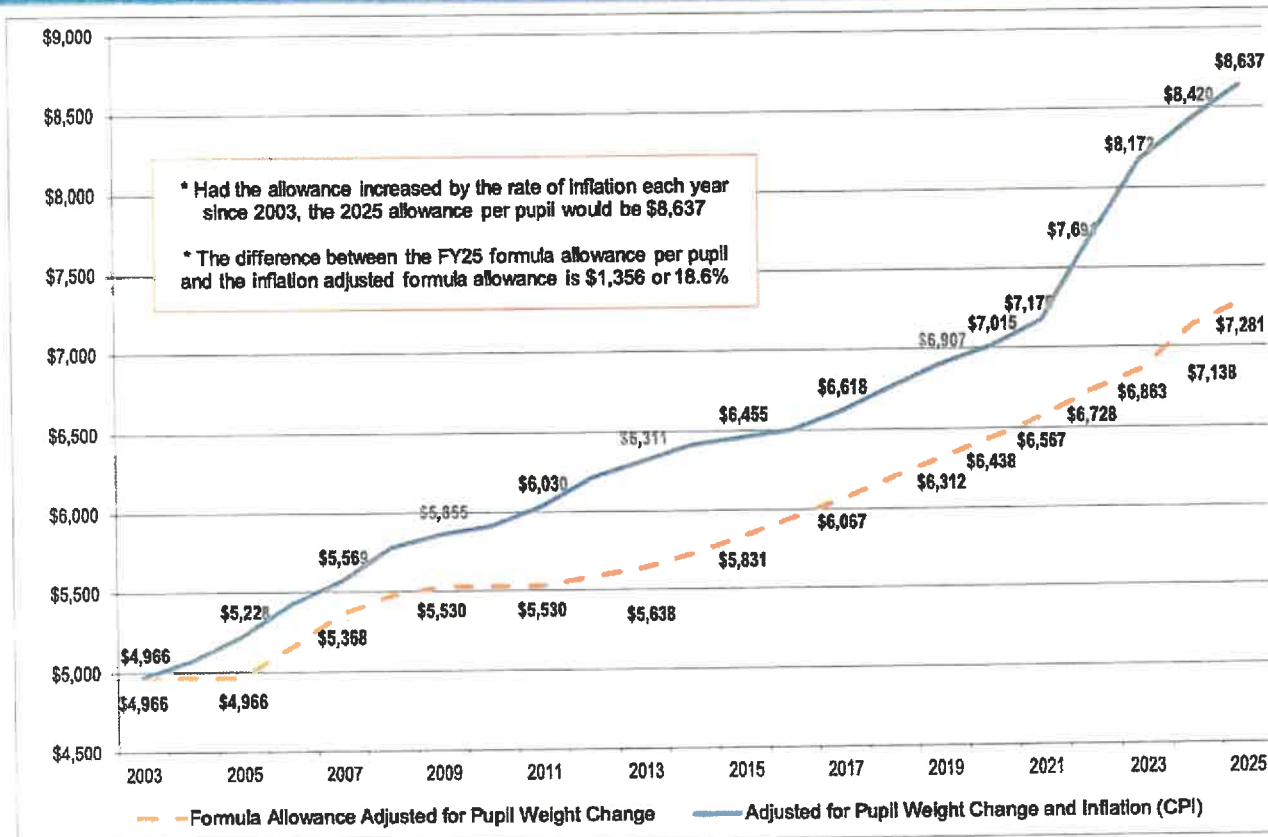
#### Notes:

- \* Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17 allows school boards to renew an existing operating referendum one-time for the same term and same amount
- \*\* First year voters can renew expiring voter approved operating referendum authority
- \*\*\* Last year voters can renew expiring voter approved operating referendum authority

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

## General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE June 2023 Inflation Estimates and Minnesota Laws 2023

## Operating Referendum & Capital Project Levy

	Operating Referendum	Capital Project Levy
<b>Tax Levy Based On</b>	Referendum Market Value	Net Tax Capacity
<b>Funding Source</b>	Tax Levy / State Aid	Tax Levy
<b>Authority</b>	Per Pupil	Tax Rate
<b>Inflationary Factor</b>	Optional / CPI	No / Changes with Tax Base
<b>Maximum Amount</b>	\$2,266 per pupil	No maximum
<b>Allowable Uses</b>	Any Operating Expenditure	Tech / Capital Expenditures
<b>Election Dates</b>	November	Feb, Apr, May, Aug, Nov
<b>Maximum Length</b>	10 years	10 years

## Estimated Tax Impact of Operating Referendum & Capital Project Levy

	Capital Project Levy	Operating Referendum Revenue	Total
<b>Additional Revenue</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Annual Tax Impact *		
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$28	\$94	-\$66
	150,000	53	142	-89
	200,000	77	189	-112
	250,000	102	236	-134
	300,000	127	283	-156
	400,000	178	377	-201
	500,000	225	472	-247
Commercial/ Industrial	\$50,000	\$34	\$47	-\$13
	100,000	68	94	-26
	250,000	192	236	-44
	500,000	418	472	-54
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$1,500	\$0.34	\$0	\$0.34
	2,000	0.45	0	0.45
	2,500	0.56	0	0.56
	3,000	0.68	0	0.68
	4,000	0.90	0	0.90
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$1,500	\$0.68	\$0	\$0.68
	2,000	0.90	0	0.90
	2,500	1.13	0	1.13
	3,000	1.36	0	1.36
	4,000	1.81	0	1.81
Seasonal Recreational Residential	\$100,000	\$45	\$0	\$45
	200,000	90	0	90
	300,000	136	0	136
	400,000	181	0	181
	500,000	226	0	226

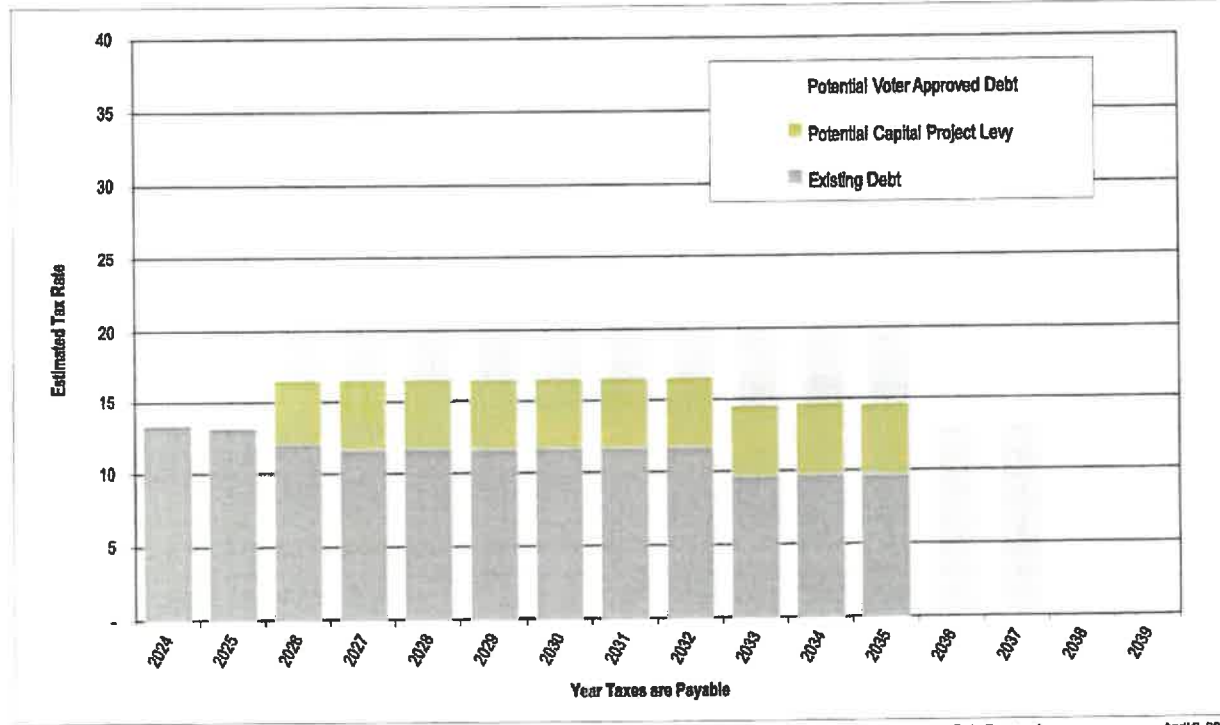


## Example: School Building Bonds & Capital Project Levy

### Lake of the Woods School District No. 390

Estimated Tax Rates for Capital and Debt Service Levies  
Existing Commitments and Proposed New Debt

**\$4,000,000 Bond Issue**  
**12 Tax Levies**  
**Wrapped Around Existing Debt**



Date Prepared:

April 8, 2025

## Example: School Building Bonds

Authorized Bond Issue Amount	\$2,400,000	\$4,000,000
Number of Years	11	12
Estimated Closing Date	2/1/2026	2/1/2026
Annual Capital Project Levy (First Year of Revenue Fiscal Year 2026-27)	\$0	\$0

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Impact on Annual Taxes Payable 2026*	
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$16	\$23
	150,000	30	42
	200,000	45	62
	250,000	59	82
	300,000	73	101
	400,000	101	141
	500,000	130	180
Commercial/Industrial	\$50,000	\$20	\$27
	100,000	39	54
	250,000	111	153
	500,000	241	334
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$1,500	\$0.06	\$0.08
	2,000	0.08	0.11
	2,500	0.10	0.14
	3,000	0.12	0.16
	3,500	0.14	0.19
	4,000	0.16	0.22
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$1,500	\$0.12	\$0.16
	2,000	0.16	0.22
	2,500	0.20	0.27
	3,000	0.23	0.32
	3,500	0.27	0.38
	4,000	0.31	0.43
Seasonal Recreational Residential	\$100,000	\$26	\$36
	200,000	52	72
	300,000	78	108
	400,000	104	144
	500,000	130	181
	600,000	163	226

## Example: Changing School Building Bonds & Capital Project Levy

Authorized Bond Issue Amount	\$2,400,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000
Number of Years	11	12	13
Estimated Closing Date	2/1/2026	2/1/2026	2/1/2026
Annual Capital Project Levy (First Year of Revenue Fiscal Year 2026-27)	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Impact on Annual Taxes Payable 2026*		
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$44	\$51	\$54
	150,000	83	95	101
	200,000	122	139	148
	250,000	161	184	196
	300,000	200	228	243
	400,000	277	317	337
Commercial/Industrial	500,000	355	405	432
	\$50,000	\$53	\$61	\$65
	100,000	107	122	130
	250,000	303	348	368
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	500,000	659	752	801
	\$1,500	\$0.40	\$0.42	\$0.43
	2,000	0.53	0.56	0.58
	2,500	0.66	0.70	0.72
	3,000	0.79	0.84	0.86
	3,500	0.93	0.98	1.01
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	4,000	1.06	1.12	1.15
	\$1,500	\$0.79	\$0.84	\$0.86
	2,000	1.06	1.12	1.15
	2,500	1.32	1.40	1.44
	3,000	1.59	1.68	1.73
	3,500	1.85	1.96	2.02
Seasonal Recreational Residential	4,000	2.12	2.24	2.30
	\$100,000	\$26	\$36	\$41
	200,000	52	72	83
	300,000	78	108	124
	400,000	104	144	166
	500,000	130	181	207
	600,000	163	226	259

## Example: School Building Bonds & Changing Capital Project Levy Amounts

Authorized Bond Issue Amount	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Number of Years	12	12	12
Estimated Closing Date	2/1/2026	2/1/2026	2/1/2026
Annual Capital Project Levy (First Year of Revenue Fiscal Year 2026-27)	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$500,000

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Impact on Annual Taxes Payable 2026*		
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$43	\$51	\$57
	150,000	81	95	108
	200,000	119	139	158
	250,000	157	184	208
	300,000	195	228	258
	400,000	270	317	358
Commercial/Industrial	500,000	346	405	459
	\$50,000	\$52	\$61	\$69
	100,000	104	122	138
	250,000	295	346	391
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	500,000	642	752	851
	\$1,500	\$0.33	\$0.42	\$0.50
	2,000	0.45	0.56	0.67
	2,500	0.56	0.70	0.84
	3,000	0.67	0.84	1.01
	3,500	0.78	0.98	1.17
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	4,000	0.89	1.12	1.34
	\$1,500	\$0.67	\$0.84	\$1.01
	2,000	0.89	1.12	1.34
	2,500	1.11	1.40	1.68
	3,000	1.34	1.68	2.01
	3,500	1.56	1.96	2.35
Seasonal Recreational Residential	4,000	1.78	2.24	2.69
	\$100,000	\$36	\$36	\$36
	200,000	71	72	71
	300,000	107	108	107
	400,000	142	144	142
	500,000	178	181	178
	600,000	222	226	222

# Sample Ballot Language- Bond and CPL

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## Approval of Bond Issue and Capital Project Levy Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. ## (## Public School) has proposed a project for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including safety and security improvements; deferred maintenance; renovation projects; the acquisition and maintenance of software, technology, and technology systems, and to pay the costs of technology-related personnel and training; and the acquisition of transportation vehicles, curriculum, textbooks, and materials. To provide funds for a portion of the project costs, the school board has proposed to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$#,###,###. To provide funds for the remaining portion of the project costs, the school board has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of #.###% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The proposed capital project levy will raise approximately \$#00,000 for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded by the capital project levy authorization is approximately \$#,000,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education.

Questions?

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# COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

Prepared for:

Lake of the Woods School District

236 15th Ave. SW

Baudette, MN 56623

Donovan Group

1345 N Jefferson Street #120

Milwaukee, WI 53202



**Donovan Group**  
School Communications



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last several months, the Lake of the Woods School District has been evaluating its building and facility, capital maintenance, and operating needs to investigate possible solutions to sustain a strong educational system for students and families.

The School Board asked school district residents to participate in a survey to evaluate the district's needs, consider preliminary solutions, and contribute feedback to guide next steps. This included their opinion as the district works toward a capital projects levy for additional revenue for the acquisition and betterment of the school, including technology and curriculum needs and bus purchases; a building bond referendum for facility improvements; a referendum for additional operating revenue.

An anonymous survey was made available to all district residents from June 18 to June 30, 2024. To encourage residents to take the survey, the school district used multiple communication tools to remind community members to complete it while it was open.

This report summarizes survey responses and an analysis from the Donovan Group team.

## PROCESS & METHODOLOGY

The survey was administered using the Donovan Group's survey engine. Efforts were made to ensure that all eligible respondents had the opportunity to take the survey but that no respondents took it multiple times. Following best practices in online research and protecting the security of the survey, internet protocol (IP) addresses were logged, and each response was time-stamped.

While we do not detail our specific survey security protocols, if we have reason to believe that anyone has taken the survey more than once or that there is fraud, we remove those responses. We set aside five completed surveys due to duplicate responses and other factors.

It is worth noting that, by design, this data is not based on a scientific sample. Therefore, it should be treated as qualitative data similar to data from focus groups. Because we used a convenience sample, conducting a regression analysis or attempting to calculate error would be methodologically inappropriate. However, our response pool is solid and provides sound data to the administration and the school board.

## SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 278 respondents completed the survey. To complete the survey, respondents must have clicked "submit" at the end of the online survey. Paper copies were available for anyone who preferred that method, but no completed paper surveys were submitted.

There are two data sets for some of the questions or statements later in the survey.

- The first column reflects the responses of all completed surveys.
- The second column indicates responses from a comparison group of district residents who are not current parents of preschool or school-aged students, employees, or students. The comparison group does include parents of former district students. We typically find the comparison group to represent the general population more accurately than all respondents. There were 81 completed results in the

comparison group, representing 29.1% of the total respondents. The responses of this comparison group differed significantly from the overall response pool for some questions, as noted in the analysis of those questions.

Below are the questions/statements and their corresponding responses. A brief analysis from the Donovan Group team is included under each question/statement and result. Questions/statements with an asterisk (\*) were required.

## 1 What is your age?\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison
18-25	1.08%	2.47%
26-34	12.59%	1.23%
35-44	34.17%	6.17%
45-54	25.18%	20.99%
55-64	12.23%	25.93%
Over 65	14.75%	43.21%

### Analysis:

Generally, we find that those 65 and older tend to be under-represented in school district surveys. We are pleased that the all-respondent group included approximately 52.2% of those 45 and older. It is also typical for the comparison group to skew older than the larger group of respondents, which is the case here; approximately 79.1% of the comparison group was 55 or older.

Overall, the survey received a healthy balance of respondents across age groups 26 and older, although we certainly would have liked to see more participation from those ages 25 and younger.

## 2 Choose the one that best describes where you reside.\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison
City of Baudette	34.53%	34.57%
City of Williams	6.12%	4.94%
North of Highway 11	28.06%	39.51%
South of Highway 11	23.38%	19.75%
Other	7.91%	1.23%

### Analysis:

We understand that this distribution largely mirrors the district's population and represents a good respondent pool.

There were 22 respondents who selected Other, which included Birchdale (1), City of Roosevelt (1), Clementson (1), East (1), East of Highway 11 (3), East of Baudette (1), Graceton (1), Morris Point (1), Pitt (1), Roosevelt area (2), Southeast Highway 11 (1), and Swift area (2). Six respondents did not share additional information.

### 3 How long have you lived in the Lake of the Woods School District?\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison	Analysis:
Less than 2 years	1.44%	1.23%	We often find that newer residents and those who have lived for a long time in the school district tend to differ significantly in their perceptions and opinions. While we would have liked to see a few more responses from those who lived in the district for five years or fewer, this pool represents the overall district community well.
Between 2 and 5 years	6.83%	3.70%	
Between 5 and 10 years	11.51%	4.94%	
Between 10 and 20 years	21.58%	16.05%	The group of all respondents likely skews older, as 74.1% have lived in the district for at least 10 years, while approximately 74.1% of the comparison group have lived in the district for at least 20 years.
Between 20 and 30 years	18.71%	16.05%	
More than 30 years	33.81%	58.02%	It is also apparent that residents tend to stay once they move into the Lake of the Woods school community.
I do not live in the district	6.12%	0.00%	

### 4 Please select all of the following that apply to you.\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison	Analysis:
I have school-aged children	52.16%	0.00%	With this statement, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100, as we divide by the total number of responses for this specific question instead of the total number of survey respondents. In all, 691 submissions were made to this statement.
I have preschool-aged children (4+)	11.15%	0.00%	
I have children who are younger than preschool age (0-3)	16.55%	0.00%	
I have children who currently attend the Lake of the Woods school	50.00%	0.00%	The all-respondent pool is meaningfully diverse regarding participants and connections to the school district. Over 52% of all respondents have school-aged children, including 50.0% who currently have a child in a district school. Meanwhile, nearly two-fifths of all respondents (38.1%) have attended a Lake of the Woods school. Also, approximately 71.6% of the comparison group have a child who has attended a district school, while 35.8% attended a Lake of the Woods school.
I have children who graduated from or previously attended the Lake of the Woods school	42.09%	71.60%	
I have grandchildren who currently attend or have attended the Lake of the Woods school	14.39%	32.10%	
I have attended the Lake of the Woods school	38.13%	35.80%	

I am a community member who has never had children attending the Lake of the Woods school	3.96%	11.11%
I am currently a student at the Lake of the Woods school	0.00%	0.00%
My children are home-schooled	0.72%	0.00%
My children attend a private or parochial school	0.00%	0.00%
My children open enroll out of the Lake of the Woods School District	1.08%	0.00%
I do not have children	3.60%	9.88%
I am currently employed by the Lake of the Woods School District	10.07%	0.00%
Other	4.68%	4.94%

Responses in the "Other" field included students who open enroll in the Lake of the Woods school district (3), former employees (3), their spouse graduated from a Lake of the Wood school (2), and land/property owner (2).

## 5 What level(s) do your child(ren) attend at Lake of the Woods School District? (Please select all that apply)\*

Answer	All Responses
Preschool/Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (PK)	14.39%
Elementary School	70.50%
High School	51.08%

### Analysis:

With this question, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100.

We understand that this distribution largely mirrors the student numbers. In all, 189 options were selected for the question.



## 6 Where do you receive information about the Lake of the Woods School District? (Please check all that apply.)

Answer	All Responses	Comparison	Analysis:
Parent organizations	9.71%	4.94%	With this question, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100. In all, 1,299 options were selected for this question.
Friends and neighbors	54.68%	53.09%	
My children and their friends	40.29%	20.99%	
District and/or school websites	62.59%	45.68%	What stands out is how many ways respondents get information about the district. Normally, we see 3-4 options that receive 30% or more. In this case, there were nine with more than 30%. The top ways respondents receive information were district and/or school websites (62.6%), social media (57.6%), and friends and neighbors (54.7%).
Mailings from the School District	40.65%	33.33%	
SchoolMessenger	30.22%	9.88%	
School newsletters (email)	28.42%	8.64%	Responses in Other included Facebook (2), School Board members (2), text messages (1), mobile apps the teachers use (1), and none (1).
School Board meetings	33.09%	35.80%	
Teachers and staff	45.68%	34.57%	Even the comparison group had eight options that received at least 20%, with the Northern Light Region being the clear choice (72.8%).
Northern Light Region (print or online)	50.00%	72.84%	
Bring Me The News (print or online)	1.08%	1.23%	We would encourage the district to use this data to determine the best communication tools for reaching specific audiences.
Television	2.16%	2.47%	
Radio	7.55%	3.70%	
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, X, etc.)	57.55%	44.44%	
Other	3.60%	2.47%	

## 7 Why do you visit the district's website? (Please check all that apply.)\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison	Analysis:
ParentVue (check grades, student schedules, etc.)	36.69%	1.23%	Once again, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100. In all, 725 options were selected for this question.
Upcoming events/calendar	62.95%	50.62%	
Access staff contact information	29.14%	7.41%	What stands out here is why all respondents visit the district website. Normally, 2-3 options receive 20% or more. In this case, there were six with more than 20%. The overwhelming top reasons for visiting the website were upcoming events/calendars (63.0%), with ParentVue (36.7%) and school news (35.6%) as the other top reasons.
School news	35.61%	33.33%	
Lunch menus	28.06%	4.94%	
District policies, bylaws, and guidelines	15.47%	8.64%	Meanwhile, 35.8 of the comparison group do not visit the district website. This would suggest that information on the website would be best tailored to staff, students, and District families.
School Board agendas/minutes	30.58%	33.33%	
I don't visit the district website	18.35%	35.80%	
Other	3.96%	1.23%	

## 8 I am satisfied with the Lake of the Woods School District.\*

Answer	All Responses	Comparison	Analysis:
Strongly agree	8.27%	4.94%	More than 51% of all respondents and 38.3% of the comparison group are satisfied with the district.
Agree	42.81%	33.33%	
Disagree	24.10%	22.22%	Additional engagement efforts over the several months would be one way to raise the percentage of those who strongly agree or agree with this statement and positively impact any referendum efforts.
Strongly Disagree	17.63%	27.16%	
No opinion	7.19%	12.35%	



## 9

## How would you describe the district to someone unfamiliar with it?

## Themes

Approximately 175 responses were provided. Respondents used this open-ended question to leave various responses regarding the school district. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into several overall themes:

- Some respondents noted concerns regarding confidence in district leadership and the School Board. This was largely attributed to past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or a clear plan for future financial management.
- There were mixed opinions on the quality of education, with many praising elementary education while expressing concerns about high school education.
- Many comments shared supported the dedication and quality of teachers and support staff, mixed with concern about teacher turnover and burnout.
- The district's small size was viewed positively due to the close-knit community, small class sizes, and personalized attention. At the same time, some challenges were noted, including limited resources, fewer extracurricular opportunities, and difficulties in attracting and retaining quality staff.
- Some respondents called for improved communication and transparency from the district administration and the School Board, especially regarding the current financial situation.

## 10

## How familiar are you with the Lake of the Woods School District's facility and operational needs?\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I am very familiar with the district's facility and operational needs.	31.29%	32.10%
I am somewhat familiar with the district's facility and operational needs.	60.07%	55.56%
I have no familiarity with the district's facility and operational needs.	8.63%	12.35%

## Analysis:

More than 91% of all respondents and nearly 84% of the comparison group indicated they were well-informed or had some familiarity with the district's facility needs. This indicates the district has done a very good job of educating the community about its facility challenges. It also presents an opportunity as approximately 8.6% of all respondents and 12.4% of the comparison group have no familiarity with the process.

The district should continue to engage its community in the coming months, as more information will help residents with their decisions.

11

I would vote "yes" on a \$400,000 capital project levy question to address some of the most urgent needs as identified by the Lake of the Woods School District, having a preliminary tax impact of the amount referenced in the table above.\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it.	28.42%	23.46%
I would probably support it	35.61%	24.69%
I would probably not support it.	16.55%	23.46%
I would definitely not support it.	19.42%	28.40%

## Analysis:

Approximately 64% of all respondents and 48.2% of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that they would vote "yes" on a \$400,000 capital project levy question to address some of the most urgent needs identified by the Lake of the Woods School District.

12

Please share why you selected probably not or definitely not to the previous statement.\*

## All Responses

The tax impact is too great.	28.00%
I don't understand why funds are needed for these needs.	20.00%
Regardless of the dollar amount, I won't support any levy or referendum.	29.00%
I don't have enough information.	17.00%
Other	53.00%

## Analysis:

The 100 individuals who responded they would probably not or definitely not support a \$400,000 capital project levy question were then asked why they selected that option on the previous statement. Once again, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100.

Of the four options presented, 29.0% indicated they would not support any levy or referendum regardless of dollar amount, 28.0% indicated the tax impact is too great, 20.0% don't understand why funds are needed, and 17.0% do not have enough information.

Fifty-three percent of respondents selected Other. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into several overall themes:

- Concerns regarding past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or concerns about the district's ability to handle money properly in the future.
- Concerns regarding confidence and trust in district leadership and the School Board
- Concerns that the proposed use of funds for technology does not align with current needs
- Calls for greater clarity and detail regarding how any money from a referendum would be spent
- Overall opposition to increasing taxes

## 13 I believe the district's building and facility maintenance needs must be addressed now.\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group
Strongly Agree	28.42%	25.93%
Agree	51.80%	40.74%
Disagree	14.75%	23.46%
Strongly Disagree	5.04%	9.88%

### Analysis:

In most cases, the percentage of respondents who strongly agree or agree with addressing urgent building and facility needs now tends to be higher than the support for specific solutions after a referendum date is announced or once dollar amounts and tax impacts are provided. This statement often sets the ceiling for support for specific solutions.

Notably, 80.2% of all respondents and 66.7% of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that the district's facility urgent facility needs must be addressed now.

This bodes well for the district if the right option and tax impact are determined. It should also be noted that some may have supported this statement but likely want the district to address the needs within its current budget.

## 14 Given the information above, how likely are you to support a building bond referendum on the November 2024 ballot?

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it	31.29%	29.63%
I would probably support it	36.69%	24.69%
I would probably not support it	18.35%	27.16%
I would definitely not support it	13.67%	18.52%

### Analysis:

Approximately 70% of all respondents and 54.3% of the comparison group definitely or probably would support a building bond referendum question on the November 2024 ballot.

## 15 I would vote "yes" on a \$4 million building bond referendum question to address some of the most urgent building and facility needs, having a preliminary tax impact of the amount referenced in the table above.\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it	30.94%	24.69%
I would probably support it	37.41%	29.63%
I would probably not support it	16.91%	24.69%
I would definitely not support it	14.75%	20.99%

### Analysis:

Approximately 68.4% of all respondents and 54.3% of the comparison group would support a \$4 million building bond referendum question to address some of the most urgent building and facility needs.



16

I would vote "yes" on a \$5 million building bond referendum question to address the most urgent building and facility needs, including addressing the Athletic Field Complex needs. This would have a tax preliminary impact of the amount referenced in the table above.\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it	29.86%	22.22%
I would probably support it	26.26%	14.81%
I would probably not support it	24.10%	30.86%
I would definitely not support it	19.78%	32.10%

#### Analysis:

Approximately 56.1% of all respondents and 37.0% of the comparison group would support a \$5 million building bond referendum question to address the most urgent building and facility needs, including addressing the Athletic Field Complex needs.

Support dropped 12.3% for the overall response group and 17.3% from the comparison group from the previous statement.

17

Please share why you selected probably not or definitely not to the previous statements.\*

#### All Responses

The tax impact is too great.	28.69%
I don't understand why funds are needed for these needs.	17.21%
Regardless of the dollar amount, I won't support any levy or referendum.	23.77%
I don't have enough information.	23.77%
Other	40.98%

#### Analysis and Themes

The 88 individuals who responded they would probably not or definitely not support a \$4 million building bond referendum and the 122 individuals who would probably not or definitely not support a \$5 million building bond referendum were then asked why they selected that option on the previous statement. Once again, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100.

Of the four options presented, 28.7% indicated the tax impact is too great, 23.8% indicated they would not support any levy or referendum regardless of dollar amount, 23.8% do not have enough information, and 17.2% don't understand why funds are needed,

Nearly 41.0% of respondents selected Other. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into many of the same overall themes previously noted by survey respondents:

- Concerns regarding confidence and trust in district leadership and the School Board
- Concerns regarding past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or concerns about the district's ability to handle money properly in the future
- Calls for greater clarity and detail regarding how any money from a referendum would be spent
- Overall opposition to increasing taxes
- Calls for enhanced long-term planning and budgeting to avoid the current situation in the future
- Concerns that proposed spending priorities are not aligned with the needs of the school and students
- Looking for additional state funding, grants, and other non-tax revenue sources

## 18 I believe the district's operational needs must be addressed now.\*

	All Responses	Comparison Group	Analysis:
Strongly Agree	36.69%	27.16%	Approximately 80.2% of all respondents and 66.7% of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that the district's operational needs must be addressed now.
Agree	43.53%	39.51%	
Disagree	12.95%	17.28%	This bodes well for the district if the right option and tax impact are determined, although it should also be noted some may have supported this statement but likely want the district to address the needs within its current budget.
Strongly Disagree	6.83%	16.05%	



## 19 Given the information above, how likely are you to support an operating referendum on the November 2024 ballot?

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it	27.34%	22.22%
I would probably support it	34.89%	22.22%
I would probably not support it	21.94%	29.63%
I would definitely not support it	15.83%	25.93%

### Analysis:

Approximately 62.2% of all respondents and 44.4% of the comparison group definitely or probably would support an operating referendum question on the November 2024 ballot.

## 20 I would vote "yes" on the November 2024 ballot to create a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil, having a preliminary tax impact of the amount referenced in the table above.

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support it	26.62%	20.99%
I would probably support it	35.25%	25.93%
I would probably not support it	22.66%	27.16%
I would definitely not support it	15.47%	25.93%

### Analysis:

Approximately 61.9% of all respondents and 46.9% of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that they would vote "yes" on a referendum question to create a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil.

## 21 Please share why you selected probably not or definitely not to the previous statements.\*

### All Responses

The cost is too high.	19.81%
The tax impact is too great.	28.30%
Regardless of the dollar amount, I won't support any referendum.	28.30%
I don't have enough information.	20.75%
Other	43.40%

### Analysis:

The 106 individuals who responded they would probably not or definitely not support creating a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil were then asked why they selected that option on the previous statement. Once again, respondents were asked to select all that apply.

Of the four options presented, 28.3% indicated they would not support any levy or referendum regardless of dollar amount, 28.3% indicated the tax impact is too great, 20.8% do not have enough information, and 19.8% said the cost is too high.

Approximately 43.4% of respondents selected Other. In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into many of the same overall themes previously noted by survey respondents:

- Concerns regarding confidence and trust in district leadership and the School Board
- Concerns regarding past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or concerns about the district's ability to handle money properly in the future
- Calls for greater clarity and detail regarding how any money from a referendum would be spent
- Overall opposition to increasing taxes
- Calls for enhanced long-term planning and budgeting to avoid the current situation in the future
- Looking for additional state funding, grants, and other non-tax revenue sources
- Concerns about student retention

22

I would vote "yes" on a \$400,000 capital project levy question to address some of the most urgent needs as identified by the Lake of the Woods School District; a \$4 million or \$5 million building bond referendum question to address some of the most urgent building and facility needs; and creating a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil, having a preliminary tax impact in the amounts referenced in the prior tables.

	All Responses	Comparison Group
I would definitely support all three	23.38%	18.52%
I would probably support all three	31.29%	20.99%
I would probably not support all three	25.18%	28.40%
I would definitely not support all three	20.14%	32.10%

**Analysis:**

Approximately 54.7% of all respondents and 39.5% of the comparison group strongly agree or agree that they would vote "yes" on a \$400,000 capital project levy question to address some of the most urgent needs as identified by the Lake of the Woods School District; a \$4 million or \$5 million building bond referendum question to address some of the most urgent building and facility needs; and creating a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil.

## 23 Please share your rationale, including if you would support any of the three questions.\*

### Common themes

The 126 individuals who responded that they would probably not or definitely not support a \$400,000 capital project levy question to address some of the most urgent needs as identified by the Lake of the Woods School District; a \$4 million or \$5 million building bond referendum question to address some of the most urgent building and facility needs; and creating a voter-approved operating referendum of \$497 per pupil, were then asked why they selected that option on the previous statement.

In examining the responses, we found that they tended to fall into many of the same overall themes previously noted by survey respondents:

- Concerns regarding confidence and trust in district leadership and the School Board
- Concerns regarding past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or a clear plan for future financial management
- Overall opposition to increasing taxes
- Concerns that the proposed use of funds does not align with the actual needs of the school and students
- Calls for additional efficiencies within the existing budget
- Calls for enhanced long-term planning and budgeting to avoid the current situation in the future

## **24** Please use the space below to provide additional information to the School Board as it considers solutions to address the district's facility needs.

### **Analysis:**

Approximately 90 responses were provided. Respondents used this open-ended question to leave various responses and suggestions they would like the School Board to consider.

In examining the responses, we found that they fell into many of the same overall themes noted in previous sections of the survey:

- Concerns regarding confidence and trust in district leadership and the School Board
- Concerns regarding past fiscal mismanagement, how it was addressed, and/or a clear plan for future financial management
- Overall opposition to increasing taxes
- Concerns that the proposed use of funds does not align with the actual needs of the school and students
- Calls for additional efficiencies within the existing budget
- Calls for enhanced long-term planning and budgeting to avoid the current situation in the future
- Concerns about student and staff retention within the district
- Looking for additional state funding, grants, and other non-tax revenue sources



LAKE OF THE WOODS  
School

## Time Line to November 2025 Referendum

Date	Task
April 14, 2025	Review Scope/Budget/Timeline with District
May 19, 2025	<b>Board Meeting:</b> Approve projects and submission of Review and Comment
<b>June 17, 2025</b>	<b>Submit Review and Comment to MDE</b>
August 12, 2025	Adopt formal resolution calling the election (at least 84 days prior to election)
September 2025	<b>Community Meeting #1:</b> TBD
September 2025	<b>Community Meeting #2:</b> TBD
September 2025	<b>Community Meeting #3:</b> TBD
August 26 - September 17, 2025	Publish Review and Comment
October 2025	Misc. Election notifications will need to go out
August - October 2025	Community Engagement and Information Campaign
September 19, 2025	Early/Absentee Voting Starts
October 20 - November 3, 2025	Get out to Vote
November 4, 2025	Election Day