



# CUMBERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 30, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Cumberland School District Asks Voters to Support School Improvements

On Tuesday, November 28, the Cumberland School District Board voted unanimously to move forward with a facility bond referendum question that will appear on the ballot at the Primary Election on February 20, 2024.

The District has been working on a long-range facility plan for the past several years. The process started with a full assessment of the school's building systems, structure, and finishes. Next, an analysis of how the spaces are used to meet student's educational needs was completed. Finally, a community-wide survey was conducted to identify which of the identified projects the Cumberland community was willing to support.

"The projects we are bringing forward are the result of data gathering, Strategic Planning, and community feedback," states Superintendent Dr. Barry Rose. "We value the community participation and feedback received thus far in the process."

The upcoming referendum will be one question based on clear direction from the Cumberland community on facility priorities and tax impact. The ask is for voters to approve \$32.95 million for renovations and additions that address critical challenges at the Cumberland High School:

- A significant portion of the high school has 65-year-old building systems beyond their service life and is in need of replacement.
- The front entrance and parking lot will be redesigned to improve secure visitor access and parking lot congestion and safety.
- The original 1960s two-story academic wing houses undersized classrooms with ongoing heating, cooling, and roof structure issues. Constructing a new classroom addition will allow adequate learning spaces that meet student, staff, and future educational needs.
- The west wing requires updates to address the steam boiler system which currently causes drastic, inconsistent temperatures classroom by classroom.
- The current shop area, now known as the Career and Technical Education (CTE), needs to be updated to provide educational experiences that reflect today's workforce.
- The wrestling room is half the size needed for the number of student-athletes in the program. An expanded space will provide a safer multi-use practice area.

Leading up to this referendum, the School Board was committed to bringing forward a plan that focused on critical top priorities for facility needs while carefully considering remodeling costs versus rebuilding new.

Dr. Rose noted, "We have always been very careful as a District to be fiscally responsible to our taxpayers while also trying to provide the best education for our students. With this referendum, the combination of renovated space, along with the new space, will provide an academic building that has modernized learning spaces that can meet the needs of our students now and into the future."

Please watch for more detailed information to be shared with the school community over the coming months leading up to the February 20, 2024, Primary Election.

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