



# SPRING GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We want to hear from you!

Dear Community Members,

The Spring Grove community has a long-standing tradition of supporting public education. We have strong academic, arts, and athletics programs that create well rounded students. We have been fiscally conservative with our spending, and our community has been tremendously generous in supporting operating and building referendums when needed. During the last century, our community had a significant facility update every 30 years: the 1922 school building (rebuilt in 1924 after the school fire), the 1956 elementary and game gym/auditorium additions, and the 1988 media center and practice gym addition.

Over the last few years the District has been having conversations about the need to update and expand our school facilities to better meet the needs of our students and the greater Spring Grove community. Those conversations became a part of the greater community conversation and visioning, now known as Spring Grove 2030. While the important work of Spring Grove 2030 continues, the District has also been working to determine if it is time again, 35 years since the last addition, to ask our community to make a significant investment in our facility.

This past fall the District completed a comprehensive facility assessment. The review evaluated the school's infrastructure and building system needs as well as educational and site deficiencies. A Community Facility Task Force of parents, community members, and District staff, reviewed these findings and identified a variety of potential projects. The Task Force also explored the option to build a new school at this time. However, at a cost of approximately \$85 million, it was beyond the District's bonding capacity. The Task Force then narrowed the list to those presented in this survey.

The cost to complete these projects is greater than the District's annual operating budget can support. Thus, the School Board is considering asking voters to support a bond referendum to fund these projects. However, before a plan is finalized we want to ensure all residents have an opportunity to have a voice in the planning.

Please take a few minutes to take this important survey.

Sincerely,

Rachel Udstuen, *Superintendent*

## COMPLETE THIS SURVEY ONLINE OR BY PAPER!

### Online

To complete the survey online:

- A** Scan the QR code below with your phone's camera



- B** Visit the website link: [bit.ly/sgps\\_survey](https://bit.ly/sgps_survey)

### Paper

Download and print the survey at [bit.ly/sgps\\_survey](https://bit.ly/sgps_survey) or call 507.498.3221 to have a survey mailed to you. Once complete:

- C** Return or mail your completed paper survey to the District office: Spring Grove Public Schools, 113 2nd Avenue Northwest, PO Box 626, Spring Grove, MN 55974.

**Please complete and return the survey by April 12, 2023!**



## SCHOOL FUNDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are two types of referendum funding the District can use: an operating levy and a facility bond.

For the last decade, like many other districts in the state, the Spring Grove Public School District has had a voter-approved operating levy. These funds support day-to-day operations, such as staffing, educational programming, and student services. These funds are used within the same year they are received.

A facility bond pays for major building projects, which could include updating or expanding an existing school. Much like a home mortgage, a bond is typically financed over an extended time period, up to 30 years. This financing method was last used in 1988 to finance the building of the media center and practice gym.

**In simple terms, a levy is for learning,  
a bond is for building.**

## OPERATING LEVY RENEWAL

The Spring Grove Public School District has had a voter-approved operational levy in place since 1998. This funding supports the District's day-to-day operations, including staffing, curriculum, and student services.

The District's current operational levy is set to expire in 2024. In order to maintain current programs and services, **Spring Grove voters will need to renew the operating levy. Approval of the levy will not change the tax rate.**



## ABOUT YOU

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

### 1 What is your age?

- ☐ 18-25
- ☐ 26-35
- ☐ 36-45
- ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 56-64
- ☐ 65 and older

### 2 Are you an employee of Spring Grove Public Schools?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### 3 Do you have school-aged children?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### 4 Do you live in the Spring Grove Public School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

### 5 Do you own agricultural land in the Spring Grove Public School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

## BOND REFERENDUM PROJECTS

In addition to renewing the operating levy, the District is exploring the option of asking voters to support a bond referendum to update and expand the school to better meet the needs of students both today and in the years to come. The District would like your feedback on potential projects to be included in a bond.

### 6 **Update Building Systems** *Estimated cost: Up to \$9.3 million*

Portions of the school's heating and ventilation system are original to the 95-year-old building. These units are not working properly, are inefficient, and replacement parts are no longer available. The in-classroom unit ventilators are also failing, loud, and do not meet current fresh air exchange code requirements. These systems require replacement to improve air quality, energy efficiency, cooling, and temperature control. In addition, the school's water heater is operating beyond its service life and in need of replacement and the electrical panels are old, inefficient, and replacement parts are not available, requiring replacement.

Would you support a plan that provides funding to update building systems?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

### 7 **Repair and Replace Windows, Roof Sections, and Finishes** *Estimated cost: Up to \$3.6 million*

The school has a significant amount of glass block and single pane windows that are not energy efficient and are in need of replacement. These windows are unable to open, should students need to exit through them in an emergency. Sections of the roof are beyond their service life and need to be replaced. Tuckpointing on portions of the school needs to be done to address water infiltration. Sidewalk sections need to be replaced to meet current Americans with Disabilities (ADA) code compliance. And, interior finishes including lights, flooring, and fixtures are worn and need to be replaced.

Would you support a plan that provides funding to repair and replace windows, roof sections, and finishes?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

### 8 **Expand the Kitchen and Cafeteria** *Estimated cost: Up to \$950,000*

The school's kitchen is too small to effectively prepare meals and move students through serving lines efficiently during their lunch hour. Consequently, students spend a significant amount of their lunch period waiting in line. Lunch is served over four periods, impacting students' schedules. The space is so limited that the kitchen's coolers are in the cafeteria, taking up valuable space and creating inefficiencies in food preparation. The cafeteria is also undersized, and the current layout does not allow for large group instruction or use as a gathering space.

Would you support a plan that provides funding to expand the kitchen and cafeteria?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

### 9 **Expand the Art Room** *Estimated cost: Up to \$700,000*

The art room is almost half the recommended size. The room lacks the needed storage for supplies as well as student projects. In addition, the kiln, used for baking pottery, is located in the already small room, causing safety concerns.

Would you support a plan that provides funding to expand the art room?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

### 10 **Expand the Weight Room** *Estimated cost: Up to \$1.7 million*

The current weight room is significantly undersized to meet current physical education and team training needs, requiring the physical education teacher and coaches to regularly adjust their lessons and training schedules. An updated and expanded room would allow for additional equipment, improved safety, and increased access for students.

Would you support a plan that provides funding to expand the weight room?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

**11 Building A Performing Arts Center** *Estimated cost: \$8 million-\$16 million (depending on location and features)*

The District and community have been talking about an improved performance space for students for decades. Currently, student music and drama performances take place on a stage in the school's gym. The stage is small and lacks appropriate sound, lighting, and acoustics to showcase the student performers. Sharing with the gym causes scheduling challenges, requiring gym equipment to be packed up and moved daily as well as teams to cancel practices. Sharing this space also requires the band equipment to be moved regularly as well, causing lost instructional time and wear and tear on equipment.

The school's band and choir rooms are also undersized, lack the needed storage, and have small practice rooms.

A performing arts center with flexible space for other groups and organizations within the community is also a priority of the Spring Grove 2030 vision.

A Performing Arts Center could include all or some of the following:

- Stage with lights, sound equipment, and acoustic elements
- Flexible seating for performance viewing and other large group activities
- Music and band classrooms
- Practice rooms
- Storage
- Scene shop
- Dressing rooms
- Lobby and ticket area
- Breakout rooms/meeting space
- Meeting space

**Would you support a plan that provides funding to build a Performing Arts Center?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

**12 Update and Expand the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Space ("Wood Shop")** *Estimated cost: Up to \$5.5 million*

As the demand for workers in the trades continues to grow, we want to ensure our students have real-world, hands-on experiences in courses including welding/metals, woods, and automotive repair. These classes are currently held in the Power Mechanics Building in a space also used for maintenance and theater department storage. Other classes are held in a small "shop" classroom in the elementary portion of the school. An updated and expanded space is needed for increased course offerings, improved educational experiences, and access to the latest equipment and technology.

**Would you support a plan that provides funding to update the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Space?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

**13 Renovate Bathrooms and Move Locker Rooms to Address Accessibility Issues** *Estimated cost: Up to \$2.5 million*

There is a need to update many of the school's restrooms to replace outdated fixtures and plumbing as well as address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance. In addition, there are locker rooms located in the lower level of the school that have poor ventilation as well as lack accessibility for those with mobility issues. New locker rooms need to be built on the school's main level.

**Would you support a plan that provides funding to renovate the bathrooms and build new locker rooms?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

**14 Add Gym Space** *Estimated cost: Up to \$2.9 million*

There is a need for additional gym space to better meet the needs of the District's co-curricular teams and youth recreation programs. Currently, the gym's very busy schedule results in teams practicing late into the night, early in the morning, and many gym usage requests going unfulfilled.

**Would you support a plan that provides funding to add gym space?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure



## FUNDING SUPPORT

The cost to address all the needs identified in this survey is more than \$40 million. We know that addressing all of these projects at one time is not financially feasible and we will need to complete them in phases over time, based on the community's support.

The District would like to know your willingness to support these projects through a tax increase, should we move forward with a bond referendum.

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Bond Referendum Estimated Increase Per Year				
		\$12 Million	\$16 Million	\$20 Million	\$24 Million	\$28 Million
Residential Homestead	\$50,000	\$91	\$106	\$122	\$144	\$164
	\$100,000	\$219	\$253	\$292	\$344	\$393
	\$150,000	\$384	\$445	\$514	\$606	\$692
	\$200,000	\$550	\$637	\$736	\$867	\$990
	\$250,000	\$716	\$829	\$958	\$1,129	\$1,289
	\$300,000	\$882	\$1,021	\$1,180	\$1,391	\$1,587
Commercial/Industrial	\$100,000	\$457	\$529	\$611	\$720	\$822
	\$250,000	\$1,294	\$1,498	\$1,730	\$2,040	\$2,328
Agricultural Homestead* <i>Average value per acre of land and buildings</i>	\$3,000	\$1.37	\$1.59	\$1.83	\$2.16	\$2.46
	\$5,000	\$2.28	\$2.64	\$3.05	\$3.60	\$4.11
	\$7,000	\$3.20	\$3.70	\$4.27	\$5.04	\$5.75
Agricultural Non-Homestead <i>Average value per acre of land and buildings</i>	\$3,000	\$2.74	\$3.17	\$3.66	\$4.32	\$4.93
	\$5,000	\$4.57	\$5.29	\$6.11	\$7.20	\$8.22
	\$7,000	\$6.39	\$7.40	\$8.55	\$10.08	\$11.50

\*Homestead examples exclude the house, garage, and one acre, which has the same tax impact as a residential homestead.

### 15 Bond Amount

In general, based on the tax increases shown, which bond amount would you be willing to support?

- ☐ I would support a bond greater than \$28 million
- ☐ \$28 million bond
- ☐ \$24 million bond
- ☐ \$20 million bond
- ☐ \$16 million bond
- ☐ \$12 million bond
- ☐ I would only support a smaller bond
- ☐ I am not supportive of any bond at this time

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**

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