



Stanley-Boyd Area Schools Referendum **FAQs**

WHY ISN'T ACADEMIC SPACE THE FOCUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Academic needs are already addressed in our budget. Through effective yearly budgeting, the district has enhanced our instructional facilities to align with the exceptional education provided in our schools. Large-scale maintenance and facility items like roof replacement, bus barn construction, and pool repairs have been planned, allocated, and completed. Furnishings, equipment, and supplies are available to our teachers to provide the best education possible. Classroom space and any other district needs are completed as necessary. We plan to remodel our upper elementary school to ensure that our instructional spaces are top-notch. The gymnasium space is the one area we cannot address in our annual budget without your help.

IS THE DISTRICT CONSIDERING PURSUING A FEMA GRANT TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR A NEW GYM?

Not at this time. The district explored a FEMA grant last year. We learned the costs associated with a storm shelter were greater than the grant money available for our project.

IS THE ELEMENTARY GYM CHANGING?

The district has made upgrades to our elementary gym and plans to continue using it as both a classroom and competition space.

WHY IS A NEW GYMNASIUM NEEDED?

The addition of gymnasium space and improvements to our drama/musical spaces are an upgrade that the school board needs your help improving.

- Our physical education classes struggle to have adequate space during inclement weather, special events in the gym, and scheduling. Set up and take down for special events often displaces physical education classes.
- Indoor high school sports could have all three levels practicing simultaneously in the same facility. It also allows additional space when spring and fall sports are forced inside due to the weather.
- Our existing gyms are in high demand, with groups frequently using our gyms late into the evening and practicing in hallways.
- Our Drama Club always feels like they are in the way of athletic groups and physical education classes.
- Additional space would free up earlier times for youth coaches to run practices and get students home earlier on school nights.

HOW WOULD THE LOCKER ROOMS CONNECT THE TWO GYMS?

The district hired LHB architects to create the layout of the gymnasium addition. LHB is aware the district wants the locker rooms to be utilized by both gyms. Conceptual drawings will be posted on the district's website.

IS THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM CHANGING?

Yes. We plan to upgrade the high school gym to create a better area for concerts and plays. Acoustics, seating, lighting, and storage would all be upgraded to accommodate those groups better. The gym would still be used as a gymnasium. The additional gym space would allow the band, choir, and drama clubs to use the area more frequently without disrupting physical education classes or athletic practices.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM IF A NEW GYM IS BUILT?

In current discussions, we are considering making additional storage space, a dedicated wrestling space, and dedicated hitting areas for our baseball, softball, and golf teams. Currently, those sports use gym space for practice. A dedicated space would free up gym space, allow more efficient practices, and protect our walls, doors, ceilings, decor, and lights from being damaged by balls during hitting practice.

IS THERE ANY WAY TO GENERATE REVENUE FROM A NEW GYM?

The school board has traditionally kept usage fees for our facilities low. The board has not discussed increasing these fees, but it is an option. Larger capacity gyms have a higher likelihood of hosting sectional-level competitions or tournaments. This is also something that the school will explore.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE THORP AND CADOTT REFERENDA?

The Thorp and Cadott School Districts are also considering spring 2024 capital improvement referenda. While limited public information has been released, both districts appear to be pursuing gymnasium additions.

WHAT IS THE TAX IMPACT?

The tax impact will depend on the scope of work that is chosen. A community survey is going out in mid-October to determine which option residents prefer. The Board of Education will vote on a resolution in December. The district's website will be updated with the tax impact at that time.

HOW WILL THE LIBRARY BE INTEGRATED INTO THE NEW SPACE?

The architect wants the library to be seamlessly integrated into the building's design. How the library is included will depend on the final scope of work. A concept drawing will be shared on the district's website when a layout is finalized.

HOW MUCH FUNDING DO WE RECEIVE FOR EACH STUDENT THAT OPEN ENROLLS?

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the district receives \$8,618 for each open enrollment student. If the student has disabilities, the amount is \$13,470. In 2024-2025, the amount is projected to go up to \$8,962 and \$13,814, respectively.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM DOESN'T PASS?

If the referendum doesn't pass, the district will continue to struggle with limited gym space and late-night practices. If nearby districts build new gymnasiums, Stanley-Boyd Area Schools could also see an increase in the number of students who open enroll in surrounding school districts, resulting in a loss of revenue.