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The Results Are In: Community Survey Shows Cedarburg Residents Support Improvements to School District Facilities that Focus on Capacity, Learning Spaces, Safety and Security

June 8, 2018—Cedarburg, Wis. — A majority of Cedarburg School District residents surveyed support improvements to school district facilities, according to a survey conducted by the Cedarburg School District in May.

More than 8,400 surveys were mailed to households within the Cedarburg School District. At the closing of the survey on June 1, 2018, the survey had a 24 percent response rate, which is a very good rate and above industry standards. This rate is considered a valid sample of the population to produce accurate results.

A summary of the survey findings indicated:

- 58 percent of resident respondents would advise the School Board to pursue a referendum
- 80 percent of respondents believe Cedarburg School District has a positive impact on their home value
- 88 percent of the respondents are satisfied/very satisfied with the Cedarburg School District
- Support for the individual Facilities Improvement Plans for each of the schools in the District was relatively equal across the board, ranging from 54-60 percent with:
 - 75 percent of staff residents showing support for the project, and
 - 65 percent of parent residents (non-staff) showing support for the project

The Cedarburg School District has identified enrollment growth as one of the primary drivers behind its Long Range Master Plan. Currently, there are 16 approved subdivisions and/or residential developments within the Cedarburg School District that are in various stages of completion. This has the potential to increase student enrollment by an additional 220-360 students over the next 5-7 years.

Because there is no way to accurately predict the rate of this growth, the Building and Grounds Committee has given the Long Range Master Plan team the directive to refine the proposed facilities project while preserving the intent of addressing capacity and teaching/learning spaces and without compromising safety and security.

“We appreciate that the community is so supportive of our schools, and we understand that the community expects us to be prudent with tax dollars,” said Superintendent Todd Bugnacki. “Reducing the initial cost is a responsible way to address some of our immediate space needs and reduce the overall tax impact.”

Even without a reduced cost plan, Cedarburg School District would still have the second lowest mill rate in Ozaukee County.

“The last major facility investment was the referendum passed in 2000 that addressed high school science classrooms, a fieldhouse and updates to the middle school, so we recognize that large projects like this are developed with great care and should be subject to thoughtful scrutiny,” said Superintendent Bugnacki.

In addition to addressing urgent growth and enrollment concerns, the revised plan will continue to place emphasis on career-oriented education, specifically in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), as well as safety and security. It also is a priority for the District to maintain neighborhood access to schools and make the most of the existing facilities, given that they have substantial life expectancy.

The revised plan does not include regular, ongoing facility maintenance items. As always, the District remains committed to living within its annual operating budget for those items.