

December 14, 2005

2006 BOND
REFERENDUM

Spring Lake Park Yesterday
EDUCATION TODAY
School District 16 Tomorrow

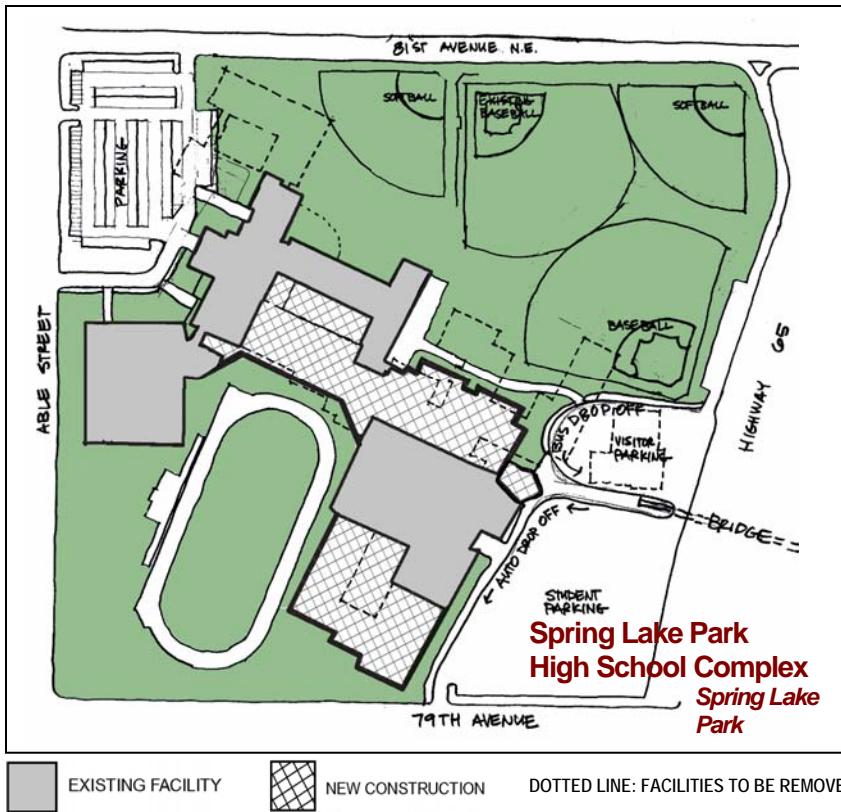
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High Expectations, High Achievement For All. No Excuses.

UPDATE THREE

School Board authorizes February 28, 2006 vote to fund long-range facilities utilization and improvement plan

Bond referendum would provide solutions for enrollment growth, aging facilities, under-sized sites, deferred maintenance, new construction, and a new K-3 elementary school



fall 2004 to fall 2005, 200 new students enrolled in the district. Over 800 new students are projected by 2010.

Following a facilities study by architects and engineers that began in March 2004, a task force of community members and district staff started work on a study of school district facilities needs in February 2005.

The task force presented a report to the school board on November 8, identifying needs for upgrading and renovating 35 to 50 year-old facilities, completing deferred maintenance projects, addressing land-locked and under-sized school sites, complying with state guidelines, completing new construction projects, and building a new K-3 elementary school in Blaine where population growth is the fastest in the district.

Like the School Board, task force members were unanimous in their decision to do what is necessary to improve District 16's facilities for this and the next generation of students.

At a special meeting on December 6, the Spring Lake Park School District 16 school board unanimously authorized a \$95.9 million bond referendum election for Tuesday, February 28.

"The school board's action demonstrates their resolve to repair and renovate aging facilities and to build new facilities to address our rapidly growing enrollment," said Superintendent Don Helmstetter.

The school district, which serves students from Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Fridley, must accommodate a nearly 20 percent increase in student enrollment over the next six years. In just one year alone, from

At one of the community information meetings held in the fall, task force member Dick Morin, a Fridley resident and parent of Spring Lake Park High School graduates, had this to say: *"We need to step up to the challenge and do what is necessary to carry our schools into an ever-challenging future. These are our schools, our children, our responsibility."*

On December 6, the Board unanimously endorsed the task force plan that was presented at community information meetings in the fall and is available at www.springlakeparkschools.org.

■ The bond referendum provides solutions for significant present and anticipated student growth, complete deferred maintenance projects left out of the last bond referendum, and new needs since that time. Bond funds would repair and modernize 35 to 50 year-old facilities, including replacing and repairing old single-pane windows, original boilers, and worn out roofs.

■ The housing boom in Blaine will bring the district over 800 new students, making it among the few districts experiencing a growth in student population, and requiring additional classroom space.

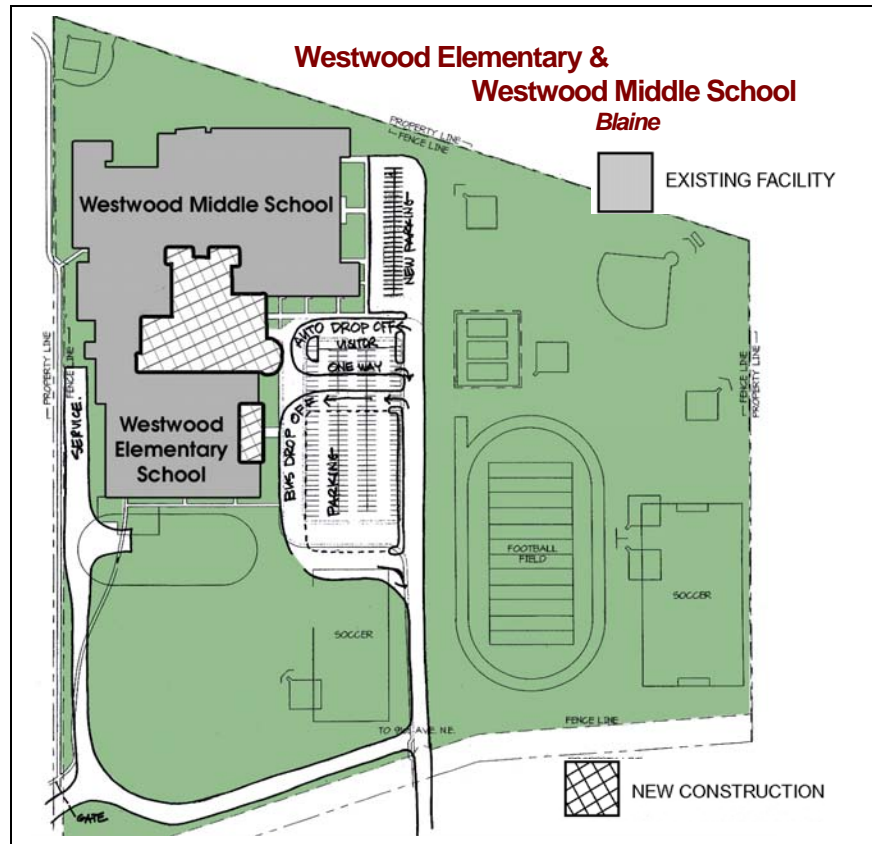
■ Bond referendum funds would build a new K-3 elementary school in the fastest growing area of the district and construct additional classrooms at the middle and elementary schools. Facilities—including gyms, cafeterias, athletic and fine arts areas—would be updated to serve existing students and an almost 20% increase in the student population.

■ The 40-acre “high school complex” presently includes Spring Lake Park High School and also Kenneth Hall Elementary, Early Childhood Programs, Community Services, Learning Alternatives Community School, and the District Office. By today’s state guidelines, this number of programs on one site requires almost 80 acres.

According to the Facilities Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, there is too much activity on this site. To meet minimum state standards and earn state approval for the facilities plan, the district must close Kenneth Hall Elementary School.

The State Department will allow the district to retain some of the school’s space, such as the cafeteria and gymnasium, for student and community use.

The district will also take down the 50 year-old sections of the high school and build a new, two-story section for classrooms, as well as consolidate and expand the education and fine arts areas.



Space that is gained will assist in providing more much-needed outdoor teaching stations for physical education, improve student safety and security at school entrances, and provide safer traffic flow for buses and vehicles. In this plan, the new main entrance for the high school would be located on the east side of the school.

■ The Westwood campus would receive new elementary and middle school classrooms, expanded facilities, and a new, joint elementary-middle school entrance.

■ Park Terrace Elementary will get additional classrooms and a major overhaul of a school originally constructed as an “open school” with no permanent classroom walls.

■ Woodcrest Elementary School will get an entire new classroom wing, to host the district’s early childhood programs, that will connect the two existing wings at the south end of the school.

While district facilities are “clean and well taken care of, many of the buildings have already outlived their original intended life span,” said one community member of the task force.

Another said “now is the time for the district to complete the task it started ten years ago with its 1995 bond referendum and to prepare these facilities for the next generation of students.” To keep the cost to taxpayers down, only half of the needs identified in 1993-95 were included in the 1995 bond referendum.

The facilities study and its progress have been discussed at more than 50 public meetings within the last two years. Additional informational meetings will be scheduled now that a February 28 election has been authorized.

This newsletter prepared for all residents and paid for by Independent School District No. 16 (Spring Lake Park), 8000 Highway 65 NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. Not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

Major components of the facilities improvement plan by site:

High School Campus

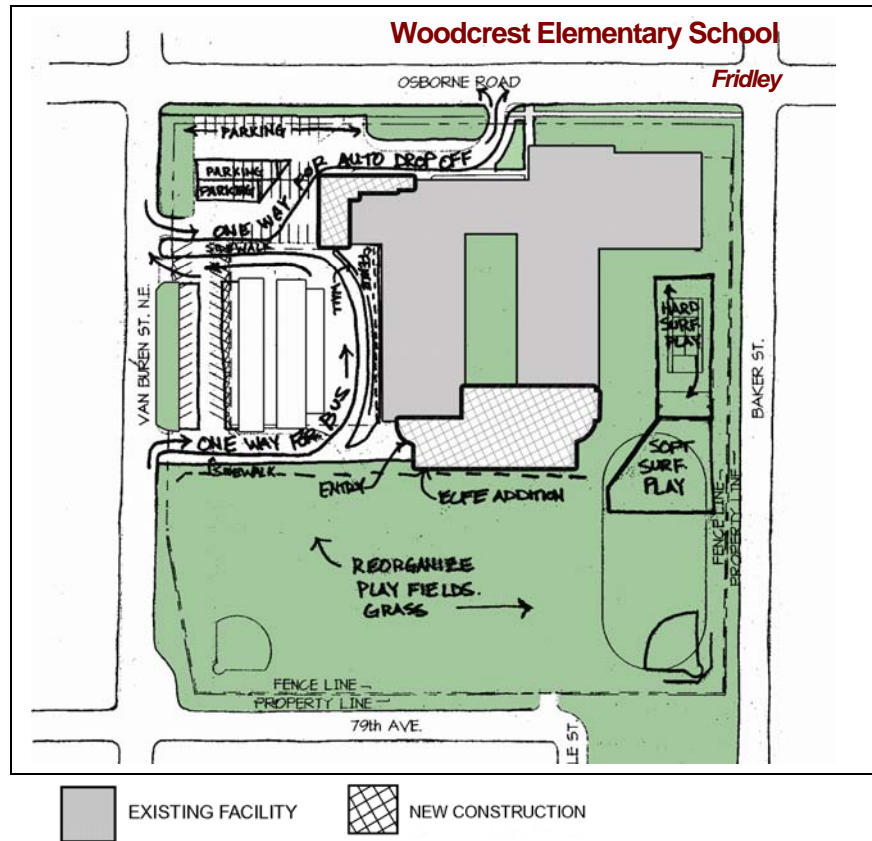
- New addition for physical education/fine arts
- New two-story classroom addition, linking existing two-story to new structure
- New main entrance on east side of complex
- Cafeteria expansion
- Relocate Learning Alternatives Community School, Community Services, District Office on-site, relocate early childhood programs and maintenance to other sites
- Remodel and upgrade Kenneth Hall southwest entry, gym, cafeteria
- Deferred maintenance
- Separate auto and bus traffic, improve safety
- Improve athletic fields/tennis courts (excluding needs at Panther Stadium, which must be completed by fall 2006)
- Demolish oldest sections of the high school, much of Kenneth Hall, District Offices, district maintenance garage
- Partial reuse of fixtures, furniture, equipment

Westwood Campus

- New addition in the front of the complex, between the two schools, for expanded cafeteria/lunchrooms, support services, new main office
- Improve security with new elementary/middle school entrance
- Add elementary classrooms, relocate elementary school media center
- Deferred maintenance at elementary school and middle school
- Additional middle school classrooms
- Relocate main office, lockers, corridor
- Separate auto and bus traffic, improve safety
- Additional entrance/exit road
- Physical education and athletic field revisions
- Fixtures, equipment for new additions

Park Terrace Elementary

- Additional classrooms on the east and west sides
- Kitchen expansion
- Gymnasium expansion



- Convert stage area for lunchroom
- Substantial remodel to add permanent classroom walls, move classrooms from inside of the building to the outside, add natural lighting
- Deferred maintenance
- Separate auto and bus traffic, improve safety

Woodcrest Elementary

- Cafeteria expansion
- Kitchen expansion
- Gymnasium expansion (into existing stage area)
- Deferred maintenance
- Separate auto and bus traffic, improve safety
- Purchase property adjacent to playground
- New addition on south side, for early childhood programs, will connect two south ends of the school and increase security

New K-3 Elementary

- New elementary school (750 student capacity)
- Site work development
- Land acquisition

A successful bond referendum is the foundation of the School District's long-range facilities utilization and improvement plan. It would help the district to meet its many objectives for the future and it would also meet current state guidelines that address and correct critical issues.

If approved on February 28, 2006, the referendum would mean a net tax increase of less than \$16/month for the average district homeowner.

Cost for taxpayers

These figures show the estimated net tax increase if the February 28 bond referendum is successful. They show the taxable market value of homes, the value used to pay taxes. The average in District 16 is about \$200,000.

\$150,000	\$11.75/month	\$141/year
\$200,000	\$15.66/month	\$188/year
\$250,000	\$19.66/month	\$236/year
\$300,000	\$23.58/month	\$283/year

Find Out More

Have Your Questions Answered

Superintendent Don Helmstetter, a district administrator, or a member of the Facilities Task Force will give you a response (within two work days whenever possible) if you leave your question on the Hotlines below:

E-Mail Hotline:

2006BondReferendum@district16.org

Phone Hotline: 763-795-5195

Mailings, Newspapers, Cable TV

- Look for additional district mailings
- Coverage in local and metro newspapers
- Updates on Comcast cable channel 19 serving Blaine and Spring Lake Park, Time-Warner channel 14 serving Fridley (Wednesday evenings), and North Metro Community Channel 15.

District Website

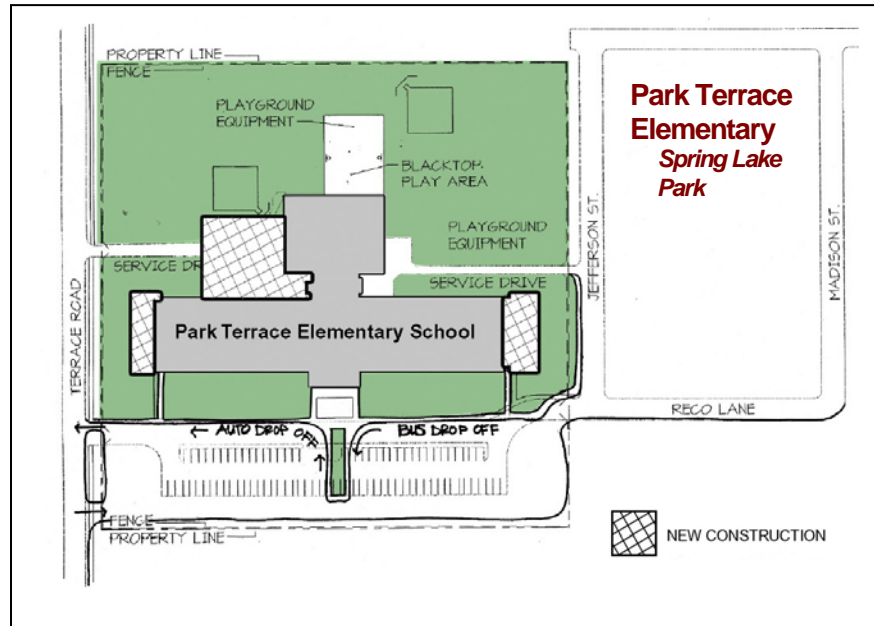
Visit www.springlakeparkschools.org and select Facilities Improvement Plan/Bond Referendum for continual updates.

Information Coffee Parties

We'll come to your home, a coffee shop, or wherever to meet with you, your friends, or neighbors. Call Kathy at 763-785-5513 and we'll arrange it.

Election for residents of Spring Lake Park School District 16

- Tuesday, February 28, 2006
- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- School district residents living in Blaine will vote at Westwood Elementary School, 701-91st Ave NE, Blaine
- School district residents living in Spring Lake Park or Fridley vote at Woodcrest Elementary School, 880 Osborne Rd, Fridley
- Call 763-785-5513 to request an absentee ballot.



Evening Community Meetings & Walk-Throughs, Morning Walk-Throughs

School district and Task Force representatives will give a short presentation and answer your questions at seven informal community information sessions. The first five dates below will have short facilities "walk-throughs" at the end of the meetings.

*Evening Meetings/Facilities Walk-Throughs**

- Wednesday, January 11 6:30 pm Park Terrace Elementary media center*
- Thursday, January 12 6:30 pm Westwood Elementary/Middle School* middle school media center
- Tuesday, January 17 7:00 pm Spring Lake Park High School cafeteria*
- Thursday, January 19 7:00 pm Woodcrest Elementary media center*
- Monday, January 23 7:00 pm Kenneth Hall Elementary media center*
- Tuesday, January 24 6:30 pm Board of Education Building
- Tuesday, January 31 7:00 pm Blaine City Hall

Morning Facilities Walk-Throughs (no meetings)

- Tuesday, January 10 9:30 am Woodcrest Elementary
- Wednesday, January 11 9:30 am High School/Kenneth Hall (meet at high school)
- Friday, January 13 9:30 am Park Terrace Elementary
- Friday, January 20 9:30 am Westwood Complex (meet at middle school)