



PRESS RELEASE

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Findorff Provides Additional Details Regarding Long-Range Facility Planning School board reviews costs related to building and site conditions only

West Bend, WI – The next step in the long-range facility planning process for the West Bend School District included reviewing estimated budgets associated with the comprehensive building and site conditions assessment.

Presenting to the West Bend School Board at the January 22 meeting, Findorff, the district's construction partner, used the detailed building and site conditions assessment completed in December 2023 by Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) to develop the preliminary 15-year budgets. That assessment covers current and future capital maintenance needs of the district's facilities and sites. The budget estimates presented on January 22 do not include estimated costs for the other two components of the facility assessment related to educational adequacy and capacity/space utilization.

The ongoing capital maintenance needs of the West Bend School District's buildings are significant. Jen Wimmer, superintendent of the West Bend School District explains, "In order for us to understand our long-range needs we hired independent industry professionals to provide objective facilities information. This data is critical and will help us make informed and strategic facility planning decisions moving forward."

The budget estimates Findorff developed are broken into the following major categories:

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- **Building Envelope and Roofs:** All exterior portions of a building such as windows, doors, roofing, brick, caulking, parking lots, playgrounds, etc.
- **Systems (mechanical, electrical,plumbing):** Systems such as fire alarms, fire protection, piping, plumbing, lighting, HVAC systems, etc.
- **Interiors:** All aspects of the inside finishes such as bathrooms, ceilings, flooring, finish woodwork, paint, cabinetry, etc.
- **Site:** All items that are not directly related to the buildings themselves such as athletic fields, playgrounds, parking lots, landscaping, etc.

Findorff's cost estimates are based on current conditions for potential replacement of materials, similar projects of recently completed work, and estimated remaining life spans of equipment, finishes, etc. The amounts also include five percent (5%) for anticipated annual inflation and include comprehensive total project costs. District-wide estimated costs over the next15 years (2024-2038) by category:

- Systems: \$82,126,000
- Interiors: \$81,497,000
- Building Envelope and Roofs: \$45,754,000
- Site: \$20,028,000

"These estimates reinforce that our ongoing facility needs cannot be addressed within our annual operating budget," says Wimmer. "We are not in the position to tackle all of these identified challenges at one time; however, this information provides important context needed to guide our long-range planning efforts, especially as we consider the other space-related decisions and as we plan for our community conversations beginning next month."

For more information about the facilities assessment and long-range planning process, please visit the district website at west-bend.k12.wi.us.

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