

Dear Families and Community Members:

Minnewaska Area Schools need your input as we consider updates to our facilities.

Our major challenges include:

- Schools lack secure entrances to properly monitor and control visitor access.
- Heating and ventilation systems (HVAC) have exceeded their service life.
- Some learning spaces have not been updated in over 30 years, including Career and Tech Ed (“Shop”) classrooms and media center spaces.

We developed options to address our most pressing needs. **Before we move any further, we need your feedback through this community-wide survey. Your input will determine what projects, if any, we will pursue at this time.**

To keep all feedback confidential, survey responses are collected by School Perceptions, an independent education research firm.

TWO WAYS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY

Online: (reduces mailing expenses)

Go to:

www.SPFeedback.com

Enter your code:



Paper: Return to any school office, or mail it to School Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 320.239.4820.

Para realizar la encuesta en español, vaya a www.SPFeedback.com, ingrese el código de arriba, luego haga clic en el enlace que se encuentra en la esquina superior derecha.

Survey deadline: April 28, 2025

To receive the survey in a different language or if you have a disability that makes it difficult to read, please contact the District Office. Survey results will be reported at a board meeting and available on the District’s website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

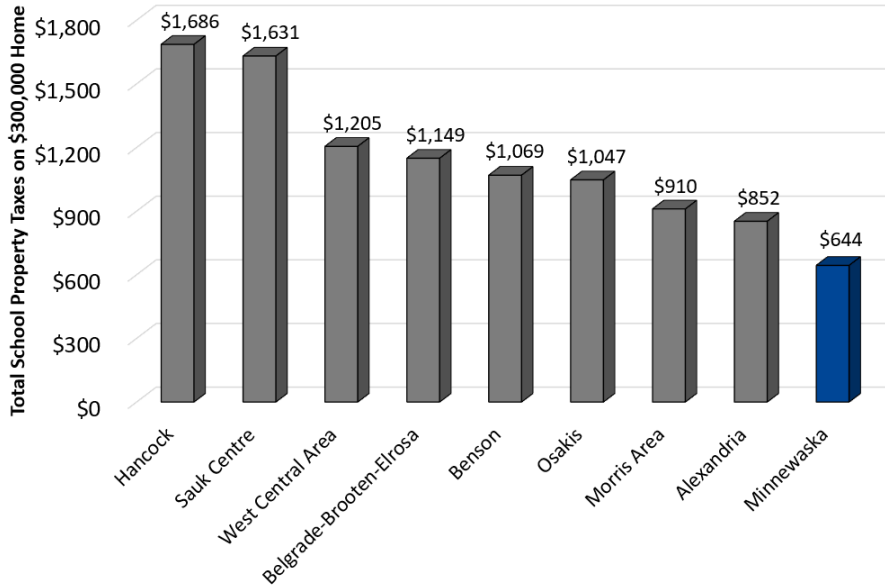
Chip Rankin <i>Superintendent</i>	Chad Barsness <i>Board Chairperson</i>	Ted Reichmann <i>Board Vice Chairperson</i>	Amanda Ogdahl <i>Board Treasurer</i>
Angie Reichmann <i>Board Clerk</i>	Justin Zavadil <i>Board Director</i>	Zach Lagred <i>Board Director</i>	Gordy Moeller <i>Board Director</i>

Financial Background

The community has supported the District in recent years through voter-approved levies to help pay for daily operations. **The District sincerely appreciates this support.**

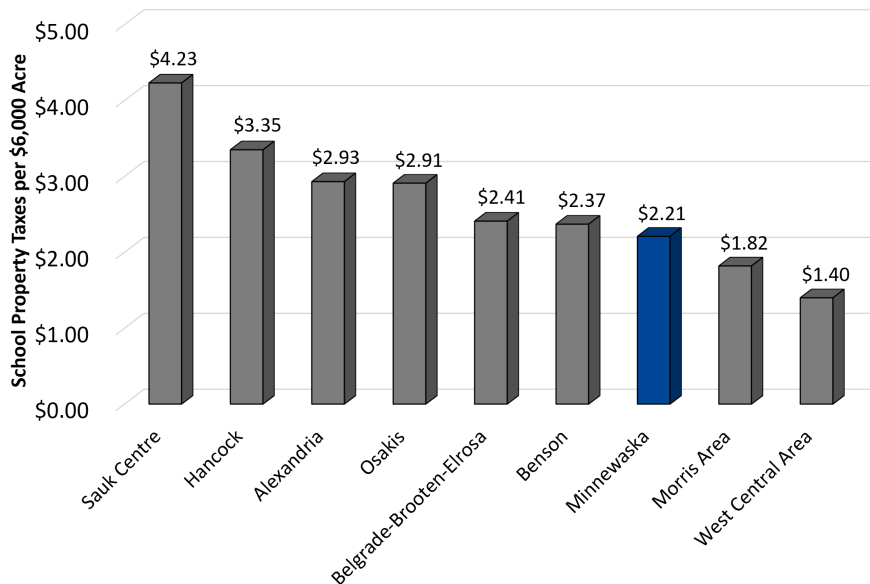
Even with this additional funding, Minnewaska has the lowest residential school property tax rate in the area. The owner of a \$300,000 residential property pays more than \$200 less each year than in Alexandria, the second-lowest district in the area.

Residential Tax Rates
Area Comparison



Similarly, the property tax rate for Ag Homestead is the third-lowest among area districts.

Ag Homestead Tax Rates
Area Comparison



Facility Base Plan

An outside firm reviewed our facility needs and prioritized potential projects to create a Base Plan for community feedback:

Middle/High School

- ① Remodel the offices to create a secure entrance to better monitor and control visitor access.
- ② Resurface and reconfigure the parking lot to create safer pick up and drop off areas.
- ③ Renovate and expand Career and Technical Education (“Shop”) spaces to better prepare students for jobs in our area.
- ④ Remodel the media center to improve student access to resources and technology.

The project would also:

- ✓ Replace outdated HVAC systems.
- ✓ Renovate restrooms to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections.
- ✓ Replace windows to improve energy efficiency.
- ✓ Replace seating in the auditorium.

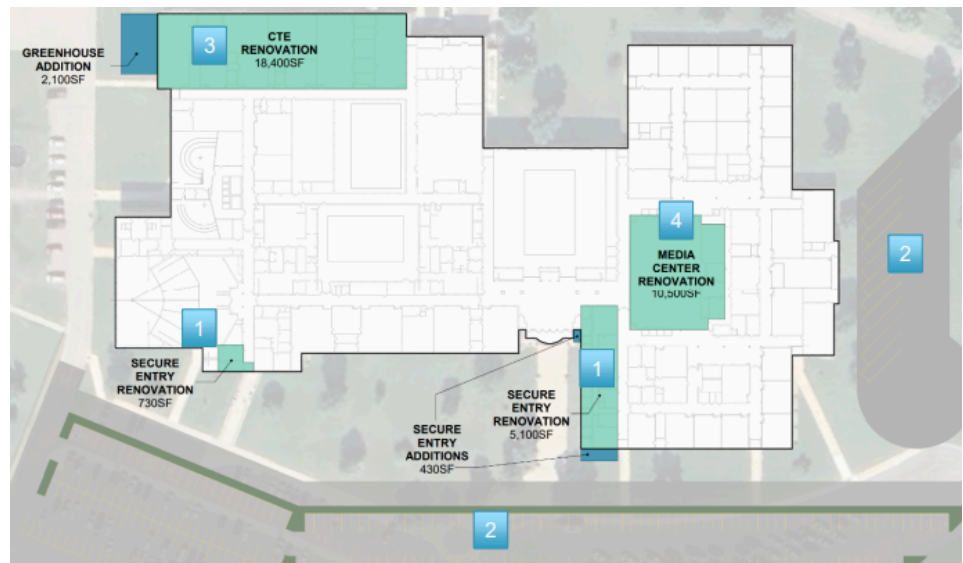
Elementary School

- ① Remodel the office to create a secure entrance to better monitor and control visitor access.
- ② Remodel and expand the media center to improve student access to resources and technology.

The project would also replace failing HVAC systems.

Estimated cost: \$24 million

Comments/suggestions/questions:



DRAFT

Base Plan Funding Support

The cost of these improvements is too expensive to be paid for out of the annual budget. Therefore, the District would need local voters to approve a bond referendum to issue debt (take out a loan).

If	Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Annual Property Tax Increase
Residential Homestead		\$150,000	\$29
		\$200,000	\$43
		\$250,000	\$56
		\$300,000	\$70
		\$350,000	\$83
Commercial/Industrial		\$100,000	\$37
		\$250,000	\$105
		\$500,000	\$229
Ag Homestead *		\$4,000	\$.15
		\$6,000	\$.22
		\$8,000	\$.30
Ag Non-Homestead *		\$4,000	\$.30
		\$6,000	\$.45
		\$8,000	\$.60
<p>Would you support an \$24 million bond referendum to pay for the base plan?</p> <p><i>Assumes 20-year borrowing plan with interest rates at 5.00 %</i></p>			<input type="checkbox"/> Definitely yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably yes <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Probably no <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely no
<p>*The Ag2School Property Tax Credit passed in May 2019 provides debt service tax relief for debt service payments of 70% for taxes payable in 2023 and beyond for qualifying agricultural and timber properties. The tax impact estimates above include the 70% reduction due to the credit.</p>			

you are undecided or would not support the referendum, what are the main reasons?

Is there any other information you would need before making a decision?

Additional Projects

The District could consider completing additional projects while construction crews are already on-site.

Please use this scale when responding to the following items.

High: *Address immediately in this referendum*
Medium: *Important but address in a future project*
Low: *Not a priority right now*

Childcare *(Estimated cost: \$8.5 million. Note: the district is pursuing a \$1.8 million grant to pay for part of this project.)*

Our community lacks enough childcare services to meet the current demand.

This project would add a community daycare center at the school to provide additional childcare services for 150 children.

What priority would you place on the childcare project?

High Medium Low

Pool *(Estimated cost: \$1.5 million)*

The pool equipment and structure have not been substantially updated/replaced since it was built in 1991 and has exceeded its service life. It costs \$100,000 per year to operate the pool.

This project would update the pool to extend its life for school and community use.

What priority would you place on the pool project?

High Medium Low

Community and School Recreation Spaces *(Estimated cost: \$10 million)*

Our schools do not have enough capacity to meet the demands of school and community programs (such as evening practices for student-athletes, youth leagues, and community rec leagues).

This project would add a gym at the high school with practice and competition areas. It would also provide a fitness center and track for school and community use.

What priority would you place on the recreation space project?

High Medium Low

Environmental Learning Center *(Estimated cost: \$5 million)*

An increasing number of families are seeking flexible and alternative learning options (project-based, online, and hybrid).

This project would create space for a flexible magnet school model that would offer both hybrid and online learning opportunities.

What priority would you place on the learning center project?

High Medium Low

Funding Support

The total cost of the building projects is estimated at **\$44 million**. **We realize paying for all these projects at one time may not be realistic.** The District will establish a plan based on the community's priorities.

Base Plan*	\$24 million
Childcare	\$8.5 million
Pool	\$1.5 million
Community and School Recreation Spaces	\$10 million
Environmental Learning Center	\$5 million
	<hr/>
	\$44 million

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX IMPACT FOR EACH BOND REFERENDUM AMOUNT					
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	\$24 million*	\$30 million	\$36 million	\$44 million
Residential Homestead	\$200,000	\$43	\$73	\$104	\$124
	\$250,000	\$56	\$97	\$137	\$164
	\$300,000	\$70	\$120	\$170	\$203
	\$350,000	\$83	\$143	\$203	\$243
Commercial/Industrial	\$100,000	\$37	\$64	\$91	\$109
	\$250,000	\$105	\$182	\$258	\$308
	\$500,000	\$229	\$396	\$561	\$671
Ag Homestead**	\$4,000	\$.15	\$.26	\$.36	\$.44
	\$6,000	\$.22	\$.39	\$.55	\$.65
	\$8,000	\$.30	\$.51	\$.73	\$.87
Ag Non-Homestead**	\$4,000	\$.30	\$.51	\$.73	\$.87
	\$6,000	\$.45	\$.77	\$1.09	\$1.31
	\$8,000	\$.60	\$1.03	\$1.46	\$1.74
<p>What bond referendum amount would you support, assuming the projects were acceptable to you?</p> <p><i>*The asterisk (*) marks the investment needed to complete the base plan.</i></p> <p><i>Assumes 20-year borrowing plan with interest rates at 5.00 %</i></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support \$44 million.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support \$36 million.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support \$30 million.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support \$24 million.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would only support a smaller bond referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would not support any bond referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information.</p>			
<p>**The Ag2School Property Tax Credit passed in May 2019 provides debt service tax relief for debt service payments of 70% for taxes payable in 2023 and beyond for qualifying agricultural and timber properties. The tax impact estimates above include the 70% reduction due to the credit.</p>					

Comments/suggestions/questions:

Thank you for your participation! We sincerely value your time and input.

Minnewaska Area Schools
25122 State Hwy. 28
Glenwood, MN 56334

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL
SURVEY ENCLOSED**

Questions?

Contact the District Office at
320.239.4820.



***Please complete this school
survey by April 28, 2025.***

*This publication was produced for the residents of the **Minnewaska Area Schools**. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.*