



Growing HAND in HAND

PIERZ SCHOOL REFERENDUM '18

FAST FACTS

2018 School Bond
REFERENDUM GUIDE

VOTE APRIL 10

AT-A-GLANCE

• \$10 million referendum election is April 10

• ADDRESSES FACILITIES CHALLENGES:

- Poor instructional settings: classes in conference rooms, storage rooms, hallway tables, portable classrooms
- Unsafe, too small or not-up-to-code facilities: parking lot, band room, elementary gym, kitchen/cafeteria

• New plan is about **half the cost of the last referendum** (or \$8.8 million LESS); no auditorium and less square footage.

• NOW IS THE TIME.

- Capping open-enrollment so we don't outgrow our facilities
- 40% tax credit for Ag property

Our schools are at the heart of our community.

In Pierz, we are used to working together to get things done. That's why we asked the community for input.

Residents provided feedback in a community-wide survey and at public engagement meetings.

A community-based Facilities Committee helped evaluate options that would address the problems, then they recommended the most cost-effective solution.



You
Responded.
We
Listened.

**SURVEY
SAYS**

67%

Refine the plan based on feedback and ask for voter support

72%

Address facility needs as soon as possible or within 1-5 years

62-71%

Very or somewhat likely to support elementary gym space, band room, parking lot, and kitchen/cafeteria improvements

80%

Very likely or somewhat likely to support additional elementary classrooms

THE RIGHT TIME.

Why Now? We currently are teaching many levels of children every day in poor instructional settings: conference rooms, storage rooms, hallways, lunchrooms, and outdoor modular classrooms, which means preschool students have to walk outside to get to the library, gym, and cafeteria.

Some of our facilities are unsafe or not code-compliant.

// Our parking lot is too small and the layout is unsafe.

// The 1963 high school kitchen's current serving lines do not meet state code.

We've run out of space:

// Our band room, elementary gym, and cafeteria are too small to accommodate our students, and we don't have enough elementary classrooms.

Ag2School 40% tax credit is in place.

We're capping open enrollment.

72% survey respondents asked the district to address facility needs as soon as possible or within 1-5 years.

“ To ensure that these facility investments will provide adequate space for generations, the school board plans to cap open enrollment. ”

Steve Boser,
School Board Clerk

THE RIGHT SIZE.

We stuck to the Pierz motto of “just enough.” The new proposal addresses critical needs. It does not include an auditorium and is less square footage.

What Is the Plan?

Pierz Schools will hold a one-question referendum on April 10, 2018. The referendum would address inadequate facilities and improve our instructional model. **The district is asking for just under \$10 million in bonds.** The request is about half the cost, or \$8.8 million less than the 2017 request.

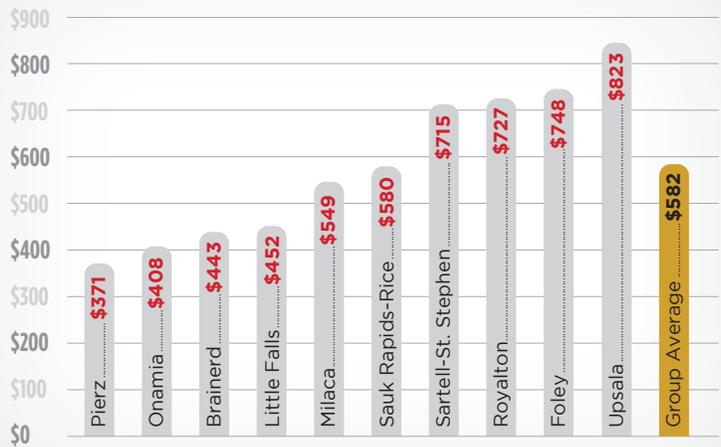
\$11.67
/month

for a

\$132,000

average home value

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX COMPARISON



Total school property taxes, payable 2017, on a home with an estimated market value of \$132,000
Source: Pay 17 School Tax Report Provided by Ehlers

PIERZ HAS THE LOWEST TAXES OF ALL OUR NEIGHBORS.

THE RIGHT PRICE.

What Will It Cost Me?

The district strives to manage taxpayer dollars wisely; school property taxes are lower than the state average and the lowest of all of our neighbors. If the referendum is approved, the property tax increase on a \$132,000 home, the average home value in Pierz School District, would be \$140 per year, or **\$11.67 PER MONTH.**

TAX IMPACT ON THREE HOME VALUES

HOME VALUE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
\$100,000	\$94	\$7.83
\$132,000	\$140	\$11.67
\$175,000	\$201	\$16.75

THE RIGHT STUFF.

How Will Students Benefit?

The plan provides an improved instructional model for our children.

- // Students will have enough classroom space; classrooms will be updated to current standards. Appropriate grade levels will be grouped together and preschool classrooms will be brought inside. New elementary classrooms would connect the schools.
- // The new gym will allow all elementary students to have Phy. Ed. Classes.
- // The parking lot would be expanded and reconfigured to provide safer, separate driveways for buses and parents, minimizing dangerous interactions with pedestrians, and providing enough space.
- // The kitchen would be expanded and updated to meet current health code requirements and more efficiently serve students.

40%
AG2School
Tax Credit

“It is important to note that the AG2School tax credit is permanent law in Minnesota – it has no automatic sunset date. It would take specific legislative action, and the governor’s approval, to revoke this tax credit. The provision had strong bipartisan support in the legislature.”

Representative Ron Kresha (R)

Thank You for
Your Past Support

Pierz community residents have traditionally been supportive of their schools. **Now we are asking for some updated facilities, and we are extremely appreciative of your support.**

WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE?

VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 10. // POLLS ARE OPEN NOON – 8 P.M.

To find your polling place visit: www.pierz.k12.mn.us

Early voting/absentee ballots are available at the district office beginning Feb. 23.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Be an informed voter.

// **VISIT:** www.pierz.k12.mn.us // **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/pierzschoools

// **CONTACT:** Any school board member – phone numbers and email addresses are listed on our website – or Superintendent George Weber directly at 320-468-6458 or gweber@pierz.k12.mn.us.