

Proposal for Haworth improvements to be presented at Sept. 14 BOE meeting

The Haworth Board of Education has invited RSC Architects to present on proposed school building improvements at its Sept. 14 meeting.

The Board expects to ask the community to consider funding the proposed projects through a bond referendum in the coming months.

Haworth Public School District continuously reviews its facilities to weigh potential upgrades that could improve students' experience and education. The evaluation expanded to include community stakeholders during a 2018-2019 Strategic Planning Process. That process produced recommendations that shaped suggested improvements, including innovative learning spaces to inspire today's students.

Proposed projects include:

Maker Space: A lab-style room focused on hands-on instruction in technology, engineering and other 21st century areas of knowledge to build essential skills from an early age, and better prepare students for the transition to high school programs.

Middle School Media Center: A dedicated space where older students can collaborate with peers in an age-appropriate environment, surrounded by technology and materials to support their studies.

Four new classrooms: Additional space to fulfill community requests for preschool and meet special education needs so more students can remain in the district.

Regulation-size gym: Expanding current space would put Haworth facility on par with other Northern Valley schools and would allow for bleacher seating.

Based on financial analysis, the Haworth Public School District has determined that the property tax for these projects would be less than what residents were paying for the last bond referendum before it was paid off in 2020. The district is awaiting verification of the state aid it would receive, and that will finalize the property tax estimate. Meanwhile, the district will begin educating the community about the process, and will move forward with sharing preliminary information beginning with the Sept. 14 meeting.

The meeting is open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Haworth Public School at 205 Valley Road. For those unable to attend in person, the presentation will be recorded and available for viewing online at a later date.