

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 13, 2020

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**PHILLIPS VOTERS APPROVE REFERENDUM TO BUILD EFFICIENCY FOR THE FUTURE**

**PHILLIPS, WI** – Voters in the Phillips School District approved the District’s referendum question on the April 7, 2020 ballot. Due to COVID-19, the Spring Election had a few unexpected changes and results were not released until April 13. After the six-day wait, the results came in positive, the referendum passed with 59.5% support. The question asked voters to approve an investment of up to \$9.86M that will fund the creation of one school campus by bringing all students, PreK-12 grade to the existing Middle/High School, expand, and renovate the Technical Education areas.

The successful referendum plan was the result of a dedicated facilities planning effort led by the Phillips Action Committee, 20 volunteer members who explored district-wide facilities solutions. We presented their ideas in a community-wide survey in which the majority of respondents favored the solution that created one campus and expanded the Technical Education areas. The Board of Education listened to the survey results and adopted a resolution of \$9.86M to fund those improvements.

The Phillips School District Board of Education extends a sincere appreciation to the community for their support and for exercising their right to vote during these uncertain times. This referendum will build efficiency for our future but also have a significant and positive impact on the District’s ability to maintain quality educational programs, services and opportunities for Phillips students – and the community – for years to come.

“We deeply appreciate the continued support of our Phillips students, staff, and families, and we look forward to the next steps in improving our buildings for the students and the community!” said Board of Education President, Jon Pesko.

Design planning for the approved referendum work will begin immediately and continue through early 2021. Construction is planned to begin in summer 2021 and continuing through the summer of 2022.

Rick Morgan, Phillips School District Superintendent said, “These last few weeks have been filled with unexpected changes. I am proud of our students, staff, and community as we continue to rally together to overcome these obstacles. The success of this referendum gives us another positive thing to look forward to.”

The Phillips School District will continue to engage and inform the community as to next steps of planning, design, and construction. Please visit the District’s website at [www.phillips.k12.wi.us](http://www.phillips.k12.wi.us) for updates. Questions can be emailed to [rmorgan@phillips.k12.wi.us](mailto:rmorgan@phillips.k12.wi.us), or directed to the District Office at 715.339.3644.

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