

A deeper dive into KMS Schools' two-question bond referendum

by Martin Heidelberger,
KMS Superintendent of
Schools

A new school year has officially arrived for KMS Public Schools and other districts across the region and state. As the district moves closer to November, the KMS School Board invites community members to attend one of their upcoming referendum open houses. "KMS consists of three unique communities of Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Sunburg. We feel it's important to communicate with each of them about the upcoming bond referendum," said KMS School Board Member Sean Collins.

- Monday, September 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Sunbug Community Center

- Tuesday, September 19, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at KMS Elementary in Murdock

- Thursday, September 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at KMS Secondary in Kerkhoven

The district asks residents to consider two bond referendum questions on Tuesday, November 7. For information about the plan, the cost, and casting your vote, please visit OneKMS.org.

Question One requests a total of \$17.15 million to make improvements to both schools. The proposed improvements in Question One include:

- Building a new Career

and Technical Education (CTE) addition at the secondary school to provide three new science classrooms, a new Metal/Agricultural Shop, and additional space to expand the CADD Lab to create a Clean Lab Setting.

- Reconfiguring the existing administrative offices at the secondary school to provide additional specialist space, including Special Education, counseling, and mental health.

- Building additional classrooms and specialist space at the elementary school.

- Improving the functionality of the existing Media Center at the secondary school.

- Renovating the restrooms adjacent to the student dining area in the elementary school.

- Constructing a new parking lot at the elementary school.

- Upgrading the existing locker rooms at the secondary school.

- Completing improvements to the existing theater area at the secondary school.

Question Two requests an additional \$10.8 million to make improvements to both schools and cannot pass unless Question One also passes. The proposed improvements in Question Two include:

- Adding additional space onto the proposed CTE addition included in Question One to support agricultural, science, FACS, and growth labs.

- Constructing two additions to support performing arts at the secondary school.

- Building a new football field and track, bleachers, a press box, and appropriate lighting.

- Rebuilding the varsity softball field and junior varsity softball field with one additional new ball field in a pin-wheel configuration.

- Constructing new concessions buildings with appropriate storage at both sites.

- Constructing a new concrete pad to accommodate portable toilets.

- Expanding the event restrooms at the secondary school.

- Constructing a new parking lot at the secondary school.

If residents approve both questions, KMS Schools would be able to invest \$27.95 million. If both questions are approved, the estimated tax impact on a \$170,600 residential home in the district would be approximately \$25 per month starting in 2024. To find your estimated tax impact, visit OneKMS.org/cost.

Residents can vote early via mail-in ballot or in person on Election Day — Tuesday, November 7. Those with questions or suggestions should contact Superintendent Martin Heidelberger by email at mheidelberger@kms.k12.mn.us or by phone at 320-264-1411.