



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 19, 2024

## **CPU School Board Approves Petition for November 5 Referendum**

CENTER POINT, IA — At its meeting on July 17, the Center Point-Urbana School Board approved the petition language to place a \$20.61 million bond referendum on the ballot for November 5, 2024.

If the question is placed on the ballot, voters would consider a proposal that includes several improvement projects throughout the district, covering the areas of academics, activities, fine arts, and athletics.

“As we look for ways to address the numerous facility needs we have in our schools, we have engaged in a community-driven process to evaluate and prioritize those needs and determine our best path forward,” said Superintendent John Elkin. “Community members are taking the next crucial step in the process by planning and coordinating efforts to collect the necessary signatures to place the question on the ballot. We are excited to continue speaking with our district residents about these important issues as we move forward.”

The School Board and administration have actively studied the district’s facility challenges and examined potential solutions since the 2021-22 school year. This process has included the creation of a Master Facilities Task Force to engage with parents, district residents, and members of the business community, and a partnership with INVISION Architecture for facility assessments and professional consultation. The district has also developed a master facilities roadmap and engaged in work sessions with staff focus groups.

The School Board has accepted a project recommendation from the task force that proposes two phases of improvements based on funding sources. The board believes this plan will position CPU for long-term success.

The first phase aligns CPU’s ongoing maintenance projects and system replacements with available funds the district receives from the statewide one-cent sales tax fund known as SAVE, along with its voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). This includes planned roof repairs and replacements at the primary school and middle school; updates to the prekindergarten rooms at the intermediate school; and HVAC improvements at both the high school and middle school.

General obligation bonds approved by voters would be implemented to finance the construction of a new 600-seat auditorium at the high school. A new weight room and multipurpose space would be built at that campus, and improvements would be made to the athletics fields. Finally, security and safety improvements will take place at both the Primary and Middle School buildings.

More information is available at <https://cpuschools.org/district/facilities-improvement>.

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