



Waunakee Rotary Club

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The Waunakee school district is expected to grow by 1,000 students over the next 10 years, and with some buildings at or over capacity now, school board members and administrators have determined it is time to expand facilities.

Randy Guttenberg, district administrator, explained the need for new schools, along with the projects and costs involved in the April 6 school referendum at the March 18 Rotary Club meeting.

Randy said he had been spoken at two other Rotary meetings. The first time, he was asked what the biggest challenge for the district is, and he replied, "Growth." That's still true today, Randy said.

Randy said the district has revised how it arrives at its growth projections, noting that in the past, it was expected high-end new development would attract families with older children. That has not been the case, he said. The district has also factored in the housing market slowdown in current projections, he said.

Outlining the school building projects included in the referendum, Randy noted that the first resolution seeks to add space at the elementary level. The plan calls for building a new six-track elementary school on the district-owned 40 acres at W. Woodland Drive. The district also owns land on E. Woodland Drive near Southbridge.

The new school would have six classrooms per grade level, making the school comparable in size to Prairie Elementary. Arboretum Elementary is a four-track school.

Randy said four classrooms would be added to Prairie Elementary, allowing the music and large group instruction rooms to be used as they were intended. One of the school board's goals was return the facilities to how they were

designed to be utilized, Randy added.

Randy said Arboretum Elementary School is 80 students over capacity and is using special education rooms.

The school board and administration studied the Heritage and Intermediate schools with architects from Bray Associates to learn the best use. Randy said it was determined the facility works best for fifth- and sixth-grade students. While Heritage Elementary's numbers have remained static, the 5 and 6 grade numbers continue to rise, Randy added. The building plan calls for remodeling the complex for those grades and moving Heritage students mainly to the new W.

Woodland Drive elementary school.

The second question addresses space needs at the high school and middle school. The plan calls for building an addition to the high school to accommodate 300 additional students and more science labs, and moving the main office to the entrance of the school. The middle school could also share the high school space.

The third question seeks to exceed the revenue limit by \$375,000 for the 2011-12 school year and then by an additional \$375,000 the following year. That would fund the additional operational and custodial costs at the new school.

The fourth question seeks to exceed the revenue cap by \$375,000 for the 2010-11 school year and thereafter to fund large maintenance projects, such as new roofs, parking lots and other items.

The total cost for all projects is \$34.5 million, a cost to taxpayers of \$296 over three years for an average \$285,000 home, or \$104 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

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Calendar of Events:

- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing a Bishop's Bay
- March 27, Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m

In other news:

• Harriet Statz said the club members contributed \$33 to sponsor Bird in the Polar Plunge. A new family has agreed to host Bird. Also, an exchange student from Lebanon is coming next year and has a family lined up.

• A 10 a.m. time has been set for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 27. Come at 8:30 a.m. if you want to help hide eggs.

• Ken Ballweg said the Wauktoberfest committee held its first meeting. The event is planned for Sept. 25-26 at Endres Manufacturing. The committee is seeking a new chair for next year.

Guests: Randy Guttenberg, guest of the club.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: March 26, Ken Ballweg
March 28, Kim Kalepp.

Anniversaries: March 31, Drew and Lolly Lawrence.

Prayers: March 25, Susan Vergeront; April 1, Leonard Allen; April 8, Pat Durden.

Programs: March 25, Barbara Schultze, OccuPaws; April 1, Club Assembly and Todd Scheffler, Waunakee-DeForest Ice Rink update.

Greeters: March 25, Linda Olson and Danny Paul; April 1, Ken Pesik and Bob Pulvermacher; April 8, Tom Reis and Ellen Schaaf.