

Frequently Asked Questions About Facilities Planning and the Community Survey

FEMA Grant and Proposed Gym Safe Room/Addition

Q. The District did not receive the FEMA grant funding that was applied for in January. What happens next?

A: Our District, along with other school districts in the state and in the region, did not receive approval for the proposed FEMA safe room and gym addition. We have the option to re-apply for the grant at no additional cost in January 2022. The school board is evaluating the option of reapplying for the grant and will also continue to look for funding from other sources.

Q. Why would the District consider another storm shelter/safe room? We already have one in town.

A: The community's only storm shelter has a capacity of 80 people and is intended for the residents of that immediate neighborhood. Our community does not have a public emergency shelter large enough to accommodate all students, staff, and local residents in the event of a disaster. A concept has been developed to build a future FEMA-certified safe room, which could be constructed as a traditional structure or a dome and could be used to protect students during the day and/or serve as a post-storm meeting place. During non-emergencies, the shelter would provide space for physical education, fitness/wellness, and a stage.

Q: If there is a storm, would the FEMA shelter be large enough to house both students and surrounding residents?

A. Yes. As part of the grant application process, we counted the number of people in a half-mile radius of the shelter and came up with the total number of residents and students and then designed the structure to fit that number. If the other buildings are destroyed or cannot be occupied, the shelter becomes place to stay for these residents which is very important for the community.

Financial Information

Q. How is the District doing financially?

A. The District has worked very hard to provide the best education possible for our students while also controlling costs for our taxpayers. We made our final loan payment on a previous project in 2019 and the District is now debt-free. The District’s share of property taxes is calculated using a tax mill rate. Over the past several years, Loyal’s tax mill rate has dropped more than 10 percent from \$9.94 to \$8.74, which is below the state average and below many of our neighboring districts.

Q. What is the estimated tax impact for the proposed projects that are on the survey?

A. The tax impact will depend on what projects the community will support through referendum funding. The total project amount could range between \$12 and \$18 million, representing estimated mill rate impacts per \$1,000 of property value as shown below:

SUMMARY OF HYPOTHETICAL REFERENDUM TAX IMPACTS

BORROWING AMOUNT	\$12,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$18,000,000
AVERAGE MILL RATE IMPACT* <i>(Per \$1,000 valuation)</i>	\$1.67	\$1.95	\$2.23	\$2.51
TAX IMPACT ON PROPERTY WITH FAIR MARKET VALUE:				
\$100,000 Property				
<i>Average Annual Impact</i>	\$167.00	\$195.00	\$223.00	\$251.00
<i>Average Monthly Impact</i>	\$13.92	\$16.25	\$18.58	\$20.92



Assumptions:

Multi-phased borrowings amortized over 25 years in total at a planning interest rate of 2.00%-4.00%.
 Mill rate based on 2020 & estimated 2021 Equalized Valuation (TID-OUT) of \$212,825,459 & \$223,700,401, respectively, with annual growth of 1.00%.
 Tertiary State aid impact applied at 42.65% (21-22 July Estimates).
 *Average impact represents an average of the annual mill rate for referendum debt service over the life of debt issue(s).

Master Plan Questions

Q: The proposed plans for the athletics fields would impact the community golf course. What is the District's plan for either maintaining or relocating the golf course?

A: Our goal is to find a solution that maintains the golf course in the same location or nearby.

Q: Is the Elementary gym large enough to be a multipurpose room?

A: Yes. The Elementary gym would be renovated into a multipurpose space with improved equipment, more efficient lighting, and a better layout for performances. It would also be available for community events and fitness/wellness activities.

Q: Is it problematic to have younger kids traveling across the school for art/general music/etc.?

A: We don't anticipate a problem for younger students because this is a supervised transition.

Q: What is the timeline for construction and remodeling?

A: If the School Board approves an April 2022 referendum, the design process would begin right away and continue through the fall of 2022. We anticipate bidding in late 2022 to early 2023, and construction would begin in the spring of 2023 with an anticipated project completion by the beginning of the 2024 school year.

Q: What about the rising price of materials when it comes to budgeting?

A: We constantly update our budget models based on current pricing of materials such as lumber and steel, to keep budgets as accurate as possible. We also factor inflation, soft costs and contingency into all estimates.

Q: What upgrades are proposed in the Elementary School?

A: Work at the Elementary School includes:

- 4K and 5K suite and classroom remodeling
- Central commons/cafeeteria addition to be used by elementary students
- Remodeled Elementary gym to multipurpose/gym space
- Renovations to vocal, music, art and special education rooms
- Site work

Enrollment Questions

Q: What is the current enrollment? Does the District anticipate changes to enrollment in the future?

A: In general, public and private enrollments are declining state-wide. In Loyal, at the end of the 2020-21 our enrollment was approximately 495. For the 2021-22 school year we have approximately 45 new students enrolling that will bring our total enrollment back to about 530 students. This growth is spread out across grade levels, and it means that families are choosing to move to the Loyal and enroll from other districts. More information will be available after our 3rd Friday count.

Q: Have we surveyed families that open-enroll out of the District?

A: We sent a letter home to all families that open enrolled out to explain what we have to offer at our school and asking why they decided to enroll out. We did not get any direct feedback from this effort. However, it is a priority for us to try and reverse the enrollment out trend, and we are seeing progress. Typically, the primary reason for open enrolling out of our district is location and convenience. Many families on the outer “edges” may go to the next school closer to home.

Q: How do the updates to our facility impact enrollment and future staff hires?

A: We have a staffing plan in place for our current and anticipated enrollment, and we don't anticipate that the proposed plans will impact staffing. We hope that improvements to our school will attract more families to our District and attract educators to work in more modern learning environments.

Survey

Q. Why is the District conducting a survey?

A. The District and School Board need our community's input on long-range facilities planning. Last year, the District hired HSR Associates and Miron Construction to conduct a review of the condition of our facilities. The good news is that our building is structurally sound. The money the District has spent on annual maintenance has paid off, including updating our lighting, electrical, and air circulation systems and improving the family and consumer science facilities rooms. The projects on the survey would improve educational programming for all Loyal students. We want to understand how the community would prioritize each potential project.

A Q&A information meeting will be held on October 20 at 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the high school gym for residents who have questions about the plans or the survey.

Q. What projects are on the survey?

The School Board and District administration are considering projects that would improve educational programming for our students and are too large to be funded from our annual budget. The survey will help us understand how the community would prioritize improvements, including:

- Safety & security, central office, commons, and cafeteria addition/renovation
- Technology education addition and renovation
- Multipurpose/elementary school gym renovation
- Art and special education classroom renovation
- Music classrooms renovation
- 4K/5K classroom renovations
- Football field and track
- Redeveloped parking and baseball/softball fields
- Future FEMA-certified safe room addition

Q. When will survey results be available?

A. Survey results will be presented at the School Board meeting in November and will also be available on the District website.

Loyal FAQ - Draft 9/15/21

Q. How do I take the survey?

A. To collect feedback, we are working with School Perceptions, an independent, Wisconsin-based firm with expertise in conducting school district community surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and all responses are confidential.

If you live in the district boundaries, a survey will be mailed to your home in October. You can take the survey in two ways, either online or return it by mail.

Online:

1. Go to the survey website: <http://www.Feedback2000.com>
2. Enter the Survey Access Number printed on the survey

Paper:

If you do not have Internet access, please return the survey to any school office or mail to:

School Perceptions
PO Box 607
Slinger, WI 53086

Additional Surveys: The Survey Access Number can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 715-255-8552 or email chrislindner@loyal.k12.wi.us.

Please complete the survey before October 25, 2021.