

Q. What is the Ag2School Tax credit, and how does it cover almost 32% of the project if approved?

The Minnesota Ag2School Tax Credit is a program implemented in 2017 with the singular purpose of easing the property tax burden on farmers by reducing the taxes they pay toward funding school buildings. Specifically, it provides a 70% credit on the taxes farmers owe for school district bond levies on agricultural land. This does not include the house, garage, or one acre of land around the farmhouse. The program is automatic, so farmers don't need to apply—it's deducted directly from their property tax bill. This credit helps keep rural school districts funded while supporting farmers financially. The MN Ag2School tax credit program is supporting 32% of the proposed gym project.

Q. Why did we go against the 4DW but decide to still pursue this?

The board started examining the facility needs nearly two years ago as part of a long-term budget and facility planning effort. The exploration of the 4DW emerged more recently, during this past summer and fall. State guidelines require that general budgets and voter-approved facility project funds remain separate from one another. Therefore, the approval or rejection of the new gym will have little impact on the district's overall financial situation.

Q. How is the school utilizing space now? Can't they have practices at the elementary school?

All the District's gyms, including the elementary school, are heavily scheduled. This results in practices running late into the evening for teams and youth organizations.

Q. How is Chatfield partnering with Center for the Arts? Can't dance practice there?

The CCA is not always available, and dance regularly needs a regulation gym with markings for choreography planning as that is their competition environment.

Q. How come we don't use Chatfield Center for the Arts for band and choir concerts? There are fees for evening usage and there is too much equipment that needs to be taken from school to the CCA. This was also the basis for moving the Memorial Day concert from the CCA to the high school.

Q: Will these funds be used for outdoor facility improvements such as the track, stadium seating, or ball fields?

No, the project funds will only be used for the gym, lobby, fitness room, bathrooms, storage, and parking lot/driveway work directly related to the project.

Please note: The tennis courts, which are 40 years old, should be replaced. This replacement will be funded through other sources, not gym project funds. To offset the parking spaces lost to the new gym, the tennis courts may be relocated. In that case, the cost of constructing a new parking lot in the vacated space could be covered by gym project funds, as it falls within the scope of the project.