

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2022

Falcon STEAM Referendum Approved by Tomorrow River School District Voters

AMHERST, WI—Voters in the Tomorrow River School District approved both questions of the school's Falcon STEAM referendum on the April 5 ballot for a total of \$25.7 million in new construction and renovations to the existing school building. The two questions were approved by votes of 1,047 to 737 (59 percent approval) and by 1,109 to 670 (62 percent approval), respectively. These vote percentages reflect support levels for these questions in a survey conducted by the district in mid-2021. The survey guided the district's board as to which questions from the facilities master plan to put forth in the referendum.

Question #1 accounted for \$21.3 million of the total and will be directed for the demolition of the existing technical education and agriculture science building, and the construction of a new 38,000-square-foot, two-story STEAM addition. This new portion of the building is planned to include an agri-science classroom, lab and greenhouse as well as an animal lab as well as shops for woods, construction trades and transportation, and metals. Further, the new STEAM addition plan includes new high school and middle school science labs, as well as art studio and supporting spaces. The addition will approximately double space for STEAM vs. current.

"We are so grateful for the support of the community with the passing of our Falcon STEAM referendum," said District Administrator Mike Richie. "This will take our district well into the future and allow us to better prepare our students for life after graduation. We are excited to begin this great project and create more business partnerships. The Tomorrow River School District continues to thrive, and it's because of its dedicated staff, employees and the support we receive from this great community."

Beyond the STEAM addition, the \$21.3 million will fund new secure entries provided by consolidated elementary and middle school office as well as a new consolidated district and high school office on the southwest corner of the building near the cafeteria entry. Remodeled classroom spaces for elementary, middle and high school are also included.

The \$4.4 million approval from question #2 will remodel and expand middle school classrooms, create a new middle school collaboration space by enclosing the current courtyard and will remodel and update middle school classrooms, remodel and expand elementary school library, remodel and update middle school/high school library and update food science lab and classroom.

"I am ecstatic that both referendum questions passed and as a board member I am excited to take part in overseeing the next steps toward completing the build," said TRSD school board president Mark Kryshak. "The STEAM addition has been something we (the board) have been

advocating for years and it will have a huge impact on all students whether they are college-bound or career-minded by opening new avenues to success in their futures.”

The district will hit the ground running as the school board has a work session with Hoffman Inc. scheduled prior to the April 25 board meeting. Here is a tentative timeline for the various elements of the Falcon STEAM project:

I. Office and Secure Entry Addition

Design - April, 2022 through December, 2022

Bidding - January, 2023 through February, 2023

Construction - March, 2023 through August, 2023

II. STEAM Addition and Remodeling

Design - April, 2022 through December, 2022

Bidding - January, 2023 through February, 2023

Construction - June, 2023 through August, 2024

III. Middle School, Family and Consumer Sciences and Library Remodeling

Design - April, 2022 through December, 2022

Bidding - January, 2023 through February, 2023

Construction - April, 2024 through August, 2024

Hoffman Planning, Construction and Design, Inc. based in Appleton was chosen by the Tomorrow River School District to map out a master facilities plan. Hoffman has worked with 27 percent of school districts across the state and has been involved in approximately \$650 million in school projects. Hoffman and the district will work to create multiple bid packages allowing local contractors to participate in the project wherever possible in an effort to keep local tax dollars in the community.

“Everyone at Hoffman was thrilled for the Tomorrow River Schools and community with the passing of the Falcon STEAM referendum and the positive impact it will have on the district’s future,” said Jody Andres, K-12 market leader and senior project architect at Hoffman Inc. “Having spent significant time over the past few years with district leadership and community members, it was clear they were truly dedicated to the critical pursuit of a long-range plan and not interested in just addressing immediate needs. There is great excitement among our staff to be able to continue our partnership with the district and increase community participation in the design and construction process moving forward.”

Statewide in Wisconsin approximately \$1.2 billion in school referendums were on the April ballot, with more than half of those dollars ultimately approved by voters.