



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020 CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY RENEWAL

**One question on the Nov. 3 ballot:
Renewal of an existing levy**

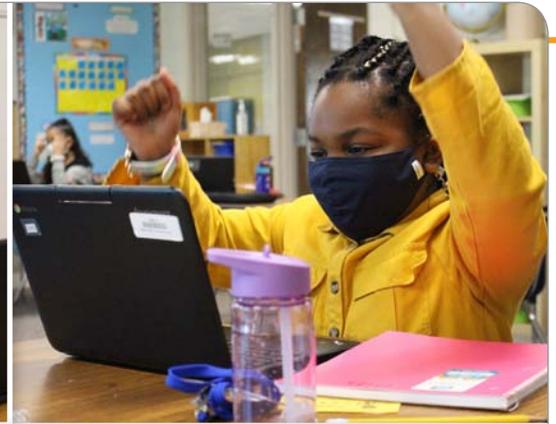
On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Fridley Public Schools residents will be asked to renew an **existing capital projects levy**. This is a renewal of an existing levy that was last approved by voters in 2011.

Over the past 10 years, funds raised by the capital projects levy have helped support **technology upgrades and deferred maintenance projects** in our schools and district buildings.

The proposed renewal will generate approximately \$1,060,000 a year and will be applicable for 10 years. The money raised through the renewal will be used to cover cost related to:

- Deferred maintenance and renovation projects at various sites and facilities
- Technology devices for teaching and learning for students and staff
- Improved technology infrastructure to support online learning
- Renovate existing spaces to better meet the educational needs and safety of students.

This capital projects levy was first approved by Fridley voters in 2002, and renewed in November 2011.



PROVIDING ACCESS TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY

21st century technology to maximize our students' learning capabilities

The district has relied on this existing capital project levy for the past ten years to provide both students and staff access to modern and updated technology. **Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, it has never been more clear that the need for modernized technology for all our students is necessary to continue to provide equitable access and rigorous programs.**

As our district transitioned to providing Distance Learning to all students in spring 2020, all Fridley students were issued one device per family. Entering into the 2020-21 school year, it was vital to provide 1:1 Chromebooks to each individual student. Whether learning in school or at home, students rely on updated technology to access instruction and connect with their teachers and peers.

There are over 2,000 devices (desktop computers, laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, etc.) connecting to the district's wireless network every day. As students and staff utilize wireless devices in their classrooms, the demands on the wireless network continue to increase. Wireless access points in each building provides equal access to the wireless network in all classrooms and helps increase personalized learning opportunities for all students.



The average age of Fridley Public Schools buildings is nearly 60 years old.

Fridley Middle School, which originally served as Fridley High School, was built in 1954. At age 66, it is the district's oldest building.



MAINTAINING OUR BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

Protecting the community's investment in its schools

DID YOU KNOW ? The average age of Fridley Public Schools buildings is nearly 60 years old.

Fridley Middle School (oldest) was built in 1954 and Stevenson Elementary School (newest) was built in 1967. With aging infrastructure, renovations projects are necessary for maintain the upkeep of the buildings and therefore protect the community's investments in its schools.

The district relies on the capital project levy to help maintain its buildings and continue to ensure that students and staff have the most up-to-date technology for teaching and learning.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Maintaining and caring for aging buildings

The average age of our district buildings is nearly 60 years. The capital project levy provides much-needed funding to allow for the maintenance and care of our aging buildings such as repairing roofs, floors, upgrading and replacing windows and doors with units that provide more security, and upgrading heating and ventilation (HVAC) systems and fire suppression upgrades, as well as addressing modification and installations that enhance the safety and security of our schools and buildings.

If the levy is approved, it will provide much needed funds to address some immediate deferred maintenance projects over the next 10 years.

The following proposed projects would be completed during the lifespan of the renewed levy:

Funds from the renewal of the capital projects levy will be used to:

- Complete deferred maintenance projects at each school and district building
- Add restrooms to kindergarten classes at both Hayes and Stevenson elementary schools
- Replace cafeteria flooring at Hayes Elementary School
- Update science lab casework at Fridley Middle School
- Replace rooftop HVAC units at Fridley High School
- Energy efficient window replacement at Fridley Community Center
- Update classroom casework and interior finishes
- Update public and student restrooms at Fridley Middle School, Hayes and Stevenson elementary schools
- Renovate locker rooms at Fridley Middle and High schools
- Complete reroofing projects at Fridley Middle and Fridley High schools, and Fridley Community Center

Upgrading technology infrastructure & devices



The district has also relied on the capital projects levy for the past 10 years to provide both students and staff access to modern, updated technology. The need for technology is increasing even more now that we are in the midst of many unknowns with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether accessing instruction and learning materials in school or at home, our students need up to date technology, and our teachers need technological capacity to provide instruction and connect with students in real time. 1:1 device ration for students will allow students to have a device at home to support a hybrid or distance learning model.

Should our community approve the renewal of the levy, funds raised by the levy will be used to:

- Replace student and staff computers and upgrade technology infrastructure at each school and district buildings.

THE CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY ALLOWS THE DISTRICT TO:

- Take good care of its buildings and facilities through maintenance and renovations projects
- Upgrade learning spaces to address the diverse learning needs of students
- Provide students and staff modern technological devices for teaching and learning
- Upgrade its technology infrastructure to provide up to date access for all students and staff

LEARN MORE

It is the responsibility of the school district to provide you with information you need to make a decision regarding the proposed capital projects levy renewal.

For more information, you can:



GO ONLINE

Visit the district website at:
www.fridleyschools.org/levyrenewal2020



SEND US AN EMAIL

Email us at: levyrenewal@fridley.k12.mn.us



GIVE US A CALL

Contact our Director of Business & Finance at 763-502-5004



VOTING INFORMATION

SAMPLE BALLOT

School District Question 1

Renewal of Expiring Capital Project Levy Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 14 (Fridley Public Schools) has proposed to renew the school district's existing capital project levy authorization of 5.47% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The money raised by the capital project levy authorization will be used to cover costs related to deferred maintenance and renovation projects at various sites and facilities, technology devices, and technology infrastructure. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,016,000 for taxes payable in 2022, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$10,160,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education. Shall the renewal of the capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 14 be approved?

YES

NO

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Voting precincts and polling locations are determined by your residential address. There are several polling locations within the Fridley school district boundaries. You can find your voting precinct and polling location in the following ways:

VOTE
NOV. 3

- Use the **Minnesota Secretary of State Polling Place Finder**
Visit www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us
- Call **Anoka County Elections**
Please call 763-324-1300
- Send an **Email to the Elections Office**
Email your question to elections@co.anoka.mn.us

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

VOTING EARLY

Particularly this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, residents may be interested in early voting and casting an absentee ballot. In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day. To vote early, you must submit a Absentee Ballot Application on the Secretary of State website.

VOTE
EARLY

VOTE EARLY BY MAIL



One way to vote early is by receiving a ballot in the mail. You may request an **Absentee Ballot** from the **Minnesota Secretary of State** online, or print an Absentee Ballot Application, and your ballot will be mailed to your home. Included with your ballot is a pre-paid return envelope, which goes directly to the Anoka County Elections Office for counting.

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON



Fridley school district residents can vote early with an **Absentee Ballot** at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432. After submitting an Absentee Ballot Application, you will be given a ballot and be able to cast it in person that day. Early voting began on September 18, 2020 and will continue through November 2, 2020. Please visit the City of Fridley website at: www.ci.fridley.mn.us for additional information.

ALSO ON THE BALLOT

FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION *One Board seat up for election on Nov. 3 ballot*

There is one School Board seat up for election on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Voters will elect one School Board member to fill the Board vacancy. The elected individual will serve for a term expiring on January 3, 2022. School Board Candidates on the November 3 ballot include:

- Current Interim Board member Gao Nue Xiong
- Hassan Ali
- Ross Meisner

For more information on voting on Election Day or casting an early ballot, please visit mnvotes.org

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WELCOME BACK, SCHOLARS! 

All Fridley Public Schools students returned to school on September 14 in their preferred learning model!

Students enrolled in Fridley Online Academy are receiving their education online, while Tiger 1: Stripes and Tiger 2: Paws are attending school in-person two days a week, and receive e-learning three days a week. All students are participating in distance learning on Wednesdays.



FRIDLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A World-Class Community of Learners

STAY CONNECTED:
www.fridleyschools.org

 **upcoming dates**

- OCTOBER 6**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
Work Session 5:30 p.m. at Fridley Community Center
- OCTOBER 14-16**
NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS
Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) Conference
- OCTOBER 20**
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Work Session 5:30 p.m. | Business Session 7 p.m.
Meetings are held at the Fridley Community Center
- NOVEMBER 3**
NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS
ELECTION DAY | *Staff Development Day*
See inside for more information on Election Day and Early Voting!

STAY UP-TO-DATE!
Check out the District's Online Calendar for up-to-date events and information. Visit www.fridleyschools.org > navigate to: STUDENTS & FAMILIES > CALENDAR



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2020 CAPITAL PROJECT
LEVY RENEWAL

VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 3

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SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION!





FRIDLEY LIONS CLUB SUPPORTS ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHERS



To date, the Fridley Lions Club has supported Fridley elementary classroom teachers with more than \$40,000.

Prioritizing and supporting local education, the Fridley Lions Club continued the tradition of donating funds to support every Fridley elementary classroom teacher on September 15, 2020. To help ensure a successful school year, each teacher was given \$150 to purchase supplies for their classrooms.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the now seven-year tradition was a top priority for the Lions.

“Because of the pandemic, we held off our meetings and tabled many requests,” said Don Holum, longtime Fridley Lions Club member and retired Fridley High School teacher. “After the money started coming in, one of our top projects for the Lions was to give back to our schools and teachers. We were elated when we were able to start this process again and continue the annual tradition of supporting our local teachers.”



The Fridley Lions Club's partnership with Fridley Public Schools supports our students in many ways. The Lions frequently contribute donations to Fridley Middle School and Fridley High School athletics and activities programs, and sponsor the annual Scholastic Achievement Scholarship Banquet where graduating Fridley seniors receive scholarships and recognition.

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS RETURN FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR!



Left photo: All classrooms across the district maintain social distancing guidelines of a minimum six feet of distance between each student/workspace. Pictured are students in a Fridley Middle School classroom. **Right photo:** Stevenson Elementary students in Ms. Dolezal's Kindergarten class gather in a virtual Google Classroom to sing a song together.



Welcome back, Fridley students! We are so excited to have you back with us. Whether our students are learning at home through Fridley Online Academy, or receiving hybrid instruction through in-person and online teaching, we are committed to providing rigorous and enriching courses for all our students. Our district welcomed all Hybrid Fridley Flex Tiger 1: Stripes (Group 1) students on September 14, while our Tiger 2: Paws (Group 2) and Fridley Online Academy students began their first day of school from home. Paws students began their first in-person learning day on Thursday, September 17.

DISTRICT RECOGNIZES 2019-20 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Sarah Burghardt, Fridley Public Schools' 2019-20 Employee of the Year! Burghardt previously worked for the Sun Focus Newspaper. She joined the Fridley Public Schools in 2017 as a communication specialist in the district's communications department, where she is responsible for the website, publications, social media and photography.

“Sarah is a hard worker with unparalleled work ethic. She takes great pride in her work and always ensures that each final product of communication she produces is both professional, uniquely creative, and delivers the desired marketing impact,” said Jael McLemore, Director of Communications and Community Relations.

Along with social media and the district digital newsletter, she also works on the quarterly bulletins which are mailed to the Fridley community. The bulletins share our students' successes, staff accomplishments, programs and initiatives, and educational services in our schools. Most recently, she was fully involved in redesigning the district's website into a friendly, sleek and easy-to-use interface.

In March of this year, when the district transitioned

into Distance Learning, Burghardt created weekly updates for families and staff, and kept everyone informed of district news – no easy task when schools and buildings were closed. This included the district's 20for20 Senior Salute to honor and recognize the Fridley High School Class of 2020. This 20 day marathon of accolades provided our graduates the recognition they weren't able to receive through a typical commencement. It also allowed teachers and staff to let our students know just how much they are valued and appreciated.

Burghardt also provides graphic design support to district, program and school publications. Colleagues that she has worked with are quick to praise her talents, willingness to listen to multiple perspectives, her professionalism when interacting with staff and students, and her amazing creativity in producing highly polished and professional communication materials.

“We are truly lucky to have her as a valued member of our communications team, and I am so proud that she has received this well deserved recognition of Fridley's Employee of the Year,” said McLemore. Congratulations, Sarah Burghardt, and thank you for serving our district and community so well!

SCHOOL BOARD



The Fridley School Board serves as the governing body of Fridley Public School District 14 and, within established state guidelines and regulations, determines the educational, financial, and administrative programs and policies under which the district functions.

The Fridley School Board regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month in Room 109 at the Fridley Community Center, located at 6085 7th Street NE, Fridley, MN. Board work sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Special meetings are held as needed. All school board meetings are open to the public in accordance with Minnesota state law. Please visit our website at www.fridleyschools.org for Board meeting dates.

Fridley School Board members (top row, l to r): Abdisalam Adam, Jake Karnopp, Donna Prewedo (bottom row, l to r): Avonna Starck, Carol Thornton, and Gao Nue Xiong

2019-20 TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to our 2019-20 Teachers of Excellence!

HAYES ELEMENTARY: SARAH ARMSTRONG

Congratulations to Sarah Armstrong, the 2019-20 Hayes Elementary School Teacher of Excellence! A 2nd grade teacher at



the school, Armstrong is lauded for her intellect, willingness to go above and beyond in leadership within the school, and how she stepped up to become a teacher leader during the pandemic.

During the pandemic and distance learning, Armstrong spent many hours supporting Hayes teachers by leading the way in good teaching practices online, serving our teachers from a professional development standpoint, and helping individuals troubleshoot solutions to family concerns that may have come up.

As the school continues to learn and grow in what distance learning and hybrid learning looks, it is appreciative of Armstrong's service. Her dedication in helping students, staff, leaders, to become 21st century leaders in the hybrid model, and the district's Online Academy will help ensure a successful school year.

"I am confident that, with her on my team, we have the ability to teach our students and serve our families well, whether they are in-person, or online," said Iverson adding that she is very grateful to Armstrong for all that she does for students and staff at Hayes.

FRIDLEY PRESCHOOL: ASHTON BRASK

Congratulations to Ashton Brask, the 2019-20 FCC/ALC Teacher of Excellence. Brask is a teacher in the Fridley 4-year Preschool



program, where she provides the district's youngest learners and their families an excellent start to their educational journey.

"I have witnessed her growth over the last few years, and I can tell you, she is already a master preschool teacher," said Dr. Jason Bodey, Principal of Alternative Services. "She is always innovating and finding new resources to better our students' experience, not only for her classroom, but for our whole school,"

Brask stepped up to help staff learn new tools during Distance Learning and goes above and beyond expectations supporting staff members and her students. She has excellent student interaction, keeps a positive attitude, and always seeks to inspire. She does all these things with a smile, great care, and compassion for all.

"I've personally watched her skillfully work with so many of our young scholars, and through her preschool magic, she has helped so many students be prepared for kindergarten," said Bodey. "I'm honored to work alongside Ashton each day and appreciate all she does for our students, families, and community."

R.L. STEVENSON: BRITTANY BREITBACH

Congratulations to Brit Breitbach, the 2019-20 R.L. Stevenson Elementary School Teacher of Excellence! A 4th grade teacher,



Breitbach works exceptionally hard to build relationships with students, staff, and families.

Her colleagues describe her as a constant source of support. She has always been there to lend an ear, brainstorm on ways to support a student, or to walk through teaching techniques.

"We've known for quite some time that Brit is an outstanding educator with a high level of creativity, innovation, commitment to students' success, and someone who delivers incredible instruction," said Stevenson principal Veronica Mathison.

The challenges presented by the COVID pandemic helped bring out Breitbach's strengths, leadership, and ability to inspire. A tech wiz, when Breitbach found out the school was implementing distance learning, she problem-solved and led the way! Mathison said that because of Breitbach's leadership, Stevenson is in a far better place than it would've been otherwise.

"She is beyond worthy of this recognition - not only for her work during distance learning but also for her incredible work during all of her years at Stevenson," said Mathison.

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL: ALISA LOWRY

Congratulations to Alisa Lowry, the 2019-20 Fridley High School Teacher of Excellence! Lowry is a physical education teacher and



is a passionate leader in the school and professional community.

Lowry is a great source of support for her colleagues, and most recently helped immensely this past spring with distance learning. "One of her department colleagues stated that Alisa 'was always helping us, helped us create all of our Google classrooms, answered our questions and was the voice of the department, in addition to her classes,'" said FHS principal Patty Hand.

Lowry works hard to engage students in their learning, pushing students to do their best and holding them accountable. One of her colleagues noted that Lowry builds good relationships, and connects with all her students in grades 9-12 in a real positive way. She wants to encourage her students to be successful and she takes her work very seriously. She always plans meaningful and relevant lessons and is constantly researching new, fun ways to get her students engaged.

"I have always appreciated Alisa's perspective," said Hand. "Her honesty comes from a place of sincerity and deep care for her students. I appreciate her and am honored to work with her."

FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: DREW REITER



Congratulations to Drew Reiter, the 2019-20 Fridley Middle School Teacher of Excellence! A math teacher at FMS, Reiter demonstrates all of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile characteristics. One of Reiter's greatest strengths is developing relationships with students and families. Reiter constantly works to meet the unique needs of each of his students and gets to know their stories.

Reiter has been a teacher at FMS since 2008 and has served in multiple capacities, including as an instructional leader, basketball coach, and team leader. FMS principal Amy Cochran said Reiter is always willing to take a risk and try new things. Creative in his lesson planning, Reiter is always coming up with different ideas and unique ways to meet the needs of students. Cochran shared a conversation a student had with her. "The student told me 'I understood math this year better than I ever have this year because of Mr. Reiter. He is always coming up with different ways of explaining things so I understand. He makes math relatable to real life situations,'" said Cochran.

He has served as a mentor to new teachers and helped coach others to become the best they can be. Reiter is a trusted teacher and colleague who brings a positive attitude to work every single day. He is an advocate, a coach, a mentor and always willing to go above and beyond. He represents what Fridley is all about - community and family. His wife, Kari, is also a Fridley employee! "Fridley Middle School is so lucky to have Drew Reiter as a teacher and instructional coach," said Cochran, who added that she was deeply honored to introduce him as the 2019-2020 Fridley Middle School Teacher of Excellence.