

What do you need versus what do you want? I believe a lot of us think about this from time to time, and when it comes to school referenda, I believe it weighs on people's minds even more. There were a lot of school referenda on ballots April 2nd with about 60% of them passing. Some of these referenda were for building projects, while others were for more operational funds. Either way, the residents of the districts had to decide on if the requested funds were something they thought the school district needed.

As I've been writing about the future of the MS/HS the last few months, wants vs needs has always been on my mind. If it is decided to build part of a new building, we could definitely build less space than we could demolish and still meet our academic needs. There wouldn't be a proposal from the school board or administration to build more than we need, and in fact, the school board and administration plan to play a very minimal role in deciding what to do. In moving forward on this major decision, the board will be meeting with two firms to determine which one to hire to work with the community on this process, instead of making the planning a school board process.

In August, the board will have a presentation from SitelogIQ and in September it will be CESA 10. In October the board will decide as to which company to hire to have community meetings/discussions about remodeling and/or building, likely beginning with meetings in January of 2025. The board and administration will not be conducting these meetings as we truly value that this is a community process, as it is a community decision. In order to have ample time for meetings, investigations, discussions, surveys, planning, etc.. we are anticipating a referendum for building and/or remodeling the MS/HS **on April 7, 2026**. This will ensure that everyone that wants to be involved in crafting a proposal that will affect the future of the Cornell School District for several decades to come will have ample opportunity and time to do so.