Bond Informational Meeting #1
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 8:00 PM
Wausa School Gymnasium
300 S. Bismark St.
PO Box 159
Wausa, NE 68786-0159

Wausa Public Schools Board of Education Vision Statement

We believe that all the youth of this community should be given an equal opportunity for a general education that will help them to become good citizens for democratic living.

We believe our school should provide an educational environment that will assist all student to fulfill their needs, interests, and abilities so that they may develop to their maximum capabilities.

We believe that it is as important to learn to live a full and complete life as it is to learn to be self-sufficient.

Therefore, the total development of each individual to his/her highest *potential is the primary concern of the Wausa School System.*

Wausa Public Schools: Educating Today's Students for Tomorrow's Future!

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
4. Approve Consent Agenda
5. Board Informational Presentation
6. Public Comment/Q&A
7. Adjourn

Wausa Public Schools Athletic Complex Bond Informational Meeting





Note: This presentation is solely for the purposes of information. It is not intended to persuade, but to provide firm, clear facts regarding the upcoming vote on the Wausa School District Bond Election. Topics include the improvements to existing facilities, and the addition of new facilities.





Personal Note

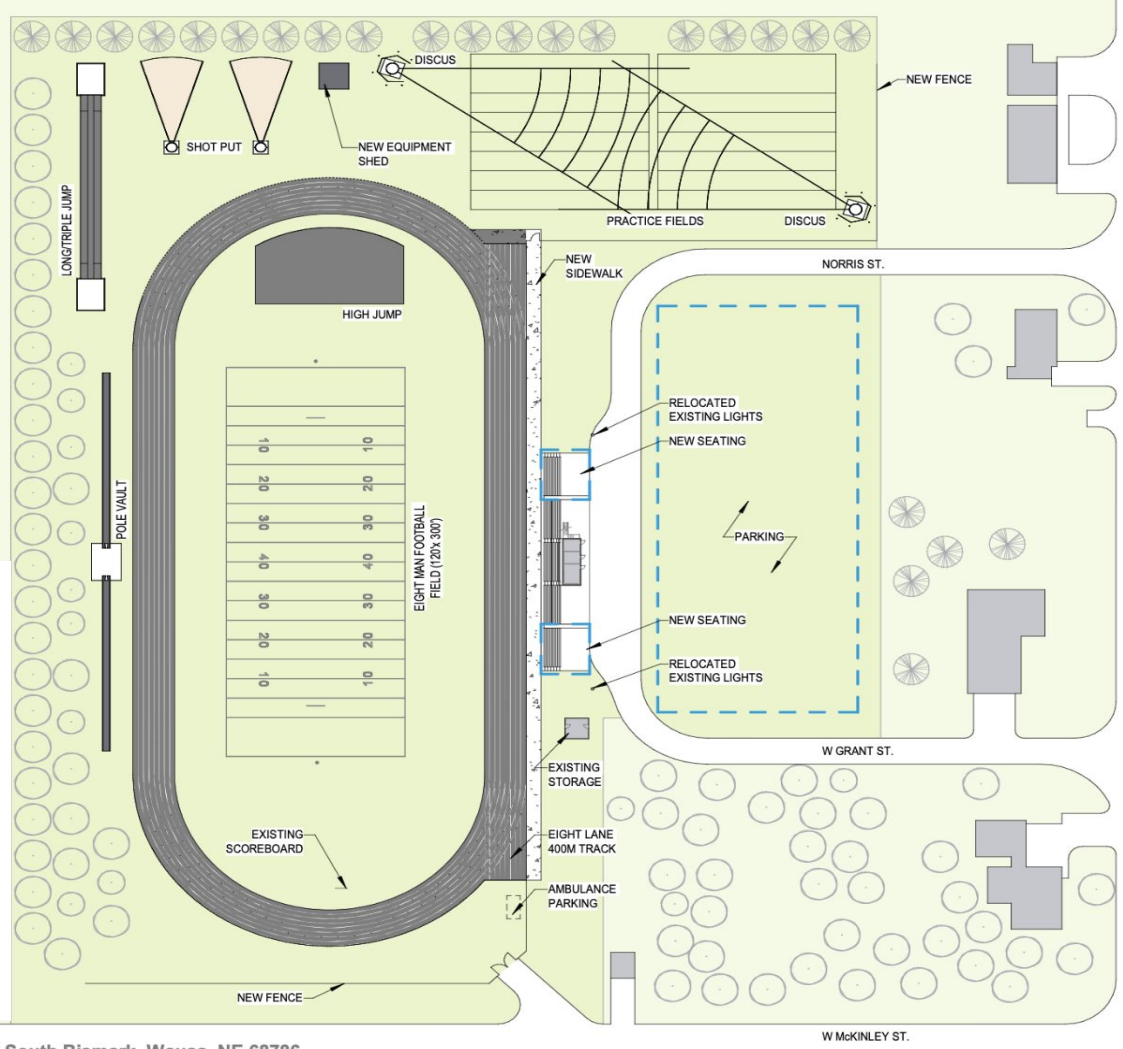
I just want to say thank you to everyone in our community who is taking the time to be part of the upcoming bond election for Wausa Public Schools and for your time and attention to this matter. No matter how you vote, please know how much the Board of Education appreciates your support of our school and our kids.

Our board members are working hard to find solutions not just for this facility challenge, but for the many challenges schools face every day. Through it all, one thing is clear: we don’t take for granted the generosity of our greater school community. Time and again, you’ve shown how much you care about giving our students the best opportunities possible.

How We Got Here

Last Spring, the Wausa Board of Education was informed by the track and field coaches about the deteriorating condition of the grass track and the potential safety hazards it posed to students. In addition, the wooden bleachers at the athletic complex do not meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance standards, and are in need of replacement. The Sound System and press box are also in need of some upkeep, being over 20 years old now.

With these concerns in mind, the board made the decision to go to a bond and ask the public to vote to improve the facility as well as provide the improvement of an eight lane track and a practice football field facility.



WAUSA VIKINGS EST. 1887

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1 A1.0 SITE PLAN

1" = 80'-0"

SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

WAUSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - TRACK & FIELD // 300 South Bismark, Wausa, NE 68786

09/26/25

CARLSON WEST POVONDRA ARCHITECTS

Cost Projection & Budget
2.15 Million Dollar Bond,
2 Million Par amount for Construction

400M 8-Lane Track with Asphalt Base-$750,000

Bleacher Replacement & Expansion-$350,000

Football Field, Practice Field, Site Grading-$100,000

Field Events (Shot Put, Discus, Vault, Jump Pits-$50,000

Parking Improvements, Sound System, Field House Repair, Installation of a FAT Timing System-$100,000

Storage Facility (Shed) $50,000

Lighting Relocation-$50,000

Site Fencing-$30,000

Design Contingency (7%)- $72,500

Contractor Overhead and Profit (15%)-$232,875

Project Costs (Design, Surveys, Soil Testing) (12%) $214,245

TOTAL PROJECT Budget: $1,999,620

How will a 2.15 Million Dollar Bond affect my Taxes on Agricultural Land per Acre if Passed?

CEDAR COUNTY	ANNUAL INCREASE PER ACRE	KNOX COUNTY	ANNUAL INCREASE PER ACRE	PIERCE COUNTY	ANNUAL INCREASE PER ACRE
Irrigated 1A1 ($5,607)	$1.63	Irrigated 1A1 ($5,184)	$1.50	Irrigated 1A1 ($5,574)	$1.62
Dry 1D1 ($4,929)	$1.43	Dry 1D1 ($4,712)	$1.37	Dry 1D1 ($5,139)	$1.49
Grass 1G1 ($2,282)	$0.66	Grass 1G1 ($2,031)	$0.59	Grass 1G1 ($1,818)	$0.53

TOTAL COST PER QUARTER OF AGRICULTURAL LAND (160 Acres)			
	Cedar	Knox	Pierce
Irrigated 1A1	$261	$240	$259
Dry 1D1	$229	$219	$238
Grass 1G1	$106	$94	$85



How will a 2.15 Million Dollar Bond affect my Taxes on my Residential Property if Passed?

VALUATION	ANNUALLY	MONTHLY	DAILY
$100,000	$29.00	$2.42	$0.08
$250,000	$72.50	$6.04	$0.20

Public Informational Meetings

There will be two Public Informational Meetings, one on

Wednesday, October 8th, 8:00PM, Wausa Gymnasium

Wednesday, October 15th, 8:00PM, Wausa Gymnasium

Both Meetings will have the same information as presented in this video, and there will be a Q&A at the meetings.

Both Meetings will be livestreamed & saved for future viewing via our Hudl App

Election Timeline

Starting September 30th, there will be information mailed out to the public on the bond, as well as information sent out via social media later that week, to ensure that voters have access to this information and are knowledgeable on what they are voting on.

Election Information: The Election for the Bond will conclude on Tuesday, November 4th, at 5:00 PM. Ballots will be mailed out the week of October 14th from the Knox county Courthouse in Center. Completed ballots must be received by election officials in Center by 5:00 PM on November 4th. Ballots must be in the hands of officials by this deadline, postmarks do not count!

Election Timeline (Continued)

Ballot Drop Off- A secure ballot box will be available at the Knox County Courthouse in Center until 5:00 PM on Election Day.

Unlike the previous Bond Election, there will not be a ballot drop box in Wausa.

Mailing Recommendation: To ensure that your ballot is received on time, it is highly recommended to mail it no later than one full week prior to November 4th.

Final Thoughts

Now, we need your direction. By casting your ballot, you're helping the board determine a path forward so they can continue working to provide the very best opportunities for our students. Whether you feel like this is the right time to this or not helps your school board make decisions for the future, and helps them find which way is the right way to address challenges that face all schools, regardless of size or demographics.

Regardless of the outcome of this election, I'm proud of the fact that Wausa is a community that cares for its kids. That's what makes this such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you for your time and for listening to this presentation.

GO BIG VIKES!

Questions from the Public (These are questions that the board has fielded so far in conversations with the public.)

1. Is this the only scope of construction? What about field turf, new lighting, or an upgraded scoreboard?
Answer: The board has focused on *needs versus wants*, especially when using taxpayer funds. This bond addresses essential needs:

- Bringing the bleachers into ADA compliance, and providing safe, compliant seating for our spectators.
- Providing adequate practice and competition facilities for football and track
- Updating the press box, which is now over 20 years old

While upgrades such as field turf, lighting, or a new scoreboard are certainly desirable, the board believes those items should come from private donations since they are considered *wants* rather than *needs*. The only upgrade included in the bond is a Fully Automated Timing (FAT) system, which is required by NSAA bylaws for hosting a District Track Meet.

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2. What happens if the project comes in under budget, as the last bond did? Would the board consider adding upgrades, or would the bond amount be reduced?
Answer: Again, the board remains committed to *needs versus wants.* If the project comes in under budget, and no additional *needs* are identified, the board would likely reduce the total bond cost—providing savings to taxpayers—rather than adding nonessential upgrades.

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3. Can the board solicit private funding for part of the complex?
Answer: No (and later on yes).
The Wausa School Foundation can receive private donations and fundraise at any time. However, prior to the bond election, the Board of Education and the Superintendent (as the acting arm of the board) are prohibited from soliciting funds.

Nebraska State Statute 49-14,101.02(2) states:

"A public official or public employee shall not use or authorize the use of public resources for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question."

Soliciting funds before the election could be viewed as *promoting* rather than *informing*. If the bond passes, the board and administration may work with the Wausa School Foundation to pursue private funding for additional facility enhancements. Because of this, Wausa's attorney has strongly recommended that the board refrain from soliciting funds during the course of the bond election (Nov.4th)

4. Can the bathrooms at the press box be upgraded? There are limited facilities for spectators.
Answer: That depends on whether the project comes in under budget. The board has received several comments about restroom capacity, and if funds remain after completing the core project, that may be one of the few areas considered for improvement. However, the board will not use tax dollars for *wants*—only *needs*—so this discussion would occur only if budget savings allow.

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5. Why are we voting on $2,150,000 when the project costs $2,000,000? Where is the other $150,000 going?
Answer: (Provided by Cody Wickham, Senior VP of Public Finance, DA Davidson.)

Answer: The additional $150,000 is to cover all "potential" costs of issuance, and it allow for some cushion in case the bond market calls for Original Issue Discount (OID) in order to best market and execute the sale of the bonds.

> **OID:** Our current bond model has EVERY possible expense built in, and there are several that we might wind up NOT using. For example: If you look at Page 1 of the attached, I have highlighted 3 numbers that could very well not be needed. The top one is the OID. When I last updated these numbers on August 28th, the bond market (especially on longer term bonds) was best executed utilizing OID. In this example it would produce a net of -$27,663. So in short, the district would sell bonds with an interest rate of 4.75%. That would be your "coupon", but the actual "yield" would be 4.95%. That is because the dollar price that the investors would be buying your bonds at is $97.479 per $100. THUS, the school district would actually be paying the investors a total of -$30,125.95 in exchange for a "lower-than-market" interest rate on this block of bonds. Think of it as buying a point down on your mortgage. When it comes time to sell bonds we could see some OID, we could see some Original Issue Premium (OIP….the inverse of discount bonds), or we could potentially sell these at Par (meaning sell them at $100). I just wanted to allow for some extra cushion in case we needed OID to get your district the best possible pricing.
>
> **Rating Fee:** We got your last bonds Rated and you all received a very good, investment grade rating of Moody's A1. This can help lower the interest rates, but the district has to pay Moody's a "rating fee" for their services. On this issue the cost is projected to be $14,500. There were SO MANY bonds in the market when we last refunded your bonds that we almost HAD to get a rating. There were too many options for banks to buy, that your bonds could have been over-looked if we went out as non-rated. This will likely not be the case this time around. This issue is smaller, and we are in a very different market environment where non-rated bonds are currently very well received. So, we can probably nix that $14,500, but I want to have it in there IN CASE we need it.

Bond Insurance Premium (30 basis points): The last fee that I have highlighted is Bond Insurance which = $10,837.91. There are 2 companies that provide Bond Insurance, BAM and AGM. They are basically a co-signor on your bonds that provide an added layer of security for the investors. By having them "co-sign" on your bonds it would kick your Rating up from a Moody's 'A1' to an S&P 'AA'. If we decide to get your bonds rated, then it MIGHT make sense to have them insured as well. This just becomes a function of math. Does the potential lower interest rates by having an insured AA Rating cover the cost of the insurance? That is a calculation that we will do when it comes time to sell your bonds. If it makes sense, then we will use it.

So as of today, those 3 "fees" will likely NOT be needed. In this example our total Par amount (amount of bonds being sold) = $2,110,000. If we remove those 3 fees the new Par amount would be $2,060,000 (rounding up to the nearest $5K).

Long story short, the extra $150,000 is a cushion to help the school district get the best possible execution in the bond market. If we sold bonds today I think we would land on that $2,060,000 and the other $90K would just not be issued.

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6. **Will the public be able to utilize the facility, and will parents and patrons have the same access to the football field and track during games as they do now?**

Yes, the public will have access to the facility. However, to protect the lifespan and integrity of the new track surface, some restrictions may be put in place, upon administrator recommendation and board approval. When researching other area schools with track facilities and their policies, these are common policies that they have put in place:

- **Public Track Use:** When utilizing the track, the public is requested to keep to lanes 6, 7, and 8. Pets are not allowed within the facility. Users must wear tennis or other athletic shoes and check them for rocks before entry.

- **Football Practice Field Access:** The public and youth teams will have full access to the football practice field when it is not being used by school, junior high, or high school teams.

- **Safety During School Hours:** Access may be restricted during the school day to ensure student safety, similar to current building policies.

- **Track Protection During Football Games:** To prevent damage and maintain the track's condition, protective mats are often installed in the fall for football athletes to use when moving on and off the field. Foot traffic, especially during football games, have been minimized to preserve the track's surface and prevent damage from concessions, trash, etc. The track lane closest to the grandstands experiences the highest usage during track and field events (100M, 100 & 110M Hurdles, all straightaways), making its protection even more critical. when a track needs repainted and resurfaced, it is almost always the inside lanes on the straightaways that necessitate these maintenance measures.

- **Rationale for Restrictions:** These measures have been put in at other districts in order to protect the significant investment in the track. Resurfacing and restriping typically cost $80,000+ every 7-9 years, and patching damaged areas can range from $1,000–$10,000. Area schools with tracks also restrict patron access to the track during football games for these same reasons.

- **Spectator Viewing During Games:** A wide sidewalk will be constructed along the grandstand side fence line, allowing spectators to stand and watch games from ground level. This location will be approximately 20 feet farther away than the current rope.

- **Board Decision:** Ultimately, this will be a board decision, if the bond is actually passed, and the decision will come with our students' safety, our districts' potential opening to liability, our taxpayer paid for facilities protected as much as possible. School administration as well as the board will continue to review guidelines from other local facilities, as well as take into account public input.