



Reimagine Northfield High School Bond Referendum Projects | Construction Update No. 26 | May 11, 2026

Recent highlights

- Representatives from the district, Wold Architects, and Knutson Construction have been meeting to discuss Value Engineering (VE). These discussions are intended to find thoughtful and meaningful savings in the project. The VE team met on April 17, April 27, April 30, and May 6.
- Rebidding for 15 bid packages will begin in late May. Bids will be due mid-June, with awards taking place in late June.
- As shared in [Family Update No. 19](#), construction bids were significantly higher than expected with substantially fewer bids submitted than anticipated. The district is working with Wold and Knutson to rebid some packages, review and adjust design, and integrate existing funding to supplement the project.

Why did this happen?

The main reasons appear to be:

- Global instability, mainly due to the Middle East conflict, has affected petroleum products, which are integral to construction projects.
- There are continued concerns about tariffs and their impact on material costs.
- There are additional market pressures. One example is that the rapid construction of data centers has impacted the precast concrete and steel industry, both in production and scheduling.

What will we do next?

- Wold and Knutson are communicating with companies that chose not to bid to more fully understand their reasoning.
- The district is working with Wold and Knutson to rebid some packages, review and adjust design, and integrate existing funds, such as earned interest from the first bond sale and existing long-term facilities maintenance funding, to supplement the project.
- **For clarity, the district will not use the unrestricted general fund to support the project, nor will there be additional tax impact or increases beyond the taxing authority already approved by the voters.**

While this news is not what we were expecting, we are committed to finding solutions that lead to student-centered, effective, and fiscally responsible decisions for the Reimagine Northfield High School project. Overall, we continue to look forward and are optimistic about what lies ahead. We appreciate your ongoing interest and support, helping Northfield Public Schools prepare every student for lifelong success.

- Permits have been and continue to be submitted for the project.
- Groundbreaking is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming meetings and discussions

- Monthly budget meetings are held between the district, Wold, and Knutson to keep the project on track.
- Project oversight committee meetings are held twice a month, as needed.
- Technology meetings are held twice a month.

Community Information

- Community members can view information about the project, including images and the [video walkthrough of the reimaged Northfield High School](#), on the [district website](#).