



# NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168

High School  
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Elementary School  
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Ellendale, MN 56026  
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## Our Mission

*Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.*

## Our Vision

*To be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.*

## Facility Planning Task Force At Work

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

May 2018

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*. We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

The Board of Education (BOE) invited more than 35 members of our communities to come together and serve on a facility planning task force that is advisory to the BOE. The make-up of the task force includes:

- 13 community at-large members representing all 4 communities
- 8 parents representing both schools and all 4 communities
- 2 students representing 900 students throughout the school district
- 13 staff members representing both schools and district-wide operations

The purpose of the task force is to examine data and information about our school buildings and programs in order to provide the BOE with a recommendation on how to best move forward in making important decisions impacting the future of our schools and school district.

The task force has held two meetings (April 12 & May 2) focusing on the work of the BOE since the unsuccessful referendum in June 2015. Data and information from the 2016 community survey, District Strategic Plan, ISG Facility Assessment, and educational programming priorities as identified by teaching staff have been examined. At the next meeting on May 30, the task force will focus on the physical conditions of the two school buildings as identified in the assessment conducted by ISG in 2017.

I have invited Elementary Principal Doug Anderson to share highlights about the process he used with his teaching staff to identify educational programming priorities that have been shared with the task force. In my June article, Secondary Principal Dave Bunn will share highlights about the process he used with his teaching staff.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. The location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media

**Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent**

**David A. Bunn, High School Principal**

**Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal**

Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. The next regular scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018, at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm. The June 18, 2018, School Board meeting will be held at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students!

### **NRHEG Elementary School Priorities for the Future Principal Doug Anderson**

This is an exciting time to be an educational leader in the NRHEG District. In December, 2017 I had the opportunity to meet with teams and departments to gather input and feedback on our facilities and programming for the future of NRHEG Elementary. As a building there were four questions that we considered and that helped to guide our discussions.

1. What do we want our students to know, to learn, to experience and to do?
2. What does the research say about best practices at all grade levels?
3. What must we do to ensure our students are college and career ready?
4. What changes to our current facilities are necessary in order to implement that educational programming 5, 10, and 20 years into the future?

As a result of those conversations and meetings that took place our staff has identified six areas that we feel are extremely important as we look ahead to future programming for our students.

1. **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Education.** Our goal is to have our student engage in questioning, problem solving, collaboration and hands on activities while they address real life issues. Our students will develop solutions for challenges and real world problems while applying the rigor of science, technology, engineering and mathematics content.
2. **Makerspace**-is a place where young people have an opportunity to explore their own interests; learn to use tools and materials, both physical and virtual; and develop creative projects. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering and tinkering.
3. **Response to Intervention**-Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom.
4. **Art and Music Education**-A strong desire to increase the opportunities/education available to all students in art and music education. The arts do not just develop a child's creativity-the skills learned also carry over into academic achievement.
5. **S.M.A.R.T Room**-The S.M.A.R.T. (Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training) Room features a multi-sensory approach to learning, based on brain research. Physical and gross motor activities are linked with academic tasks. This process stimulates the left and right brain simultaneously which 'anchors' learning and makes it more efficient.