



# NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168

High School  
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New Richland, MN 56072  
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Elementary School  
600 School St.  
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 Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

December 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*.

In my September 2018 Star Eagle article, I shared the Facility Planning Task Force and Board of Education (BOE) was planning to reach out to all school district residents to gather input regarding district operations and educational facility needs with a community-wide survey. The BOE hired *School Perceptions*, an independent educational research firm, to conduct the survey. The survey was sent to all homes in the school district. Staff and parents also received an e-mail invitation to complete the survey online. The survey was open from September 6 through October 5.

Survey results were presented to the Task Force and BOE by *School Perceptions* on October 10. The report is on the District's website under *Our District -- Facility Planning*. The Task Force examined the survey results along with other data and information to develop a recommendation for the BOE that was presented at the October 15 School Board meeting.

The Task Force's recommendation to the BOE included:

1. Place a funding question before voters to issue up to \$9.1 million in building bonds for renovations and repairs at both schools.
2. Address the following priority needs first.
  - Safety and security needs beginning with a redesign of the Elementary School's main entrance
  - Infrastructure and deferred maintenance needs
  - Necessary Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) updates
  - Remodel/expansion of classrooms beginning with Career Technical Education and Science
3. Within the recommended funding limit, address additional classroom expansion and remodeling beginning with Special Education, Music, Art and Fitness.
4. Study further the following identified needs:
  - Large group student instructional and performance space
  - Safety, capacity, and accessibility issues related to the high school gymnasium
  - Accessibility issues related to the lower level i.e. locker rooms and wrestling room

At a special School Board work session on November 12, the School BOE examined and discussed the Task Force's recommendation, the survey results, and other data and information. At the conclusion of the work session, the

**Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent**

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

**Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal**

BOE gave direction to prepare a resolution for BOE consideration at the December 17, 2018, School Board meeting to support the recommendation by the Task Force with a tentative election date of April 9, 2019.

If the BOE approves a resolution, the next step will be to notify the County Auditor and Commissioner of the election date and question to be on the ballot. The Board must prepare, approve, and submit a Review and Comment document to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for approval. The document describes the current facilities, proposed project, projected cost of project, financing for the project, resolution/question, date of election, and other information.

The public is invited to the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing to be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 17, in the Secondary School Media Center. A review of the District's budget as well as the proposed tax levies to be considered for certification by the School Board at its regular meeting immediately following the public hearing will be presented.

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 Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. The December 17, 2018, School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm., and the January 22, 2019, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Please note January 22 is a Tuesday due to January 21 being Martin Luther King Day.

As part of the December 17 School Board meeting, special recognition will be given to School Board members JoAnn Maloney and Mark Tollefson who are ending their service on the Board as of December 31, 2018. A reception will be held following the conclusion of the School Board meeting.

The School Board will also be holding a special School Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2019, for the purpose of conducting the annual organizational meeting of the School Board. The November 6, 2019 election resulted in current Board members Rick Schultz and Travis Routh being reelected to the BOE. Newly elected to the BOE are Rich Mueller and Luke Routh. All four newly elected members will take the oath of office at the January 7 meeting.

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!