



Dear NRHEG School District Community Members:

In my first year as the school district's Superintendent, I have been continually impressed with the communities that make up the NRHEG School District. There is the warmth of a small town, a can-do attitude and countless examples of neighbors helping neighbors. I am also impressed with our students' performance both in and out of the classroom and how our staff continually goes above and beyond each and every day to ensure our students learn to their fullest potential.

One of the School Board's major goals is to develop a strategic plan that builds on this solid foundation and answers the following questions:

- ✓ What is our vision for the future?
- ✓ What are our highest priorities?
- ✓ Where do we need to improve?
- ✓ Where should we focus our resources?

Additionally, we need to develop a plan to update our school buildings, constructed 25 to 62 years ago. Our elementary building was constructed in 1963, with an addition in 1993. A significant portion of the secondary building was updated in 1991. The junior high wing was built in 1960 and the gym in 1954. While our schools have been well maintained, many of the spaces are undersized, outdated or insufficient to meet students' current educational needs. The School Board will also look to the survey to answer:

- ✓ If, and when, should we consider addressing our facility needs?
- ✓ What are the community's facility priorities?

We are committed to developing a plan that addresses the needs of our students and reflects the priorities of our taxpayers. Therefore, please take 10-15 minutes to answer this survey!

1. Simply go to the website: **www.survey2000.com**
2. Enter the Survey Access Number: **GFGX-RSKB-WWTC-DT26**
3. Take the survey!

To obtain a second survey for another adult in your household, please call 507-465-3205. If you do not have internet access, please return your completed survey in the enclosed envelope or to any school office.

Please complete the survey before February 2, 2016.

To collect this feedback, we are working with School Perceptions LLC, an independent firm with expertise in conducting community surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and your feedback will remain anonymous.

Final survey results will be reported at the February 16th School Board Meeting held at the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center and will also be available on the District website at nrheg.k12.mn.us Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

Dale Carlson
Superintendent
NRHEG School District

Respondent Information

Please check your response to each of the following:

What is your age? Under 18 18-25 26-34 35-54 55-64 65 and over

Do you live in the NRHEG School District? Yes No

Are you an employee of the NRHEG School District? Yes No

Do you have children attending the District? Yes No

If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Mark all that apply)

- NRHEG Elementary NRHEG Secondary Public school outside of District
 Home schooled Virtual/online school Private/Parochial school
 Other

In which city or township do you reside?

- City of Ellendale City of Geneva City of Hartland
 City of New Richland Wilton Township Otisco Township
 Byron Township New Richland Township Somerset Township
 Lemond Township Summit Township Berlin Township
 Geneva Township Bath Township Freeborn Township
 Hartland Township Do not live in the District

How would you rate the NRHEG School District on overall academic performance compared to neighboring districts?

- Much better A little better The same A little worse Much worse

How would you rate the NRHEG School District's facilities compared to neighboring districts?

- Much better A little better The same A little worse Much worse

How important is it for NRHEG School District to stay competitive with neighboring districts?

- Very important Somewhat important Not important

Home Value

The value of a person's home can be affected by the quality of the School District.

Overall, how do you feel the quality of the NRHEG School District is affecting your home value?

- Positive impact Negative impact
 Little to no impact Do not own a home in the District

Communications

Effective communication is critical to our mission.

How would you like to receive School/District information? (Mark all that apply)

- School website Automated phone notification Parent organizations
 District mailings Attending meetings at school Attending school board meetings
 School newsletters NRHEG Star Eagle Steele County Times
 Email Twitter Radio
 Facebook Text Messaging Parent Portal (JMC)
 School Connects Waseca County News Other:

How effective is the District (both schools included) in providing timely and meaningful information?

- Very effective Somewhat effective Not very effective Very ineffective No opinion

Comments/suggestions:

District Mission

At the NRHEG School District, we are committed to *providing students with knowledge, skills and attitudes which enable them to succeed in a globally competitive society.*

We also want to be the *district of choice* when:

- ✓ Parents are choosing a school
- ✓ A new family is looking to buy a home
- ✓ A great teacher is looking for a job
- ✓ A business is looking to relocate or expand

How well are we doing in each of the following areas?

Delivering a high-quality educational experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Developing student character	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Integrating technology into classroom learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Keeping the public informed	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Maintaining District facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Providing a welcoming and safe environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Providing opportunities for community input	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Retaining high-quality, motivated staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Spending tax dollars wisely	<input type="checkbox"/> Great	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Overall, how satisfied are you with the NRHEG School District?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> No Opinion

What do you like best about the NRHEG School District?

What areas would you like improved in the NRHEG School District?

Educational Planning Priorities

Please place a "mark" in up to five boxes that you feel should be the District's highest priorities in order to provide a quality education for all students:

- Develop further community/business partnerships
- Expand technology use and access for students and staff
- Expand gifted & talented programming for students
- Increase school safety and security
- Increase student achievement in literacy/reading
- Increase student achievement in math
- Increase student achievement in science
- Increase the number of college preparation courses
- Increase the number of co-curricular and extra-curricular programs (music, arts, athletics, etc.)
- Maintain small class sizes
- Maintain/improve school facilities
- Maintain/strengthen opportunities in the career and technical education areas
- Maintain/strengthen opportunities in the fine arts
- Prepare students for life after high school (college and/or career)
- Provide additional services for students with learning difficulties
- Recruit and retain high-quality staff
- Other: _____

There are a number of educational initiatives the District is considering expanding or creating.

How important to you are the following? <i>Please check your response in the appropriate box.</i>				
Expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs (e.g. Automotive program, Agriculture, Business, Computer-aided design (CAD), Health Science, Family and Consumer etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand College Now, Advanced Placement (AP) and other opportunities for students to potentially earn college credit while in high school	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand Fine Arts programming in the areas of music, drama, art, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand offerings in computer related fields (e.g. Computer Programming, Software Development and Program Design, Operating Systems, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand public preschool opportunities for four-year-old students	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Expand World Language offerings	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion
Provide ongoing technology and training for students and staff to enhance student learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/No opinion

Comments and/or other suggestions:

Programs/Services

Please provide your feedback on our programs and services by checking the appropriate box.

Programs and Services	How important are the following to the success of our students?					How are we doing?				
	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Art										
Athletics										
Business, Marketing & Entrepreneurship										
College Now & other college prep courses & curriculum										
Communication skills										
Computer & technology skills										
Critical thinking & problem solving										
Develop creativity & imagination										
Family & Consumer Science										
Health education										
Leadership skills										
Library media services										
Math										
Music										
Personal finance										
Personalized learning plans										
Physical education										
Preparing students for college and career										
Preparing students for life after high school										
Programming for children with disabilities										
Programming for English Language Learners (ELL)										
Programming for gifted & talented students										
Programming for struggling students/ at-risk of not graduating										
Public Speaking										
Reading/Writing										
School counseling services										
Science										
Social Studies										
Teamwork/Group problem solving										
Theater/Drama										
Time management										
World language										

Comments/suggestions/questions:

Facility Planning

A \$14 million referendum to address District-wide facility needs failed in the spring of 2015. The School Board and administration acknowledge and respect the community's decision, yet need to determine the best path to take going forward.

Did you support the District's \$14 million facility bond this past June?

- I voted "Yes"
- I voted "No"
- I did not vote

If you voted "No," why? (Please select all that apply)

- Did not support the new gym
- Did not support elementary school renovations
- Did not support secondary school renovations
- Did not understand what was being proposed
- Did not feel the projects were necessary
- Felt the project included some unnecessary items (if so, specify):
- Too expensive/felt the tax impact was too large
- Other (if so, specify):

What advice would you give the school board?	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore a referendum to update/renovate the schools <input type="checkbox"/> Do nothing at this time <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided/would need more information
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When do you feel the District should plan to address the schools' needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> As soon as possible <input type="checkbox"/> Within the next 1-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> In 6-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years from now <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
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Comments and/or other suggestions:

Facility Priorities

If the community encourages the School Board to explore a referendum, the School Board will need to determine facility priorities. Their goal is to establish a plan to address needs based on the community's priorities and financial support. Therefore, to help set realistic goals, please respond to the following questions.

Background Information	What priority should each of the following items receive for future planning?	Response			
		Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Remodel the Elementary School's main office and building entrance to create a secure vestibule to better control visitor access.	Improve school security Est. cost: \$180,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Remodel and add additional classroom space at the Elementary School to accommodate the existing student body and provide room for expanding educational programs.	Add and remodel classroom space Est. cost: \$2,325,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Update sound system and acoustics in Elementary gym and stage area to improve sound quality for instruction, concerts and theater performances.	Update Elementary Sound System and Acoustics Est. cost: \$105,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Add air conditioning/dehumidification to the schools to provide for a healthy and conducive educational environment.	School Air Conditioning/Dehumidification Est. cost: \$4,850,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Expand parking capacity at the Elementary School site in order to reduce street parking and provide safer parking opportunities for parents and visitors. Expansion could also include safety improvements for bus loading and unloading for students.	Add parking Est. cost: \$400,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Remodel identified classrooms at Secondary School by adding plumbing, cabinetry, and equipment required for use as a science laboratory in order to expand Science curriculum and student learning experiences.	Remodel Science labs Est. cost: \$250,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Add a new 2.5 court gymnasium at the Secondary School to address safety concerns, better meet the physical education curricular needs of the District, increase the capacity for District athletic programs, youth recreation and community use and meet the requirements for Minnesota State High School tournament games as well as free up current gym space for a multipurpose instruction and performance area.	Add a 2.5 court gym Est. cost: \$6,250,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
If a new gymnasium was built, additional space would be available to consider the following projects:					
Convert the existing Secondary School gym to a multipurpose instructional space for music and band as well as performance area for plays, musicals, concerts, large group events or community activities.	Update Secondary Sound System, Acoustics, Lighting and Seating Est. cost: \$1,950,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Construct a new fitness room to allow for additional equipment, improved safety and increased access for all students.	Add a new fitness room Est. cost: \$725,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know
Construct new Secondary School locker rooms to meet code requirements and safety recommendations.	Add new locker rooms Est. cost: \$1,200,000	Low	Med	High	Don't Know

Comments/suggestions:

Thank you for your participation. We sincerely value your time and input.

NRHEG Public Schools
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New Richland, MN 56072

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**BOXHOLDER
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

The NRHEG Public School's tax levy is among the lowest in the region. The 2015 tax levy amount is nearly \$100 less than neighboring Waseca and over \$400 less than JWP.

This funding approach limits NRHEG's ability to fund programs and services for our students.



Please complete the survey before February 2nd.

This publication was produced for the residents of the NRHEG School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.