



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
(507)684-3181
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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

February 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) continues to make progress in achieving one of three work goals this year which is to *develop a District master plan to address the adequacy and capacity of the NRHEG School District facilities for the next 5, 10, and 20 years*. In my November 2017 Star Eagle article, I provided a brief overview of the work the BOE had completed following the unsuccessful June 2015 referendum including:

- Administered a community-wide survey in January 2016 to gather information from residents and staff to be used in developing a strategic plan for the School District including facility planning.
- Facilitated a strategic planning process that involved a task force consisting of staff, students, parents, and residents from our four communities. The BOE approved the recommended plan in May 2016 that included six priority or focus areas including the *Facilities Focus Area* that ensures the *facilities and infrastructure of the school district are designed to optimize staff performance and student learning in a safe, sustainable, and attractive environment*.
- Approved a 2016-2017 work goal to complete an assessment of all district facilities, and use the information from the assessment to determine short- and long-term facility needs as the next step responding to the June 2015 referendum vote, 2016 Community Survey results, and the development of the Strategic Plan. In January 2017, the BOE approved an agreement to partner with ISG to conduct a thorough assessment of all facilities. The assessment was completed and presented to the Board on September 20, 2017. The report provided a detailed summary of the physical conditions of our facilities and identifies suggested prioritized actions to address a number of maintenance-related improvements to our existing facilities.

Since my November article, the Board has:

- Approved moving forward with a second community survey in the past two years to gather information from the community in response to priority concerns and interests involving

Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent

David A. Bunn, High School Principal

Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal

educational programming and facilities in the school district. The timeline to administer the survey has not been finalized.

- Approved an agreement with ISG to provide the BOE assistance with planning and facilitating BOE facility planning work sessions; facilitating community engagement efforts; developing schematic concepts with associated cost estimates; and assisting with communication efforts specific to the development of a facility plan.
- Examined educational programming needs as identified by District instructional staff which will lead to determining priority concerns and needs.

The BOE is committed to a thoughtful, systematic and methodical approach incorporating a high level of scrutiny, examination, and review to ensure that maintenance-related deficiencies along with facility improvements based on student learning needs will be beneficial for our students and communities for many years into the future. Your involvement and engagement in this process is essential. There will be more information in the coming weeks regarding the community survey and other opportunities for you to provide input and be involved in assisting the BOE in developing a facility plan that will move us closer to reaching our vision as a school community where we are *the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*.

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 next regular scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018, due to the third Monday of the Month on February 19 being Presidents' Day. This meeting will be held at the Secondary School. The March 19, 2018, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary 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!